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SPAIN

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ISSUE 78
MAY 2023

FREE

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South Town

San javier

North Town

Gran Alacant

Top 12

Spain's most
fascinating waterfalls

Image by Casa Boquera, see ad on page 46

Wine Article

Let's Talk Wine



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A Life in SPAIN

Welcome to the May edition of ALIS.

The start of Summer is here. This is the best time to hit the beaches before the tourists and Spanish return to their summer homes

We have the return of the Spanish Recipes. This has been very popular with our readers in the past, and so is back by popular demand. Starting with a traditional oven baked cod with paella rice.

Whilst page 23 has an article on Spain's most fascinating waterfalls. I wonder how many we have all visited.

Page 43 has an article about a great family winery called Casa Boquera. This also has an amazing boutique hotel which is a great getaway and base for exploring northern Murcia.

Enjoy!

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A woman in a black suit pointing towards the text.

Places to visit in a day:

Las Fuentes del Algar

Set in beautiful countryside, only three kilometres from the centre of Callosa and only 15 kilometres from Benidorm is a little known area to the foreign tourist but one that makes it a place well worth visiting and is one of the most important attractions of the region.

The unique landscape offers so many surprises, not least the flora and fauna which are managed and protected by various authorities and as a result, in 2002, the region was declared a "WET ZONE" protected by the Valencian Regional government

To first appreciate the magnificent landscape that has evolved over millennia, take a short drive of about 1.5 kilometres parallel to the Algar river. Water springs directly from the rocks forming spectacular waterfalls which then form "tolls" which are pools of fresh cool water which are considered sources of natural health so swimwear is highly recommended. In addition to this you will see the old dam and the Grand Canal.

The region is, of course, very popular and as such there are now more facilities for tourists. A tourist office can supply more information about the area including places to walk. For this purpose there are several parking areas where you can start your exploring.

A picnic area and good public toilets allow you to

spend a lovely relaxing day in the middle of nature. There are a couple of restaurants not too far away if you have forgotten your picnic.

There is also a dedicated camping site for those adventurers who enjoy looking up at the stars and for the children (and older ones, probably) there is the nearby Dino Park. An amusement park with a dinosaur theme including moving dinosaurs and a wonderful Spanish mountain back drop. <http://www.dinopark.eu/en/algar>

If you are anywhere near this in the future, you might want to give up a day to visit. Enjoy!



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Let's Learn Spanish

Travel

Phrases

I prefer to travel by train	Prefiero viajar en tren	Pray fee yearo be yaharentren
Is there a bus to the town centre?	¿Hay un servicio de autobuses hacia el centro?	Eye oon sir ve sea oh day ow toe boosesathear el thentro
Is there a tourist train round the old town?	¿Hay un tren habanero por el casco antiguo?	Eye oontren ab an airro pour el cass co anteagwo
Cars only (street parking)	Sólo turismos	So low tour issmoes
Where is the bus stop?	¿Dónde está la parada de autobús?	Don day esstalah par rar dah day ow toe boos
Where is the taxi rank?	¿Dónde está la parada de taxis?	Don day esstalah par rar dah daytaxiss
A single ticket, please	Un billete de ida, por favor	Oon bee yet eh day ee dah pour fah vor
A return ticket, please	Un billete de ida y vuelta, por favor	Oon bee yet eh day ee dah eebweltahpour fah vor

Vocab

Bicycle (bike)	Una bicicleta (bici)	Oo nah bee sea klet ah (bee sea)
Moped	Un ciclomotor	Oon sea clou mow tor
Motorbike	Una motocicleta	Oo nah mow tow sea klet ah
Car	Un coche	Oonkohchay
Small van	Una furgoneta	Oo nah four gohnet ah
Multi-purpose vehicle	Un vehículo mixto	Oon vey hic coo low mix toe
Van	Un furgón	Oon four gone
Lorry	Un camión	Ooncamiyon



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

Ciclomotor
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SouthTown...



SAN JAVIER

The history of San Javier, as is the case of other municipalities in this area, is influenced to a huge degree by its location on the inland shore of the Mar Menor, the largest saltwater lake in Europe and one of the most recognizable geographic areas of Spain

The geological origins of the Mar Menor lie in the Tertiary It was between 65 million and 1.7 million years ago, when the Baetic mountains were being formed and the area which is now the inland sea was an open bay on the Mediterranean coast. As a result of the folding and rising of the land over a period of around 10 million years, the basin of the bay was filled with a large quantity of sediment from the countryside of the Cartagena Field and the rivers and floodwater which ran through

THE TOWN

By this point the Berber attacks had long since ceased and the population began to grow significantly In 1809 there were 408 residents in San Javier, Roda and La Calavera, and by the time of the three-year Liberal government in Spain (1820-23) San Javier along with Sucina, Corvera and Pacheco Tower, was considered large enough to warrant its own Town Hall

Unfortunately for the locals, though the French intervened and reinstated the absolutist monarchy and those localities with newly acquired Town Hall status were stripped of their privilege as a result: in the case of San Javier, this meant to return to being governed from Murcia

Nonetheless, the growth of the town continued, and soon afterwards, on 9th March 1836, the independent municipality of San Javier was formed (in the same year as San Pedro del Pinatar) It included the villages of La Calavera. Grajuela Roda and Tarquinales, as well as pasture land in Los Alcázares and La Manga

But the last years of the 19th century were not kind to San Javier, and economic hardship led many to leave and seek work in the mines of La Unión, or indeed much further afield in Oran, on the coast of Algeria. Those who were left numbered just 3,770 by the turn of the century, and they made their living as best they could as farmers, agricultural laborers, fishermen and artisans

In 1888 a preacher named José Maria Barnuevo founded a new village on the shore of the Mar Menor, and named it after the religious and military order to which he belonged, the Orden Militar de Santiago. This village of course, was Santiago de la Ribera and along with the first houses the church dedicated to Santiago Apostle was also built in time for the town's founding father to be buried there

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

San Javier offers the widest range of cultural activities in the Murcia Region. As well as the many exhibitions of all kinds held throughout the year, it features theatre productions, concerts etc. The excellent local facilities include art galleries, events halls and the magnificent Almansa Park Municipal Auditorium.

The Festivals of San Javier are enviable and practically unrivalled. From June to September our residents and visitors can choose from a wide range of possibilities to spend their leisure time from diverse kinds of music performed by artists of today or the more specialized music of the International Jazz Festival, whose harmonious and rhythmic sounds fill the night air of San Javier during the month of July, In August the yet mythical International Theatre, Music and Dance Festival, that with its more than forty years' existence, still achieves to surpass the foregoing events and brings the best of any kind of contemporary scenic art to the Almansa Park Auditorium.

Another interesting cultural event takes place in September, namely the National Folklore Festival, which offers, apart from gala performances in the Auditorium, performances on the beaches of Santiago de la Ribera and La Manga del Mar Menor

At San Javier, close to Mar Menor, something as simple as the birth of a child becomes a great event: visitors from right across Spain are attracted to the well-earned fame of the Seasonal Monument on display at the Belen of Spain Museum in the heart of town. Represented in figures crafted by Murcia's top artists, the Monument occupies a space of nearly 1.6 km² with representations of mysteries, local customs and ancient ways of working the land. As well as the indisputable quality of the figures, the waterwheels, soldiers, etc.



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Spain and it's Fiestas

Find out about the most significant festivals, religious celebrations and annual events that take place in the towns and villages along the Costa Blanca and in the province of Murcia...

Spain is known for its festivals (fiestas), many of which originated in religious events but have evolved to be more general celebrations. Every city, town and village has its own festival, which includes feasting, colourful processions, fireworks and partying.

Semana Santa - Holy Week

Easter week is the most important Catholic tradition of the year in Spain. It begins on Domingo de Ramos (Palm Sunday) and ends on Lunes de Pascua (Easter Monday).

There are street processions, with colourful confetti and a carnival atmosphere every night on the Costa Blanca, where religious icons are paraded through the streets, in re-enactments of the passion of Christ.

While celebrations take place all over the coast, noteworthy processions are:

In Crevillent on Tuesday before Good Friday
The Holy Burial Procession in Orihuela on Easter Saturday

The Palm Sunday procession in Elche, which dates back to 1371

In the province of Murcia, noteworthy processions are found in Cartagena, Jumilla, Murcia and Moratalla. Other festivals include:

The Easter fiesta in Lorca, during which a procession of citizens playing Romans, Christians and Egyptians move through the streets on elaborate floats, horseback or in chariots

In Murcia city, Salzillo's Holy Week sculptures are paraded through the town

The Royal Brotherhood of Our Father Jesus Resuscitated organises a single procession held in the morning of Easter Sunday to round off 10 days of procession and celebration in Cartagena

Moros y Cristianos - Moors and Christians

This festival commemorates the Reconquista, or the re-establishment of Christian rule in Spain.

Locals dress as either Moors or Christians for the occasion and re-enact battles. Costumes are spectacular and there are firework displays.

Towns celebrate Moros y Cristianos on different dates: The town of Alcoy and Baneres in Alicante celebrate at the end of April
Altea celebrates in the last week of September.

Fiestas Patronales - Patron Saints' Days

Each town and village in Spain has a feast day to celebrate its patron saint, who is thought to protect the town. These festivities generally last one week and processions and dancing replace work - most shops and businesses close down during this period. Often giant paellas are cooked in the streets and a beauty contest runs parallel to the event.

Dates vary from place to place but local tourist offices can provide information.

All Saints' Day (Festividad de Todos los Santos)

Celebrated annually on 1 November, Todos los Santos is a national public holiday (banks and shops close) honouring the dead. Traditionally, Spanish families get together at the graves of their deceased relatives and lay down flowers. There are religious services in the churches and cemeteries over the course of the day. Specific foods are associated with this event: these may vary from region to region.

Main Festivals Along the Costa Blanca

The Hogueras de San Juan - San Juan Bonfires

An amalgamation of the ancient pagan celebration of the summer solstice, and the Christian feast of San Juan in June, which sees Hogueras (paper maché figures) placed around town. Live music and dancing take place through the night.

The culmination of the festivities is El Dia de San Juan, when a huge palm tree-shaped firework is set off from Alicante castle and simultaneously the Hogueras are set alight. A beauty contest accompanies the celebrations. Five nights of fireworks, starting at midnight, follow the fiesta.

San Vicente Ferrer

This fiesta is one of the most important for the town of Teulada and honours the patron saint, Vincente Ferrer who was born and lived in the town. Ferrer is said to have blessed the town to protect it from the plague.

Ten days of colourful parades, live music and dancing and religious re-enactments take place in the week around 15 April.

Celebrations are also held in San Vicente del Raspeig the weekend following Easter Sunday.

Fallas - Fire Festival

This major pyrotechnic festival takes place for five days every March and honours Saint Joseph, patron saint of carpenters.

A vast array of paper maché figures known as ninots are made. These are satirical representations of local figures (actors, bull fighters). The figures are ceremoniously stuffed with fireworks and set alight on the day known as La Crema, the festival's culmination, although one ninot is saved by popular vote and placed in the Museum of the Ninot.

There are also boisterous, daily firework contests.

Valencia has the most spectacular Fallas celebrations, but there are also festivities in Benidorm, Bunol, Calpe, Denia, Gandia, Oliva, Pego, and Sueca.

Feria de Mayo - May Fiesta

This event in May was started by an Andalucian exile living in Torrevieja as a street party outside the bar he owned. It has now grown in popularity, staged on the Torrevieja fairground and celebrates all things Andalucian, including flamenco music, traditional costumes and Andalucian horses, which perform equestrian displays.

There are many stalls serving sherry, tapas and the ever-present churros y chocolate. Many well-known Spanish artists come to perform traditional music.

Main Festivals Along the Costa Calida

International Jazz Festival in San Javier

A celebration of international jazz held annually in the months of June and July in San Javier. This event brings together famous jazz acts from around the world.

Festival of the Holy Cross Caravaca (Fiestas de la Santisima Cruz de Caravaca)

This festival celebrates the arrival of the Holy Reliquary in 1232 in Caravaca de la Cruz, when the town adopted the Catholic faith. The festival spans four days in the beginning of May. There is a special mass, followed by a riderless horse race (caballos de vino) to the castle, mock skirmishes and processions of Moors and Christians.

Epiphany

Epiphany is marked with plays and processions in Aledo and Churro in the province of Murcia. There are plays and processions all over Spain, and there are important performances in Aledo and Churro in Murcia. The three kings Melchor, Gasper and Balthazar distribute the gifts on 6 January.

Burial of the Sardine (Entierro de la Sardina)

This festival signals the climax of the April Spring Festival. There is a procession of 20 Sardinero-themed floats, giant (gigantes) and big-head (cabezudos) characters, torch-bearers, entertainers, demons and Brazilian samba groups. Afterwards, toys are distributed among the crowd. The night before the sardine burial, Ms Sardine reads a testament at the town hall.

At the close of the festival, a giant effigy of the Lenten sardine is hit with fireworks until it catches fire.

Aguilas Carnival (Carnaval de Águilas)

The carnival takes place a fortnight before the start of Lent in Águilas. Carnival groups unveil their costumes on Sunday and parades take place until Shrove Tuesday. Visitors can also sample local food and drink.

Festival of the Miner's Lamp (Festival Internacional del Cante de las Minas)

The Festival of the Miner's Lamp is a dance competition held in the mining town of La Unión. For a week, performers, often accompanied by local musicians, compete in the public market place for the coveted Miner's Lamp trophy.

Three Cultures International Festival

A festival celebrating multiculturalism and promoting tolerance, with activities and festivities centered around Judaism, Islam and Christianity. There are a range of concerts, dance and art themed activities to encourage the understanding and expression of different cultures and ideas. The event is held in May and June in the streets and squares of Murcia.

Information provided by AngloINFO.com





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There has been an advancement with regards to lightning conductor design. Each year the communications, energy and security technologies advance in the sense of improving the utilization and benefits that coexist in building installations and how we have to adapt to them.

The Spanish Building Regulations forced us architects to carry out a study of lightning protection needs on every building or home designed in order to get to know the actual need for protection of the building in question.

In most cases the need for a lightning protection is not required, according to our calculations, so there is no need to place lightning rods on the roof as a means of protection.

A lightning rod placed on a mast at the top of the building. The most common and well-known systems of lightning protections are the simple "Franklin lightning rods" which is a lightning rod placed on a mast at the top of the building.

By placing these gadgets, the entire building is transformed into a possible point of lightning impact, is the principle of operation of ionizing systems (Franklin- lightning rods), the rod gets excited and draw lightning which is lead to earth by bare ground wires.

The problem with this system is not that lightning rod system may or may not work, the problem is that heads of the rod is not able to recognize or discriminate any type of lightning or its intensity, and the intensity can vary a lot, It can range from 5 to 350,000 amperes.

An old technology not without problems.

Part of this system of protection, the ionizing type is called Franklin system, an old technology that can be still found in roofs, and coexisting with installation of radio

and television aerials in the form of antennas, in energy production systems in the form of solar or photovoltaic panels.

When lightning hits on these lightning rods, it is impossible to predict what will happen, because it depends on the amount of energy discharged, the amps will run in microseconds to the ground, following the metallic conductive elements from the copper head and wire conductor to the ground, but if the system wasn't large enough as an energy transporter, the building is put at risk by the high-voltage going through it and not being able to avoid destruction of sensitive electronics equipment, by induction, or overvoltage in the electric data networks, including a return of current via the earthing and neutral poles. Electricity overflow may jump from outside into the electrical installation of the building.

The Spanish electro-technical regulations for low voltage indirectly prohibit these Franklin- lightning rods technologies, by openly limiting the dangerous currents in bare wires, and forbidding any system that allowed an over-range electromagnetic effect. It even prohibits the possibility that by the earthing poles may appear any voltages that may put into risk the lives of people.

New methods of lightning protections are now used to avoid the formation of lightning forming on the building which is supposed to be protected. In the technical literature they are usually called "non-conventional systems".

An umbrella that protects the building against the fall of lightnings.

The basic characteristics of these systems incorporate a system of transfer of charge (CTS), by transferring the electrostatic charge before the formation of the lightning cancelling the phenomenon of ionisation or corona. In other words create an umbrella that protects the building against the fall of lightning.

The lightning rod head consists of two aluminium electrodes separated by a dielectric insulator all of this supported by a small stainless steel mast. Its shape is spherical and the system is connected in series with the own earthing to transfer the electrostatic charge to earth avoiding excitement and direct impact of the lightning bolt.



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Its principle of operation relies essentially on channelling to earth the potential difference between the cloud and the head of the lightning rod, the installation first pushes upwards, through the bare ground wire; the voltage generated by the thunderstorm to the highest point of the installation, during the process of the storm is generated fields of high tension that are concentrated in the bottom electrode (cathode-), from a magnitude of the electric field, the upper electrode (anode) attracting opposite charges to offset the inner potential difference of the head, during the transfer process the flow of current between the anode and the cathode occurs in the interior of the lightning rod, this natural process cancels the effect "Crown" on the outside of the lightning rod.

To read lots of information on construction and planning problems in Spain, please visit www.spanisharchitect.info

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12 Spain's most fascinating waterfalls

Rivers usually leave great postcards along their course, among which the waterfalls stand out. The abundance of rivers and the rugged terrain create many of these landmarks throughout the Spanish geography. Ranging from complex waterfalls divided in several phases to the classic pictures of falls tens of metres high. A perfect addition to the forests and valleys that creates the river's network. Here you have the Spain's most fascinating waterfalls.

Salto del Nervión (Burgos/Álava)

It is always better to start strong, so the first of Spain's most spectacular waterfalls is the Salto del Nervión. This waterfall has the honour of being the highest in the country, at over 220 metres high.

The abundant flow of the river that gives it its name makes it grow or shrink depending on the time of year, even drying up in summer. Thus, it is best to visit it when its watercourse is loaded.

Worth noting is that it is associated with Mount Santiago, a Natural Monument that also offers huge panoramic views of the Orduña Valley. Likewise, the place is in the middle of the border between Burgos and Álava.

Los Colores Waterfall (La Palma)

Canary Islands probably have the most peculiar waterfall of the most fascinating ones in Spain. This is the so-called Los Colores waterfall, in La Palma. The colour of the stone that forms it is quite psychedelic, going from yellow and red to green tones.

These first two are generated by the iron of the water, while the third one is the result of moss. The water falls from a cut artificially made during the 60's. It was intended to facilitate the collection of water from the Caldera de Taburiente, the Natural Park to which this landmark belongs.


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Salto de la Póveda

Salto de la Póveda (Guadalajara)

Again, it is time to go to an artificial but beautiful place. Salto de la Póveda is one of the great elements of the Upper Tagus in Guadalajara.

It is created by an old broken dam, whose mission was to supply the Chorrera reservoir with the Tagus, but today only remains the Taravilla lagoon. A viewpoint and a hiking route allow you to spend a day touring this beautiful natural environment of Guadalajara.

Orbaneja del Castillo (Burgos)

Located in Orbaneja del Castillo itself, this waterfall divides Burgos into two halves. The waterfall is about 25 metres long and is supplied by the Ebro. In addition to its location, which is extraordinary in itself as it is in the middle of a town, it stands out because the water comes out of a spring.

Going up the groundwater course you can reach the other treasure of the place, the Cueva del Agua. Lakes and passageways intermingle in this site pierced in the bowels of the earth. In the opposite direction, the most abundant course in Spain creates the Natural Park of Alto Ebro and Rudrón gorges.

Monasterio de Piedra (Zaragoza)

Natural and human actions have created a fantastic environment in the Monasterio de Piedra and its gardens. The abundance generated by the Piedra river is added to this historical enclosure.

On its way down, it generates a myriad of waterfalls of very different shapes. From the vertical Cola del Caballo, not to be confused with the one in Ordesa, to the one in La Trinidad, this spot has several of the most fascinating waterfalls in Spain. Without a doubt, it is one of the most beautiful places in the province of Zaragoza.

Mundo River Jets (Albacete)

With a name like this, it was impossible for this river course not to have one of the most spectacular waterfalls in Spain. Located at its incredible source, in the Calares del Mundo y de la Sima Natural Park, it is one of the largest in the country at over 100 metres.

Around it, an abundant green vegetation grows, which defies the classic image that one has of the province of Albacete. To see it, the best place is Riópar.

Cola de Caballo Waterfall (Huesca)

Besides having some of the best beech forests, valleys and routes that can be seen in Spain, the Ordesa and Monte Perdido National Park has some stunning waterfalls.

One of these is the Cola de Caballo waterfall, which has also a central role in a famous hiking route. With Torla as a starting point, you can reach this great waterfall of the Arazas River. On the way you pass by the also beautiful Gradas de Soaso. A perfect plan for nature lovers in the middle of the Huesca Pyrenees.

La Tobalina (Burgos)

The horizontal factor is what makes the difference in La Tobalina. This waterfall in Burgos is “only” about 20 metres high, but about 100 metres long. In addition, the Jerea, an Ebro tributary, forms a lagoon in which you can bathe during summer.

However, it is during the mid-season when this landmark of Burgos located between La Orden and Pedrosa de Tobalina acquires its most spectacular side. Whether due to the spring thaw or the autumn rainfall, the waterfall becomes wild during part of these seasons.



Ézaro Waterfall (A Coruña)

In Dumbría, waterfalls and the sea are joined by the Ézaro or del Jallas waterfall. The abundant rainfall in A Coruña and the protection of the Jallas River allows it to be active all year round, although it is in late autumn and winter when it flows most strongly.

It runs down for 40 metres, more or less straight, to the Ézaro marina, almost at the mouth of the waterway.

Pozo de los Humos ^{La Tobalina} (Salamanca)

Miguel de Unamuno was dazzled by the Pozo de los Humos, a waterfall about 50 metres high. The river Uces is responsible for its greatness. It is also part of the Arribes del Duero Natural Park. During the months of greatest influx, from late November to May, the strength of the fall creates a spray effect that justifies the name of the place.

In addition, in the surroundings there is the Pozo de las Vacas, another smaller waterfall caused by the bifurcation of the Uces River. The nearest towns to see this wonder of Salamanca are Masueco and Pereña.

A Seimeira de Vilagocende (Lugo)

Back in Galicia awaits the huge A Seimeira de Vilagocende. It is located in the council of Lugo A Fonsagrada, part of the Primitive Way to Santiago. It has 50 metres of fall immersed in a beautiful wooded environment.

To get to see this waterfall, the largest in Galicia, it is best to walk along the route that is part of it. It only takes an hour to walk, as it is only a one-kilometre roundtrip. Among birches and oak trees, resonates one of the most fascinating waterfalls in Spain.

Aljibe (Guadalajara)

Finally, we have to return to Guadalajara, in this case to the Serranía. In the middle of the Sierra de Ayllón is located the last of the most spectacular waterfalls in Spain selected. It is the Aljibe waterfall, near Campillo de Ranas.

It is, therefore, an ideal supplement if you do the route through the black towns. Its name comes from the two phases into which it is divided, which seem to form tanks or reservoirs. A 10 kilometre marked trail leads to it from the district of El Espinar.



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Welcome to Spain

Passionate, sophisticated and devoted to living the good life, Spain is both a stereotype come to life and a country more diverse than you ever imagined.

An Epic Land

Spain's diverse landscapes stir the soul. The Pyrenees and the Picos de Europa are as beautiful as any mountain range on the continent, while the snowcapped Sierra Nevada rises up improbably from the sun-baked plains of Andalucía; these are hiking destinations of the highest order. The wildly beautiful cliffs of Spain's Atlantic northwest are offset by the charming coves of the Mediterranean. And everywhere you go, villages of timeless beauty perch on hilltops, huddle in valleys and cling to coastal outcrops as tiny but resilient outposts of Old Spain.

A Culinary Feast

Food and wine are national obsessions in Spain, and with good reason. The touchstones of Spanish cooking are deceptively simple: incalculable variety, traditional recipes handed down through the generations, and an innate willingness to experiment and see what comes out of the kitchen laboratory. You may experience the best meal ever via tapas in an earthy bar where everyone's shouting, or via a meal prepared by a celebrity chef in the refined surrounds of a Michelin-starred restaurant. Either way, the breadth of gastronomic experience that awaits you is breathtaking.

Art Imitates Life

Poignantly windswept Roman ruins, cathedrals of rare power and incomparable jewels of Islamic architecture speak of a country where the great civilisations of history have risen, fallen and left behind their indelible mark. More recently, what other country could produce such rebellious and relentlessly creative spirits as Salvador Dalí, Pablo Picasso and Antoni Gaudí and place them front and centre in public life? Here, grand monuments to the past coexist alongside architectural creations of such daring that it becomes clear Spain's future will be every bit as original as its past.

Fiestas & Flamenco

For all the talk of Spain's history, this is a country that lives very much in the present and there's a reason 'fiesta' is one of the best-known words in the Spanish language – life itself is a fiesta here and everyone seems to be invited. Perhaps you'll sense it along a crowded, post-midnight street when all the world has come out to play. Or maybe that moment will come when a flamenco performer touches something deep in your soul. Whenever it happens, you'll find yourself nodding in recognition: this is Spain.



Wine Tourism in MURCIA

Murcia is famous for its orchard, its beaches, and its spas: Murcia's spas and hotels make up a top-class tourist destination. But Murcia is also gastronomy, culture and tradition.

The wines of Murcia are a discovery for many neophytes, in the same way that their wineries, their wine routes and their wine tourism are. Because wine is a tradition, culture and way of life, you will find numerous ideas to help you enjoy it in all its glory. Some "Must-sees" in each wine-producing area: its museums, its customs, its people... Come and discover the Region of Murcia through its wines.

Wine Route Bullas:

Bullas has been traditionally considered as the entrance to the North West of Murcia. Life in this village revolves around wine, making possible a "perfect match" between culture and vine, history and a green and mountainous nature.

In Bullas, wine is the ultimate expression of a town devoted to tending vines since its origin, both defining it and filling it with pride. A traditional craft that has matured over time, lovingly nurtured by its people in the hope of a rich reward: full-bodied wines abounding in character that linger not only on the palate but also in the memory. If the district of Bullas is known for something, it is for its wine-growing tradition. A stroll along its streets full of history or a chat with the local people will reveal how the town has been linked to the delicious fruit of the vine since the remotest of times. Ruta del Vino de Bullas

A PLACE TO VISIT---> BODEGAS BALCONA

The Balcona familiar property vineyards are more than 50 years old. In "Aceniche Valley" situated 800m above sea level, this place has a perfect balanced environmental condition, and is a ZEPA area (restricted area for the protection of the birds). They offer a winery visit, with 5 wine tasting for 7€ person. More information in www.bodegabalcona.com
MUST SEE, the Bullas Wine Museum www.rvbullas.es

Wine Tourism Jumilla

The Jumilla Designated Origin wine area is located in south-east Spain in an area characterised by extensive valleys and plains framed by mountains. A transition zone between the south-east Mediterranean and the meseta of Castilla-La Mancha, which gives rise to two large areas: the district of Jumilla, in the Region of Murcia, where the headquarters of the Regulatory Board is located, and the districts of Montealegre del Castillo, Fuenteálamo, Ontur, Hellín, Albatana and Tobarra in the Province of Albacete.

The D.O. Jumilla wine area has had a significant wine-producing tradition for centuries. Vines were already cultivated in this area from the romanisation of Hispania. But it was in the mid-19th Century, when a plague of phylloxera devastated large areas of Europe and, above all, France, that Jumilla's wine-growing economy took off spectacularly, with a growth in vineyards and a significant increase in exports to the neighbouring country that would enrich the local agricultural sector.

Jumilla is one of Spain's oldest Designated Origin wine areas, which has been regulated since 1966. The Oenological Station has been in operation since the beginning of the 20th Century.

Currently, more than 27,400 hectares of vineyard are registered. The cretaceous soil, harsh climate (with temperatures of up to 41c in summer and -5c in winter) and low rainfall (an average of 300 litres per M2 a year), contribute to the development of maximum colour and flavour from the grapes.

Jumilla is somewhere you can immerse yourself in the culture, tradition and customs of a wine-growing area with deep roots. Explore its vineyards, visit its numerous wineries and find out all about wine-making, step by step. Stay in rural surroundings, enjoy the local cuisine. And, of course, take advantage of the opportunities it offers to get to know its historical, cultural and natural heritage.

MUST SEE, Jumilla Castle. www.rutadelvinodejumilla.com

Wine Route Yecla:

Yecla, one of the most exceptional destinations of the Region, is situated in the far North, or better said, in the far Northeast. This is a land of mountains, good wine, history, culture and legends. It is no wonder that Spanish writers such as Azorín or Pío Baroja were fascinated after getting to know it.

The regulatory board tests both the grapes and the wines produced endorsing their quality in order to ensure that every bottle offers a genuine flavour experience. This demanding mission involves the monitoring of vineyards and wineries by the qualified control board team, which also periodically analyses the wines in order to guarantee their authenticity, distinguished by the seal on the back label.

Savouring wines from the Yecla designated origin wine area is a real experience, an adventure that will take you back to the origins of a land whose roots are deeply embedded in its wine-growing tradition. Its wines are pronounced and at the same time creative in character, revealing noble, complex and rich nuances in the glass.

Barahonda offers wine tourism experiences for wine lovers, with guided visits to the winery, wine tastings, and, to end the day, offers tasting menus at Barahonda Restaurant (awarded with a Repsol Sun since 2015).

Candela's History Tour: Learn about the evolution of the Candela's family in wine production. The visit begins in Bodegas Antonio Candela, the first winery of the family, with a traditional production, where you can appreciate the beginnings of this family in wine production. The tour concludes with a visit to Barahonda, the modern winery located on the outskirts of Yecla.

Wine tour and lunch in Barahonda Restaurant: Any of the above options allows, at the end of the tasting, to finish your day in Barahonda with an unforgettable gastronomic experience, to try one of the tasting menus of the Barahonda Restaurant. www.barahonda.com



Wine of the month

Barahonda Organic Blanco 2019

Grape variety: 60% Verdejo & 40% Sauvignon Blanc. DOP Yecla
Barahonda winery is working with organic certificates in all the vineyards the family owns since 2012. Verdejo and Sauvignon blanc are not the most used grape varieties in the south-east of Spain because of the warm conditions, but the knowledge and hardwork of this winemaker, give us the possibility to enjoy a really fresh and well done white wine.

The wine stands out due to its intense fruity aromas. On the palate it is fresh with floral sensations and a long finish. Well balanced. Suitable with fish such as hake, monkfish and cod. sea food, pasta with mild sauces and vegetables. Also suitable with grilled white meat. Suitable for vegans and vegetarians. The winery is built with traditional materials and is surrounded by the vineyards that provide the valuable raw material.

In Barahonda they make balanced and expressive wines full of colour and flavour; complex wines which have their own personality and which every year achieve awards and high scores by the best wine critics in the world.



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GRAN ALACANT

Gran Alacant is a large residential tourism urbanisation, which has a friendly relaxed feel. Many northern Europeans have settled here permanently to enjoy the fabulous climate and beautiful beaches and sand dunes that the area affords.

GRAN ALACANT

The urbanisation is located on a hillside close to the sandy beaches with many of the properties enjoying a sea view. The area is just 15 kilometres south of Alicante and 6 km from Santa Pola. The international airport at Alicante is approximately 10 minutes drive.

Beaches

Carabassi beach boasts 4 kilometres of wild natural and unspoilt sand dunes backed by a pine trees forest. The beaches of Santa Pola are also close by.

Excursions

In Santa Pola you can visit the “salinas” or salt flats that are still in use and from where you can watch splendid sunsets.

Santa Pola is also the town with one of the biggest fishing ports on the Mediterranean. Here you will find some excellent fish restaurants serving the local ‘catch of the day’. An absolute “must” is a trip to the “Isla de la Tabarca” which was made a national Marine Reserve in 1986. The crystal clear waters and the fauna and flora, make it an authentic paradise for divers.

Shopping

There are supermarkets, restaurants, chemists in Gran Alacant and the nearby local towns of Santa

Pola and Torrevieja have excellent markets.

Cuisine

There is a range of international restaurants to be found, serving menus influenced by flavours from the four corners of the globe.

Nightlife

A wide variety of nightlife can be found at nearby Torrevieja, which is a short Taxi ride away. Here you will find internationally renowned discos and many lively bars and restaurants.



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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



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A well-presented, reformed Rosa Style Villa, on a 450m² corner plot, 2 bed, 2 bath, gated entrances, private 8x4 pool with a jacuzzi, off-road parking, car port, log burner, dual A.C, ceiling fans, roof-top solarium, great views. Being sold part furnished.



3rd April

Duel remains for leg 3 podium position

Biotherm and 11th Hour Racing Team are fighting for third place points as they race towards Itajaí

With leg 3 winner Team Malizia and second-place finisher Team Holcim-PRB safe in Itajaí, the battle on the water for third place has closed up dramatically over the past 24 hours.

Paul Meilhat's Biotherm crew has realised an incredible gain on 11th Hour Racing Team over the past 24 hours, making up nearly 100 miles on the leaderboard. The pair are separated east/west by about 80 miles, but in terms of distance to finish are now virtually tied.

Both crews are showing incredible resilience in the face of adversity as each team has suffered more than its share of damage in the five weeks of racing to date. A race for third place isn't the race they were dreaming about when this leg started in Cape Town.

The weather isn't ideal for making fast progress to the finish - light to moderate winds, upwind - but should provide for some good racing.

5th April

Itajaí Finish blog - 11th Hour Racing Team completes the podium

11th Hour Racing Team earn final podium position for leg 3 with Biotherm taking fourth place in the longest leg in race history.

Leg 3 Results

1. Team Malizia -- 5 points
2. Team Holcim PRB -- 4 points
3. 11th Hour Racing Team -- 3 points
4. Biotherm -- 2 points
5. GUYOT environnement - Team Europe -- did not finish -- 0 points

Race Leaderboard (after leg 3)

1. Team Holcim-PRB -- 19 points
2. Team Malizia -- 14 points
3. 11th Hour Racing Team -- 13 points
4. Biotherm -- 10 points
5. GUYOT environnement - Team Europe -- 2 points

To follow the race...

Visit www.thecoceanrace.com



Broken down to its fundamentals, the 2022-23 edition of The Ocean Race is a fully-crewed, 32,000 nautical mile (37,000-mile / 60,000-kilometre) six-month, seven-stage, nine-city, around-the-world yacht race, contested by five of the world's best professional sailing teams racing aboard 60-foot state-of-the-art ocean racing yachts.

But, when we dig a little deeper into the numbers, there are plenty more fascinating facts and figures to be revealed... beginning with fact that the current edition – which started in Alicante, Spain in January, 2023 and finishes in Genova, Italy in July – is the 14th time the race has been staged since its inception 50 years ago in 1973. An international line-up. The Ocean Race has always attracted the top sailors from across the globe keen to become part of the yacht racing elite who have raced around the world.

The five IMOCA teams competing in the 2022-23 edition come are racing under the national flags of four nations – France (Biotherm), Germany (Team Malizia); Switzerland (Team Holcim - PRB); United States (11th Hour Racing Team) – as well as Europe, represented by GUYOT environnement – Team Europe. Beyond that, the teams' sailing squads are made up of 29 sailors representing 10 nationalities: Australian (1*); British (7*); Dutch (1); French (12); German (4); USA (1); Italian (1); Portuguese (1); Spanish (1); Swiss (1).

Age is just a number. There is a 24-year age range between this edition's youngest sailor – 25-year-old Tom Laperche (FRA) on Team Holcim - PRB – and the oldest – 49-year-old Yann Eliès (FRA) on Team Malizia.

Laperche – along with the Netherlands' Rosalin Kuiper (27), France's Amélie Grassi (28) on Biotherm, German Phillip Kasüske (28) on GUYOT environnement - Team Europe, and Britain's Will Harris (29) on Team Malizia, make up a group of five sailors aged under-thirty when this edition of the race began.

The Veterans Only one entry – 11th Hour Racing Team – features a sailing squad made up entirely of veterans of The Ocean Race. The American team's Simon Fisher (GBR) has the most past participations to his name having raced with ABN AMRO TWO (NED) in 2005-06, Telefónica Blue (ESP) in 2008-09, Abu Dhabi Ocean Racing (AUH) in 2011-12 and 2014-15, and Vestas 11th Hour Racing (DEN / USA) in 2017-18.

11th Hour Racing Team skipper Charlie Enright (USA) raced the 2014-15 edition as skipper on Team Alvimedica, and in the same role with Vestas 11th Hour Racing in 2017-18, while Justine Mettraux (SUI) raced the 2014-15 edition with Team SCA (SWE), and with Dongfeng Race Team (CHN) in 2017-18.

Top 10 Destinations in Southern Spain

7. Cadiz

This is believed to be the oldest continually inhabited city in all of Western Europe, and was founded over three millennia ago by Phoenician sailors. A visit here means seeing long coastlines of public beaches, waves on crashing seawalls, and examples of thousands of years of architecture. The must-see time to visit is during Carnival, which is the third-biggest celebration of this kind in the world. During the rest of the year, guests flock here for seafood, surfing and flamenco dancing.

Founded 3,000 years ago by the Phoenicians, Cádiz is the oldest city in Western Europe. The different people who settled here left an important cultural imprint, whose influence still remains in the character of the city's people. This peninsula, right on the Andalusian Atlantic coast, has been able to preserve an important historical legacy - the result of its commercial importance - together with excellent beaches and an exquisite regional cuisine. The Costa de la Luz, divided between the provinces of Huelva and Cádiz, also offers a multitude of destinations combining culture and leisure. And, for nature lovers, there is nothing better than touring the Doñana National Park, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

The former Phoenician Gades and Roman Gadir experienced its most splendid period when, in the 17th Century, it had the Ultramar (Spanish overseas empire) trade monopoly. This rise attracted attacks by pirates, which made the city fortify itself, constructing defensive bastions, castles and watchtowers on each flat roof. These are some of the characteristics of the city, in which the balcony railings are also outstanding. A visit might begin in Puerta Tierra, the entry point through the walls and the dividing line between modern and old Cádiz. On one side, wide avenues, beaches (La Victoria, Santa María and La Cortadura), sailing clubs and modern sporting facilities. On the other, a Cádiz with more flavour and history, that of the old districts: El Pópulo, the old medieval town; La Viña, fishing district and centre of the local tradition of satirical verses, or Santa María, living temple to flamenco. Streets with distinct characters but which have maintained a uniformity in the look of their houses which together form an exceptionally beautiful pattern.

On the Atlantic front rise the dome and yellow tiles of the Cathedral, looking

towards Campo del Sur. Baroque and Neoclassical in style, its crypt guards the remains of the composer Manuel de Falla. Beside it are the old Roman theatre and the old cathedral.

What was a royal square, parade ground and market, originating on land won from the sea, is also worth a visit. This is the Plaza de San Juan de Dios where the Neoclassical structure of Cádiz City Hall stands, looking towards the nearby port.

Many lively squares lie along any route. In the Plaza de España, beside the port, stands the palace of the Provincial Government and Monument to the Liberal Cortes (Parliament). In the tree-lined Plaza Mina you can visit the Cádiz Archaeological and Fine Arts Museum, which has interesting Phoenician exhibitions, while in the Plaza de San Francisco you can visit the church of the same name. The city's most important shopping streets begin around the Plaza de las Flores. There is a good reason why the Central Market is located here. Another square, that of Tío de la Tiza, is the heart of the district of La Viña, where the Carnival, a Festival of International Tourist Interest, begins with the traditional satirical verses.



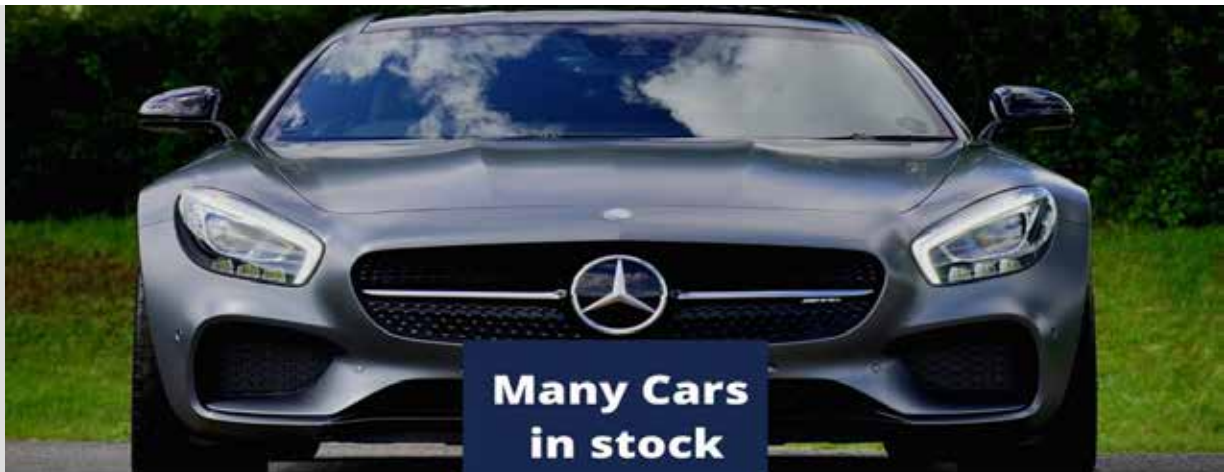
Cádiz has important religious buildings that tell us of Andalusian religious feeling. In Santa María, the church that gives its name to the district and the Convent of Santo Domingo are important. Near La Viña the parish church of La Palma awaits, while at the other end of the city, next to Candelaria Bastion, stands the church of Carmen.

Right in the centre of Cádiz you can visit the Cádiz Municipal Historical Museum, the Tavira Tower, one of the most symbolic in the city, and the Oratory of San Felipe Neri, a National Monument in which the Liberal Constitution of 1812 was debated.

And for the best views of the Atlantic Ocean there is nothing like a stroll in the garden walks of the Alameda de la Apodaca, the Genovés Park and La Caleta beach. This beach is the only one in the old town and is framed by the Santa Catalina and San Sebastián castles. You can continue as far as the beaches of the modern city, passing through Campo del Sur and stopping at the Mártires, Capuchinos and San Roque bastions.

The exceptional geographical position of Cádiz enables you to go to beautiful places like the Costa de la Luz, El Puerto de Santa María, Puerto Real (whose old quarter is a historic-artistic site) or Chiclana de la Frontera. At the western end of the Cadiz coast lies Sanlúcar de Barrameda, well known for its manzanilla, with Denomination of Origin, and for being one of the entrances to the Doñana Natural Park, declared a World Heritage Site.

Inland, Jerez de la Frontera awaits, a city with one of the most famous wines in Spain, (also with Denomination of Origin) and home to the "cartujano" horses. It is a good starting point for doing the White Villages Route. This way you will discover Serranía de Ronda - the natural parks of Grazalema and Los Alcornocales - as well as places with impeccable white houses like Arcos de la Frontera, Medina Sidonia or Vejer de la Frontera. Another highly recommended tour is the Roman Bética Route, which takes you to places in the former Roman province, from Santiponce (Seville) to Tarifa (Cádiz), a good place for walking in the old town and going windsurfing.



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Spanish Recipes

Spain has some of the most varied cuisine in Europe. We are going to try to guide you through some recipes for you to try at home.

Good luck and enjoy.

Roast cod with paella, saffron and olive oil



Ingredients:

1 tbsp olive oil
200g raw chorizo
3 large shallots
3 garlic cloves, crushed
2 tsp smoked sweet paprika
300g paella rice
1l fish stock
knob of unsalted butter
300g prawn
handful cooked, shelled mussels
plus 18 in their shells
juice ½ lemon
for saffron oil
75ml extra-virgin olive oil
juice ½ lemon
pinch saffron
1 tbsp olive oil
For cod
knob of unsalted butter
6 x 175g/6oz cod

Method:

Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. To make the paella, put the olive oil, chorizo, shallots and garlic in a large pan and fry for 7-8 mins until the chorizo releases its oil and the shallots have softened. Add the paprika and cook, stirring, for 5 mins, then add the rice, mix well and cook for a few mins more.

Pour in 600ml of the stock, season and mix well to combine. Cover and put in the oven for 15 mins. Uncover, give everything a good stir, then return to the oven for 10 mins. When almost cooked, remove from the oven and spread onto a tray to cool. Chill and reserve for later. You can make this a day ahead.

To make the saffron oil, whisk the olive oil and lemon juice together in a small saucepan. Add the saffron and heat gently for 5 mins, then remove from the heat and leave to infuse and cool. You can make this a day ahead.

Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. For the cod, put the olive oil and butter in an ovenproof frying pan over a high heat, but don't let it burn. Season the cod with sea salt and black pepper, then cook, skin-side down, in the hot pan, for 4 mins, then carefully turn the fish over and put the pan in the oven for a further 3 mins, finishing with a little more sea salt and a squeeze of lemon juice.

Meanwhile, put the paella back in the pan, stir in the remaining fish stock and cook for 2 mins until completely heated through. Stir through a knob of butter, the prawns and shelled mussels. Taste, season with lemon juice, salt and pepper if necessary, and finish with the chopped parsley. Serve with the roast cod, mussels in their shells and steamed purple broccoli or a green vegetable, if you like. Finally, drizzle everything with the saffron dressing.



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Taquilla Tickets for March and April

By **Taquilla Tickets**

Taquilla Tickets welcomes you to the May edition of this lovely magazine.

Did you know? Spain has 49 UNESCO World Heritage Sites spread throughout the country. The Cathedral of Our Lady of the Assumption in Cordoba is just one of these UNESCO World Heritage Sites. We are delighted to announce that we are visiting the beautiful city of Cordoba from the 16th to the 18th of May. This could give you a chance to see this incredible Cathedral.

Just before we visit Cordoba, we are travelling up to Benidorm and The Benidorm Palace in particular, to see the absolutely fabulous, show-stopping band that is billed as the best tribute band to QUEEN in the whole world! "Thank you, guys," says Brian May, "Brilliant". Now Brian knows a thing or two about Queen!! The Bohemians were formed in 1996 to re-enact the glory days of QUEEN. Have they achieved it? You bet they have. The Bohemians have travelled the world filling football stadiums, festivals, theatres, and some pretty amazing worldwide venues. They are "THE BEST THERE IS" say the Critics. So, we are going to see them on the 14th of MAY for the Matinee Performance. Don't miss the chance to hear the music of the Iconic Band performed by the Bohemians.

When we come back from our trip to Cordoba, we are once again visiting Benidorm on the 21st of May. This time it's a day trip. Love Benidorm? Then love it with us !!

Did you know? "Don Quixote" written by Spanish author Miguel de Cervantes has been called the first modern novel EVER.

A firm favourite with our guests is a visit to the gorgeous "stuck on the side of a hill" Pueblo that is Mojacar. Yes, we are once again visiting this really beautiful village in Almeria, and we will probably take a drive down to the Playa too (as if we wouldn't)!! This day out is taking place on Wednesday 24th May. So, if you would like to go, then contact us soon.

Our regular trips to the Waterpark in Murcia City kick off on the 28th of May followed by another trip on the 31st of May. A great day out !!

June sees the start of our trips (both day and night) to the lovely Puerto de Mazarron. These trips get booked up very quickly so if you want to go, then contact us soonest.

Do you like fast cars? Do you like to hear the roar of the engines? Spain's Formula One Grand Prix takes place every year in Barcelona. This year the Grand Prix is being held on the 4th of June. However, we are travelling to Barcelona on the 2nd of June, and taking you to the qualifying sessions on the 3rd of June followed by the race itself on the 4th of June. So much interest in this event!!! Call or visit us to secure your place(s).

On the 9th of June, we are, once again, taking our guests to the very beautiful Algar Waterfalls. Laying just North of Benidorm, these stunning waterfalls and walkways are the ideal places to "Chill Out", enjoy the walks or even swim in the crystal clear lagoons. That's the morning and early afternoon taken care of! Now we will take you into Benidorm to eat and have a few drinks if you want to, or just stroll along the beautiful beaches. This trip is always popular, so booking is important.

On the 11th of June, we will be taking guests to the MOTRIL AIR SHOW. What a spectacle this will be. Taking part will be participants from Spain, France, Denmark and Spain's Freefall Parachute Team, who just happen to be based in our region. What a show this will be !!! For 17 years this airshow has been getting bigger and better, and 2023 is going to be, WOW!

So, these are a few things to be going on with. Stay tuned to this magazine and our Website for more next month. Oh! We forgot to mention (or did we?) - On June 14th, 15th and 16th we are visiting Toledo (The old Capital of Spain). Puy Du Fou here we come, again!!!! Not sure what this is? Pop in or call to find out.

By the time you read this article, Taquilla Tickets will have a new member of staff on board. Please welcome Julie to the Team. You will see Julie around our office and you will definitely see her on our coaches. WELCOME JULIE AND GOOD LUCK from us all at Taquilla Tickets.



You can contact us in the usual way: Pop into our office on Condado de Alhama. We are located inside the office of "Sparkles", and we are there from 10.00 am-13.30 pm Monday-Friday.

Contact Sally on +34 6573 46445. Contact Nigel on +34 6425 01568. Both can be contacted on WhatsApp, but maybe try Sally first.

Nigel can also be found at CATS Bar on Camposol A, Tuesday to Friday 10.15 am-13.15pm

Pop in to see us or contact us to see what's on!!

The weather is warming up now so we are asking you to take care and don't forget the sun cream.



For more details call:
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They will not only recommend the most appropriate insurance for your current circumstances, but will also talk to you about the different covers that you can take out. Many coverages go unnoticed or are simply not asked about because it can be assumed that they will make the policy much more expensive; but this is not always the case.

In addition, whether you need to make a claim or want to modify or clarify a point in your policy, you can always speak directly with the person that you dealt with in the first place; the person who knows your case and who will attend to you personally. For your Broker or Agent, you will never be a case number or just another client!

What's more, LIBERTY SEGUROS looks to always make things that bit better with fantastic offers for both existing and new customers. From now up until 27th June 2023, both new and existing clients who take out a new Car, Home or Life policy* with LIBERTY SEGUROS will receive €50 Cashback. Whilst this offer is not available for renewals or replacements, there's no limit on the number of new policies that can be taken out per customer – and therefore, there's no limit on cashback rewards.

There are many advantages of relying on a reputable insurer such as LIBERTY SEGUROS, which has high quality products that can be fully customised to your needs and at very affordable prices.

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It's not hard to understand why LIBERTY SEGUROS has become in the preferred expat insurer in Spain with over 150,000 international clients.

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Casa Boquera - A Unique Experience

Casa Boquera is truly something different when it comes to boutique hotels or wineries. Set up, owned and run by Katherine and Harald Schalde, nothing has been left out to make your whole experience of staying here a dream from start to finish.

The Schalde couple have always had a love of wine, and following a holiday to their holiday home in Torrevieja, they decided to follow their dream. So 11 years ago they started by buying an old finca with a small vineyard just outside Yecla. Soon after renovating this they bought the neighbouring plot of land and set about cultivating it and planting new vines, and so the dream was born.

Next followed the building of the Casa Boquera boutique hotel and the winery. In the following pages we will talk more about this and the restaurant. Then finally Katherine put the final jigsaw piece in place by passing her sommelier exams. This now means she can conduct wine tasting and courses of her own excellent wines, and believe me the wines are excellent.

Casa Boquera can also cater for all types of celebrations including marriage ceremonies. Casa Boquera offers a safe and secure environment. Most importantly in the current situation, ALL covid related hygiene standards are met and surpassed by all staff.



www.casaboquera.com 0034 613 166 034
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Casa Boquera - Hotel

Casa Boquera is situated in the middle of their own vineyard. The accommodation surrounds a private garden with a swimming pool and beautiful views over the vineyards and valley. With 11 rooms they can offer a personal and quiet retreat with your own private terrace. All rooms are furnished differently with spacious bathrooms and top quality beds. This fantastic boutique hotel has just celebrated it's 6th anniversary



The kitchen serves a breakfast buffet with freshly squeezed orange juice, eggs, bacon and even baked beans. You can enjoy your start of the day, either inside in the dining room or out on the many terraces depending if you want the sun or the shade. A set breakfast can be brought to your room if you prefer.

The cafeteria and pool bar is open all day and offers a menu with Spanish and European food. Or maybe you want a lunch basket to take with you when you go cycling. This is also possible.

The hotel also offers full on-site spa treatments. This high standard spa is the latest edition to the unique experiences on offer. Note, all spa treatments must be booked in advance

Casa Boquera - Restaurant

The definition of "the good life" is often related to food and wine. At Casa Boquera they have taken this to heart and wish to give you a perfect experience at their on site restaurant.

They have composed an a la carte menu where many of the ingredients are closely related to the surroundings and the actual season, and are therefore changed at least four times a year.

The open plan kitchen gives you the opportunity to see the masters at work and creates at the same time a homely, relaxed atmosphere. Perfect for friends and family as well as business relations.

Take the opportunity of dining in a vineyard and visit the wine cellar. Choose the perfect wine or let them recommend one for you. They can seat up to 40 people inside and can offer celebrations for up to 180 guests when using the enclosed terrace. They have of course composed special menus for special occasions.



For a larger lunch or dinner, they offer you the downstairs restaurant, where they serve two different menus: one rustic and traditional, and one gourmet style. The restaurant opens from eight to midnight. All red, white and rosè wines are from their own winery and are all organic.

Welcome to the good life and the Casa Boquera Restaurant!

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Casa Boquera - Winery



Casa Boquera is a small family winery located in the “El Serral” Valley in Yecla (Murcia).

The area, known as La Boquera, is characterised by its microclimate and its terroir, made up of sandy and calcareous soils, which makes it very suitable for growing vines, obtaining wines with a very unique character.

The red varieties that their farm has are: Monastrell, a native variety of the area and the great protagonist of the wines. Petit Verdot, Syrah and Garnacha Tintorera.

The total hectares that the vineyards have is 20 Ha, all of them located around the winery for better control and evaluation, and giving the hotel and restaurant privileged views.

The winery was built during the spring of 2016. The winery is small but equipped with the most respectful technology towards wine and adapted to the winemaking tradition of the area.

Proof of this is that the entire winery is heated to ensure that the temperature is optimal for the correct conservation of the wine, and the continuous addition of preservatives and the control of the oxygen level in the tanks that can reduce the quality of the wine is avoided.

All the facilities are designed to achieve the highest quality of wines.

The harvest is carried out in small boxes to take maximum care of the quality of the grapes, as well as to avoid oxidation.

The treatment and selection of the grapes is carried out on the day of harvesting, first in the field as they select bunch by bunch by the harvest team, and then in the winery at the selection tables, removing all grapes that are not in optimal ripened condition or correct hygienic conditions. Then the destemming is carried out, but they do not crush the pips; and later the incubation is carried out by means of very respectful systems with the grape.

The entire fermentation process is carried out in small stainless steel tanks that guarantee a perfect fermentation control. This process lasts about 10-20 days, depending on the type of fermentation suitable for each variety. At the end of this process, the grape is pressed with a pneumatic press that fully respects the structure of the grape without causing breakage, but only fatigue. After this process, the wine for aging or barrel is determined according to the organoleptic properties obtained.

The wines are 100% organic, with the personality of the area where mineral tones stand out due to the typical terroir of the area. Wines with medium-high layers of colour where the typical ruby red of Monastrell dominates.

Both young and old reds are made with the Monastrell variety as the protagonist.

They also produce a very small production of rosé and white wines, but never exceed in total 100,000 bottles per vintage to continue maintaining the style so typical of family wineries where every detail counts and makes each bottle unique.

Casa Boquera - The Harvest

If you want to see and experience the harvesting of the grapes first hand then why not join the Casa Boquera team in their “Perfect Harvest”, an event that can be done anytime during the six weeks of harvest, between the beginning of September to mid October

We start the day with coffee / tea and some information about the day, our story and about the grapes and wine in general. You will then be divided into groups.

Then we go out into the vineyard and cut grapes.

The winemaker then awaits us in the bodega and we are told the secrets of selection. Then we try to do the selections ourselves and will be judged by the winemaker

Lunch with drinks included and relaxation by the pool.

Then after lunch we do wine tasting, blind tasting and a quiz, all just fun.

We then tread grapes the old fashioned way before we compete to see who gets one litre of grape juice first.

We round off the day with a set three course dinner in our restaurant. Drinks all included during the meal.

Both meals and drinks included: 150 Euro per person

After this we highly recommend staying at the hotel, but this is not included in the harvest price

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