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WHAT I'LL MISS



I'm going back to the UK for Christmas for the first time in several years, and I'm just beginning to realise I'll miss Christmas on Lanzarote.

What exactly will I miss? Well, for a start, that relaxed, celebratory atmosphere. I enjoy the urgent, hectic rush of British city centres at Christmas, with neon lights, packed pubs, and Slade and Mariah blaring out; but I've also learned to appreciate the laid-back charms of Lanzarote. That feeling that there are weeks of holiday ahead – even if you're working – so you can take your time and enjoy it to the full.

What else? I'll miss the seafood counters, laden with glistening, fresh delicacies, and the Spanish Christmas carols that I've come to know, I'll miss those children singing the lottery numbers on TV and the strolling folk groups in Arrecife.

I'll miss nipping down to the beach for a dip on Christmas Day and that long session on the phone to family later on, I'll miss walking through the resorts, where there'll be a lovely festive atmosphere;

I'll miss finding a sunny terrace to sit and watch Leicester beat Liverpool on Boxing Day, and I'll miss the winter walks up volcanoes and along coastlines that I love to do on free days.

Let's face it, I'll probably miss being warm, too; not having to put on three layers of clothes, gloves, a scarf and a hat to go out, and as I'm going to Scotland I'll not only miss sunshine, but also daylight.

But for the first Christmas in years I won't be missing my mother, my sister, my brother and my families. That makes it all worthwhile, even though I'll miss all the friends I've come to know on this amazing little island, especially those absent ones whose memory always returns at this time of year.

So if you're lucky enough to be here to enjoy all this and much, much more, make the most of it and ensure you have the happiest of Christmases and a New Year full of hope and satisfaction. See you in 2020.

The Ed

DECEMBER 2019



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FIRST LOOK

Nine die off the north coast



Nine Moroccan immigrants died just metres from the shore of Caleta de Caballo in northern Lanzarote on 5th November.

The *patera* (fishing boat) which carried the victims foundered off the coast at 1 am in the morning, with the victims assumed to have drowned as they attempted to reach dry land. Four survivors were detained and attended to by emergency services.

The tragedy has raised pressing questions about the SIVE (Integrated System of External Vigilance) which has detected hardly any of the *pateras* that have arrived over the course of the past year. The boat in question departed from the

Moroccan coast near Agadir five days before reaching Lanzarote, and all passengers were young Moroccan men.

The incident is just the latest tragedy to take place off Lanzarote's coastline. Last year, the bodies of five immigrants were retrieved from the sea near the popular tourist beach of Playa Bastián in Costa Teguise; and in 2009, a *patera* foundered in rough seas just a few metres off the coast of Los Cocoteros on Lanzarote's east coast. 25 immigrants, including 17 youngsters and two women, died in the most tragic nautical accident in the island's recent history.

Most of the dead from this tragedy were later buried in Guelmim, a Moroccan city lying 200 miles east of Lanzarote, and the incident led to the formation of an association of mothers who have attempted to inform

young people about the risks and dangers of seeking a future on the high seas. However, they face a difficult task when faced with the promises of the traffickers.

One of the reasons why young men are risking their lives to come to the Canaries is the utter lack of opportunities in their home country. Mohammed Mubarak Mti of Guelmim, who has lost two sons to the seas, told ABC, "My sons refused to complete their studies and lost hope of making a living in this town. Their only dream was to emigrate to Europe, and the bitter reality of what they had to expect when they finished school meant we couldn't convince them."

Another reason for the recent influx may be the Moroccan government's decision to reintroduce military service earlier this year. The announcement was deeply unpopular with Moroccan youth, who may be forced into years of service.



LANZAROTE AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

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LOCAL NEWS



King Drops In

King Felipe VI made a flying visit to Lanzarote on 31st October to officially open a spectacular exhibition at the César Manrique Foundation to celebrate the artist's centenary.



King Felipe VI at the César Manrique Foundation

"It's a marvel...highly recommended," said the King after visiting the exhibition in the company of Spain's education minister, Isabel Celaá, and an assorted selection of local bigwigs that included the Canarian President Ángel Víctor Torres, Lanzarote's Cabildo President María Dolores Corujo and all seven of the island's Mayors. The King flew into the island and left immediately afterwards, without staying at the Royal residence in Costa Tegui.

King Felipe saw photos of Manrique meeting his parents and his grandfather among the exhibits at the Foundation. The exhibition, titled "César Manrique – It's A Pleasure" will remain open until April.

Wind and Waves

Strong winds cut off the island of La Graciosa from Lanzarote for a day last month.

Winds and high seas rendered the ferry crossing from Órzola to Caleta de Sebo impossible on Monday 11th November, although normal (but very choppy) service was resumed on the next day.

The winds caused other problems on the island. Yaiza's secondary school was closed after part of its structure was damaged, and the collapse of a radio mast in Femés meant that a number of stations were off-air for a while.

Drone Discovery

A group of amateur archaeologists using a drone discovered a cave filled with the bones of ancient Canarian natives in Gran Canaria.

The cave is located in the craggy highlands of the island, in an area that is very difficult to access. The group detected the cave using a drone, before reaching it and reporting it to authorities.

The cave contains the bones of dozens of humans, and has been disturbed by unknown persons previously. The archaeologists hope that authorities will analyse the remains before returning them and sealing the cave.

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Travel Fair

Lanzarote's President, María Dolores Corujo, and its Tourist Promotion councillor, Ángel Vázquez, flew to London last month to attend the World Travel Market 2019.

The trade fair is one of the most important in the world, and a vital date for Lanzarote considering that the UK remains its most important market. Vázquez announced that delegates would be meeting “nine of the ten most important tour operators in Britain”, and that the main aim of the fair for Lanzarote would be to “soften the impact caused by the collapse of Thomas Cook.”



Canarian president Ángel Víctor Torres meets the Lanzarote team

Green Light for Radiotherapy Unit

The Canarian Government has approved funds of almost 2.5 million euros to be spent on the first phase of the Radiotherapeutic Oncology Unit at Lanzarote's Doctor José Molina Orosa Hospital. Works are expected to commence in the first quarter of 2020, and it is hoped that the unit will open in 2021.

The project will require the construction of a radiotherapy bunker in the hospital, which must be made of sufficiently thick

concrete to avoid the escape of radiation. This will require the demolition and possible relocation of a number of existing rooms in the hospital, including the current functions room.

Lanzarote's principal cancer charity, AFOL, has held well-attended demonstrations in favour of the radiotherapy unit in previous years. The possibility of receiving treatment on the island will mean that patients will avoid having to leave home to stay in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria at a time when they may be extremely weak and vulnerable.

Patera Captain Jailed

The captain of boat that arrived at La Santa in October last year with 27 illegal immigrants on board has been jailed for two and a half years by the Provincial Court.

The male, who is also subject to a deportation order, was found guilty of, “receiving various amounts of money from people who were transported to the Canarian coast in the knowledge that the rules of entry to Spanish territory were being broken, and that the passengers would be in an irregular status in Spain.”

However, while each boat requires a skipper, it is well-known that these are relatively low level members of the trafficking mafias operating out of Morocco.



Merry Christmas

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ISLAND INFO



Adiós, Pepe

We were sad to hear of the death of Pepe MacDonald – an unforgettable character who became well-known to many on Lanzarote in the 90s.

Pepe came to Lanzarote after becoming one of the best-known figures in Gran Canaria's nightlife scene, the owner of several legendary bars and clubs in Las Palmas. He opened another disco here and had dealing in the property business.

A handsome, flamboyant charmer whose first love was music and who lived life at full throttle, Pepe is survived by his wife Margarita and his children Ciro, Sarah and Kira Miró.

Golf Society

The Las Palmeras Golf Society has 45 members of seven nationalities and plays at Costa Tegui's course twice a week.

Jean Francois Crinquand of the society popped in to ask us to remind all residents and visitors to Lanzarote that they are more than welcome to join them. Members qualify for a 20% discount on green fees and will be able to take part in the new monthly competition, which will take place on the first Friday of each month.

Contact: jeanfrancois.crinquand@gmail.com or call 646399846.



Mark Aid!

Mark Fenton is a locally-based musician who suffered a terrible accident after a bus drove over his foot, which meant that several toes and part of his foot had to be removed.

This has meant Mark has been unable to work for some time, and friends and colleagues have decided to organise a benefit event to help him. So far, 15 acts have pledged to appear, meaning that the €5 entry fee is about the best value as you'll find on Lanzarote.

The big night will take place at Wall Street (opposite Fariones) in Puerto del Carmen, on 7th December from 2pm to 2am.


Charity Auction Rescheduled

Deirdre MacFarlane writes: "Sadly the Charity Auction scheduled for 9 November and announced in last month's magazine was cancelled due to ill-health. Unfortunately the magazine had gone to press before this decision was made and there was little I could do to advise people. I sincerely apologise to those who made the effort to attend especially those who came a distance and by bus.

"However, I'm pleased to announce that The Charity Auction will now take place on 11th January, and details will be the same as before - 10-12 am: Delivery of lots; 12-3pm: Viewing; 3pm: Start of auction.


Contact Deirdre on drearymac@gmail.com to register or find out more.

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SARA Christmas message

The residents at SARA, Lanzarote's oldest animal shelter, would like to thank all its members, volunteers, dog walkers, supporters, business sponsors and collection box holders for "Helping Us to Help Them" over the past year. We take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year, and we look forward to your continued support in 2020!

During 2019 we have continued our street cat neutering campaign and re-homed over 450 four-legged "furries" both here and overseas.

The 2020 SARA calendar is now available at the shelter, featuring some of our residents posing fetchingly for the camera. Fancy taking a dog for a walk? You're welcome at the shelter from 10.30 to 13.30, Mon to Sat. Please note that dog walkers are required to register (once only) at reception, providing ID. No fee is required, this is solely for insurance purposes. If dog walking isn't for you, come and visit our cats and have a cuddle. Time on your hands and would like to make a difference? Come and help out in the cattery or laundry. Are you a handyman? Please pay us a visit!

For more information on how you can volunteer please visit www.saraprotectora.eu or contact 928173417. Make a difference in 2020.



SARA Dog of the Month

Lia, born in April 2015, is an adorable, medium-sized Bull Terrier who arrived at SARA in July. Typical of her breed, she is sunny, boisterous and happy. Her walkers say she's a honey: cute, cheerful, full of fun and a very affectionate dog. She is strong but walks well on a lead and would be easy to train. She loves a roll and a tummy rub, adores water, sits for treats and takes them gently. All in all, sheer joy – a dog to lift your spirits. Life in a cage doesn't suit her and it's sad to see her face when she has to return.

Rancho Charity Weekends

Once again this year, Rancho Texas will be working together with Sor Ana's Calor Y Café charity to help the island's homeless.

On the weekends of 7th and 8th of December, and 14th and 15th of December, there'll be a collection point at the Rancho Texas car park, where people can donate food, clothes, toys and personal hygiene items.

Please make sure all food is non-perishable – pasta, tinned and dried foods are fine, but leave your prawns at home. As an added bonus, Rancho Texas will donate a free entry pass to anyone who brings more than eight kilos of food.



Win reaches 101

Winifred Huc, born on the same day that the First World War ended, celebrated her 101st birthday on Armistice Day last month. We visited Win at the Hospital Insular in Arrecife, where she was receiving good care after suffering from an infection, and are delighted to report that she was as sharp and funny as ever, regretting that she wasn't Irish "because they get €2,000 when they turn 100."

"If you've got a sense of humour, you've got life", Win told us, and if that's true there's life in the old girl yet.



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Merry Christmas!





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EUROPE NEWS



Immigrants increase

Police discovered 41 immigrants of Afghan origin in a refrigerated lorry leaving northern Greece in early November. The discovery highlights the people smuggling trade that ended in tragedy when 39 Vietnamese immigrants were found dead in a lorry in Grays, Essex, on 23rd October.

Meanwhile, in Spain, a video of a Moroccan immigrant throwing his medals into the sea before his boat arrived on Lanzarote went viral. Anuar Bujarsa was filmed throwing national medals he'd won in taekwondo tournaments over the edge of his boat, saying, "They're not worth anything. You can't eat medals."

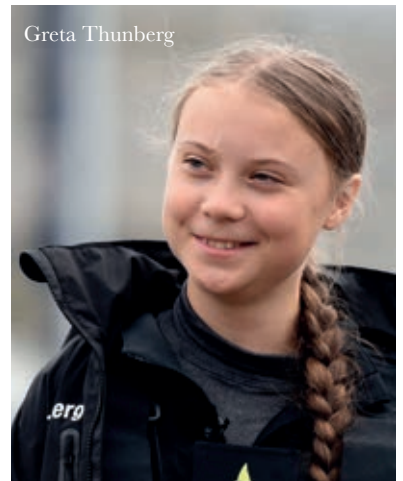
Greta gets help

The Canarian Government offered their assistance to Greta Thunberg when the climate campaigner advertised for a lift across the Atlantic.

Riots in Santiago, Chile, led to the rescheduling of the UN climate summit in Madrid, but this left Thunberg, who refuses to take flights, stranded on the wrong side of the Atlantic. After tweeting for assistance, the Canarian Government

responded, "Dear Greta. Canary Islands are a bridge between America and Europe in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. We are fighting against the climate change. If you wish, the @parcan (Canarian Parliament) would be honored to help you. We need to join forces."

Nevertheless, as the trade winds from the Canaries are westward, Greta is likely to take a route further north.



Italy plastic tax

Italy's plastic tax could be withdrawn after pressure from producers has divided the country's fragile ruling coalition.

The proposed tax would have seen producers liable to pay a Euro for every kilogram of plastic containers and wrapping produced. However, the proposal was strongly opposed by Italy's business federation,

who claimed that it would affect employment in a sector that hires 150,000 workers. Consumer associations claimed the tax would add 10% to product prices.

The ruling coalition, composed of the Five Star Movement and the Democratic Party, are divided on the issue.

30 years of history

November and December have seen several events to commemorate the astonishing events of 30 years ago, when the USSR and the Soviet bloc fell apart

November has already seen the anniversary of the massive demonstrations and the peaceful dismantling of the Berlin Wall in Germany. This was followed by the end of Communist rule in Bulgaria, the Velvet Revolution in

Czechoslovakia, the resignation of East German chancellor Egon Krenz, the Singing Revolution in Lithuania, the execution of Romanian tyrant Nicolae Ceausescu and finally, Poland's abandonment of communism on 31st December.

The following year, 1990, saw the first democratic elections in every Eastern bloc country apart from Poland, who led the move to democracy in June 1989.





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Brexit to the vote

Britain's exit from the European union has been kicked another three months down the road after Boris Johnson called a general election to "get Brexit done".



After saying that he'd rather "die in a ditch" than postpone Brexit, Boris Johnson apologised to members of his party and expressed his "deep regret" that another "painful" extension had been sought.

The new extension date of 31st January, 2020 offers Johnson the chance to fight a general election which he hopes will give him a large enough parliamentary majority to pass his revised withdrawal agreement. The election will take place on 12th December – the first pre-Christmas election for 96 years.

Johnson's deal is basically the same one Theresa May thrashed out with the EU and presented three times to parliament, with changes to the Irish border agreements that will effectively see a border in the Irish Sea. That proved unacceptable to the government's coalition partners in the DUP, and as parliament had already outlawed a no-deal exit, Johnson had no choice but to propose an election.

Brexit election

Brexit will be a key issue in the election, and the main parties have already set their stalls out. The Conservatives are offering Johnson's agreement; Labour will attempt to forge a new agreement which

“A new parliament may bring a Brexit breakthrough.”

will then be subjected to a confirmatory referendum; the Liberal Democrats are pledging to revoke Article

50 without a referendum, and Nigel Farage's Brexit party are backing no deal in preference to Johnson's deal.

At the start of campaigning, the Conservatives were comfortably ahead in the polls, but the last election in 2017 shows how quickly things can change. This time, the Brexit Party and then Liberal Democrats hope to pick off disaffected voters from the two main parties, while the SNP is likely to wield greater power than ever. Another hung parliament is a distinct possibility, and would simply extend Johnson's discomfort.

Expats still barred

Despite the fact that the last two Conservative manifestos have pledged to grant votes for life to British citizens living overseas, the 15-year rule introduced under Labour's Tony Blair will still apply. That means that anyone who has lived abroad for more than 15 years will be ineligible to vote. Yet again, many thousands of expat Britons will be unable to participate in an election which is likely to have immediate effects on their livelihoods and futures.

Hollow victory



Right you are

Pedro Sánchez's risky gamble permitted Spain's far right party, Vox, to double its representation to 52 seats in parliament.

Vox leader Santiago Abascal (above), who once "invaded Gibraltar" as a publicity stunt, capitalised on the violent demonstrations in Catalonia and a rise in immigration to promote his populist message, and voters in Murcia and outlying suburbs of the major cities responded.

Biggest Loser

Albert Rivera of Ciudadanos (below) was the night's big loser, and resigned immediately. Podemos splinter party, Más País, led by Íñigo Errejón also failed to fulfil expectations.



Spain's second general election in a year gave an even more fragmented result than the last one, and it appears as though the country may head into Christmas and the New Year without a government.

Pedro Sánchez

Pedro Sánchez's Socialist Party won the most seats once again, but his decision to throw the dice on another election has simply not paid off, and he will be faced with even greater difficulties in forming a government than he faced in the early summer.

The election campaign coincided with riots in Catalonia following the jailing of 12 Catalan activists and politicians found guilty of sedition, as well as a spike in immigration – factors which played right into the hands of the populist Vox party, who doubled their representation in parliament to 52 seats. Meanwhile, the Ciudadanos party, who moved right in an attempt to capitalise on nationalist sentiment, lost out disastrously, ending up with just 10 of the 57 seats it won in April. Their leader, Albert Rivera resigned his post and his seat within 24 hours.

The far left-wing vote for Unidas Podemos was also split, with Pablo Iglesias's party shedding votes to the Más País party formed by his ex-colleague Íñigo Errejón.

Immediately after the results of the election were released, Sánchez and Iglesias reached an agreement to enter into a coalition, although this will require the support of several smaller parties to reach a majority.

The speed of this agreement contrasts with the months of disagreement, suspicion and anger that

failed to produce a government after the April election. It was this that caused Sánchez to call a second election, but the threat of the far right appears to have focused the leaders of both main left-wing parties.

A solution to the Catalan problem will be a priority for any new government – and the Socialists and Podemos do not see eye to eye on this.

“Sánchez's victory came with a high price tag.”

On Lanzarote, both the Socialists and the Popular party increased their vote, with Unidas Podemos taking third place, closely followed by Nueva Canarias/CC. Vox doubled their vote to become the fifth most important party, but won no seats.

In the Canaries as a whole, five Socialist deputies will go to Madrid, along with four PP representatives and two each from the NC/CC, Unidas Podemos and Vox, who appear to have snapped up the two seats that Ciudadanos held for a brief eight months.

Horse Play



The decision to remove four mounted horse sculptures from the shore in front of Arrecife's Castillo de San José has caused controversy, and launched campaigns to leave them where they are.

The four sculptures form a work called *The Rising Tide*, by British artist Jason deCaires Taylor, and are intended as a statement on climate change. Like deCaires Taylor's other major work on the island, the Atlantic Museum at Playa Blanca, the work consists of concrete sculptures in a marine environment.

However, the Cabildo recently invited applicants for a contract to "dismantle and remove" the four sculptures, with a quote of over €24,000 given for the job. It is intended that the sculptures will be kept in a warehouse belonging to the Cabildo, away from public view. DeCaires Taylor says that he was told that the reason for their removal was that they "damage the image of the works of César Manrique".

The sculptures were installed on a "temporary" basis in September 2016, and are a copy of an earlier work that deCaires Taylor had exhibited in London. However, there has been long-standing criticism of the ex-Cabildo President's support for the British artist. Critics have claimed that deCaires Taylor is not established on the international exhibition/auction art market, and there are also concerns about the money spent on the Atlantic Museum project.

What is quite clear is that this is a

row that is every bit as political as it is aesthetic. This was made clear when Cabildo President Dolores Corujo said, "this artist was lucky to fall into favour with the then-President of the Cabildo (Pedro San Ginés of the CC) with his phobias and philiias."

The long-standing web of alliances and oppositions between the Coalición Canaria, the Socialist party, the César Manrique Foundation and

"After two years the sculptures are to be removed from Puerto Naos."

influential players on the island has changed along with the government of the institutions after this year's elections, and it seem that scores are being settled.

Meanwhile, Arrecife Ayuntamiento has held a meeting about the possibilities of relocating the sculptures elsewhere in the capital.



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Festive Round Up

There's plenty happening over Christmas on Lanzarote, and on these pages we'll give you just a taste of the celebrations that are lined up. However, there'll be much more, ranging from Christmas markets, live music and religious events, and it will go on throughout December until January 6th.

Don't forget to check your local Ayuntamiento's Christmas agenda, which will highlight many more events.

SANTA CLAUS RACE

December 6th, 6pm.

*Residencia Real Las Maretas (King's Palace)
Costa Tegui.*

A festive addition to the Lanzarote Marathon, this charity event is in support of End Polio Now, and entry is €10. All Santas are welcome!



CHRISTMAS CAKE COMPETITION AND CHARITY AUCTION

Dec 7th, from 10am.

Biosfera shopping Centre, Puerto del Carmen. Organised by Hearts Lanzarote, this event will raise funds for Tias Social Services and feature plenty of stalls from 10am onwards. Auction, live music and festive fun will start at 5pm. Call 648 864 653 to find out more.

CHARITY FAYRE

December 14th, from 7pm.

Tekkers Bar Costa Tegui.

Get down to Tekkers for a fab, festive fair featuring carols, the live debut of The Observers, Dance, a raffle and Bratwurst sausage with mulled wine. In aid of Breast Cancer Care.

CUENTO DE NAVIDAD

**December 21st,
8pm.**

Teatro El Salinero,
Arrecife. Tickets €15.
Spanish language
performance of
Charles Dickens' A
Christmas Carol.



ANGLICAN CHURCH EVENTS

The Anglican Parish of St Laurence on Lanzarote is busier than ever this Christmas under the guidance of Reverend Stan Evans. Events for this year include the following:

December 1st, 10am, Advent Service at Nazaret.

December 22nd, 5pm, Carol Service in Playa Blanca at 5.00pm.

December 24th, Christmas Eve, 5pm.

Holy Communion Service at Playa Blanca Church

December 25th, Christmas Day, 12.30pm. Christmas Day United Service, at Puerto del Carmen Church.

Every Sunday: Services at 12.30pm in Puerto del Carmen and at 5pm in Playa Blanca.

To find out more about the December Apostles Lunch on 10th December at 1.30pm, visit www.lanzarotechurch.com or contact polly@apafin.com

Mothers Union December dates include a Belén visit on December 9th at 2.30pm and a Social Event with Carols, Canapes, Cava and Cerveza on December 16th at 5pm. Tickets are €6, e-mail Marilyn at marilyneford@yahoo.co.uk

Sunday December 15th from 10.30 a.m.

Visit Santa Claus

& give him your letter with
Workshops and a Bouncy Castle

Bus connection from Playa Blanca City Center
with **BUS LINE 30** from 6.30am to 10.00pm

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MALABHARIA CIRCUS FESTIVAL

2nd to 4th January, Haría

This event is a delightful showcase of the circus arts and the perfect festive family outing. Details will be online shortly.



CHRISTMAS GALA AND FUNDRAISER

December 15th at 6pm,

at the Teatro Municipal in San Bartolome. In aid of the Niños con Cancer charity.

SUNDAY WORSHIP CAROL SERVICES

December 22nd, 11am & December 24th, 5pm.

Sunday Worship interdenominational services at the Salón Ajei, Hotel Beatriz Costa & Spa, Costa Tegui. Everybody welcome.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

December 23rd, time tbc.

Pueblo Marinero in Costa Tegui.

CHRISTMAS AT THE NORWEGIAN SEAMEN'S CHURCH

December 24th, 8pm.

Christmas celebrations at the Norwegian Seamen's Church in Puerto del Carmen.

December 25th, Christmas Day, 6pm.

Mass Service

December 26th, 6pm

Traditional Christmas Party

All guests are welcome to celebrate Christmas with the Norwegian church, at Puerto Cinco next to Hotel Cinco Plazas in Puerto del Carmen. Follow the signs to Sjømannskirken. Phone: +34 928 515 561 / +47 56 9018 13

CHRISTMAS WITH THE VOICES

The Christmas Voices are a Lanzarote institution, but under the direction of Tim Macer, they now perform all year round and are officially just known as Voices.

Tim says "we'll be singing the usual Christmas-themed mix of traditional carols, songs and festive choral pieces, with several carols for the audience to join in." Entrance to all concerts is free, and collections will be made for Calor Y Café.



MISA DE GALLO

24th December, 11 pm.

Various churches.



The Misa de Gallo is Spain's Midnight Mass and has an extra special significance on Lanzarote, where ranchos de pascua rehearse and perform in many of the island's traditional churches.

The most famous Midnight Mass is at the old town of Tegui. However, masses and ranchos take place found in many other towns and villages on the island.

December 14th, 5pm.

December 14th, 8.15 pm.

Wednesday 18th, 6pm.

Saturday 20th, 6.45 pm.

Thursday 2nd Jan, 7.30pm.

Hotel Coronas Playas (concert for over 16s only)

Tekkers Bar, Costa Tegui. Carols for all.

Playa Blanca Church. Concert.

Hotel Costa Sal, Matagorda. Concert.

Yaiza Parish Church. English & Spanish concert.



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Franco Reburied

El Valle de los Caídos



44 years after his death, the corpse of General Francisco Franco was dug up and transferred to a grave in Madrid last month, after a long campaign to relocate his body.

Franco's coffin was exhumed from its resting place in the basilica of the Valle de los Caídos (Valley of the Fallen), the immense religious monument that he ordered to be built as an act of "national reconciliation" after the end of the Spanish Civil War.

The monument contains the remains of 40,000 Civil War dead, from both the Republican and Nationalist side. However, none of the families of the dead gave their permission for this choice, and the presence of Franco – one of the generals whose military uprising started the Civil War – has long been controversial.

Although he wished to be buried in Madrid, Franco was buried at the monument following his

death in 1975. He was the only one of the dead in the monument not to have died in the Civil War.

His presence at a monument that was supposed to be a non-political space has long angered campaigners. They claim that the monument was a "concentration camp", built by prisoners, many of whom were Republicans, and objected to the fact that it had become the focus for annual celebrations of Franco's death by surviving fascist supporters and younger followers of the far right.

Franco has now been laid next to the body of his wife, Carmen Polo, at the Mingorrubio cemetery in Madrid. His coffin was exhumed under conditions of strict privacy at the monument, and borne out of the basilica by family members, before being



placed in a helicopter.

However, many criticised the decision to allow press and public to attend the exhumation after 200 Franco supporters attended the new cemetery to pay tribute to him. Among them was Col. Antonio Tejero, the Guardia Civil officer who led the failed 1981 coup in Spain's parliament.

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*Happy Christmas
and a Prosperous
New Year*

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Calle La Peña nº10, (above Foto Event)
35580, Playa Blanca - Yaiza - Lanzarote

By appointment only

Puerto del Carmen Office Call: 928 815 262
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(Opp. Lidl beside Hiperdino Express and Tias Land Registry Office)

Christmas and Three Kings Festivities

From December 7th, 2019
to January 5th, 2020



DECEMBER 2019

Tuesday 3rd

7.00 pm - **Opening of the Tías Belén (Nativity Scene) and illumination of the Christmas lights** in the church square of San Antonio, with the folk group "Arrecife Choirs and Dances".

Saturday 7th

9.00 pm - **"Something to Remember"**, concert with tenors Ricardo Araya, Marcos Araya and Carlos Martínez. Salón Indieras. Tickets €10, available at the box office 1 hour before event.

Tuesday 10th

7.00 pm - **Opening of Puerto del Carmen's Nativity Scene**, outside the Church of La Tiñosa, with groups the "Coral Alemana", the "Coral Marina de Puerto del Carmen" and the "Escuela de Música de Tías".

From Thursday 5th to Sunday 8th

Christmas market, Plaza de las Naciones, Los Pocillos, Pto. del Carmen.

From Monday 9th to Friday 20th

"Lanzarote from another perspective": exhibition by photographer Gustavo Medina, Gallery of the Ermita de San Antonio, Tías. Inauguration on Monday 9th at 7 pm. Opening hours Mon - Fri from 9am - 1 pm and 5 pm - 8 pm.

Monday 9th

8.00 pm - **Homage to Juan Brito Martín**. Screening of the documentary Tamia and performances by Los Campesinos and Domingo 'El Colorao' Rodríguez with Fabiola Socas. Tías Municipal Theater. Organised by the Juan Brito Foundation.

Saturday 14th

5.00 pm - The Onbeat company presents **"The Wonderful lamp"**, a tribute to Aladdin, in the municipal theatre of Tías. Tickets €15, on sale at www.tomaticket.es and in Calzados Tonos, Tías.

7.30 pm - **Tigotán Festival of Artistic Gymnastics**. Tías Municipal Pavilion.

8.00 pm. **Closing of the Juan Brito Martín Centenary** with performances by the groups "Gofiones" and "Pielés" in the Plaza del Varadero, Puerto del Carmen. Organised by the Juan Brito Foundation.

Sunday 15th

7.00 pm - **Christmas festival**, Beatrice Senent Dance School and El Golpito Parranda. Charity event with collection of non-perishable food for the Department of Social Welfare and Family of the City of Tías. Tías Municipal Pavilion.

PAPÁ NÓEL VISITS THE BEACHES OF PUERTO DEL CARMEN

At 12 midday on the following days:

Monday, December 16th. Playa Matagorda.

Tuesday, December 17th. Playa de Pocillos.

Wednesday, December 18th. Playa Peñita y Barranquillo.

Thursday, December 19th. Playa Chica.

Friday, December 20th. Playa Grande.

Friday 20th

8.30 pm - **Concert by The Ranchos de Pascua of Mácher**, Tinajo and Tías, at the Municipal Theatre, Tías.

Saturday 28th

8.00 pm - **XVI Solidarity Tree and toy collection**, organized by the Guágaro Cultural Association at the Municipal Theatre of Tías.

Tuesday 31st

11.30 pm - **End of Year party** in the Plaza del Varadero in Puerto del Carmen (from 23.30 pm to 04.00 am).

JANUARY 2020

Sunday 5th

11.00 a.m - **Arrival and reception of Their Majesties the Three Wise Men of the Orient at the pier of Puerto del Carmen**. The Kings will collect childrens' letters in the Plaza del Varadero.

6.00 pm - **Parade and reception of Their Majesties the Three Wise Men of the Orient in Tías**. Departure from Las Viñas Restaurant, passing through Avda. Central and C/Libertad. The Kings will collect letters at the Municipal Pavilion.



Face to Face with:

Oswaldo Betancort, Mayor of Teguisse



Oswaldo Betancort has served as the Mayor of Teguisse, Lanzarote's largest municipality, for eight years and commenced his third term at the head of the Ayuntamiento earlier this year, when he also won a seat as a representative in the Canarian parliament. **Photos: Sabrina Suppers**

Billed from the start as a rising star in the Coalición Canaria, Betancort won his second absolute majority in a row in May. Shaun Addison spoke to him in the sumptuous colonial surroundings of the Palacio Spinola.

This is the third time you've been elected Mayor. Aren't you getting tired of it yet?

Actually, I'm more excited than I've ever been. Things have changed a lot in eight years. When I came to power in 2011, the challenge was economic – we had to reduce debts. Now our main challenge is spending, and the need to build the infrastructure necessary for a modern tourist municipality.

You're also serving as a deputy for Lanzarote in the Canarian Parliament. Is there a danger that you may be spreading yourself too thin?

I don't think so. I'm only in Tenerife for two days out

of every ten, and while I'm there I'm doing what I can to represent Teguisse and bring benefits back to Teguisse. For example, I'm demanding greater health services for the smaller islands such as Lanzarote. Currently, a heart attack victim needs to be flown to Gran Canaria for surgery, and we'd like facilities for that to take place here instead. Meanwhile, I've got a team here who are more than capable of looking after things.

Before May's elections your party, the CC, controlled the Canaries, Lanzarote's Cabildo and held far more influence and power than now. How are you finding things now that different parties are in charge?

It's difficult, because they've refused lots of funding. We were counting on projects for the upkeep of Playa de Cucharas, a school, the sanitation infrastructure and a historical archive, but it's all been withdrawn.

Is there an element of score-settling in this?

Of course. That's what happens in party politics.

What projects will be completed in the near future?

In Costa Teguisse, we'll be finishing a football pitch at Calle Chafari as well as a civic centre near the Arenas School. There's another civic centre being built at Las Caletas, and we're going to renovate the Pirate Museum at the Castillo de Santa Barbara. That's all going to happen in 2020, but we'll also be spending a lot of money on resurfacing roads in Costa Teguisse and modernising hotel facilities.

The collapse of Thomas Cook and the withdrawal of Ryanair's bases has been a blow for tourism this year. How will Teguisse address these issues?

I think 2019 will be seen as a "before and after" date for Lanzarote. The sun and beach model of tourism will no longer be as important, and we'll be more interested in developing the island's appeal as a sporting and cultural destination. The Villa de Teguisse was chosen as one of the 20 prettiest towns in Spain earlier this year, and there's a lot more that we've got to offer.



Such as?

I'd highlight five events: the windsurfing championship at Costa Tegui; the Noche Blanca (White Night) in Tegui; the Famara Total trail run, a spectacular event which is really becoming popular; the Saborea Lanzarote Food Fair at the end of November and, of course, the Lanzarote International Marathon. But there's much more...

You spoke out recently following the deaths of nine migrants off the northern shore of the island.

Tegui is the municipality where 90% of the boats have arrived, and all of the three major tragedies on our island, Los Cocoteros, Playa Bastián and Caleta de Caballo took place here.

It's important to raise our voice about this.

What can be done?

First, we need a radar system that works, and can detect the boats in time to avoid tragedies. We'll also need to improve relations with Morocco and work on dismantling the mafias that charge €2,000 for each person, with promises of a utopia at the other end.

Any news on the abandoned hotels in Costa Tegui?

It's taken time, but we've freed up the planning regulations that means they can be developed. It's already happening in a couple of places.

Another issue that has arisen recently is the arrival of electric scooters. What's the council's stance on these?

We've got no problem with the idea, but any

company that operates in Tegui will have to pay for a licence, pay its taxes and comply with basic safety regulations. In this case, the company just dumped them on the streets. We've introduced a bye-law that means we can fine the company and withdraw the scooters if the fines aren't paid and the scooters aren't insured, and we can also fine dangerous drivers.

Spain's election has failed to produce a firm result. Does the lack of a national government affect your work?

Of course it does. The government is responsible for the regional budgets, and without those, local institutions don't know where we stand. We can't make spending plans, and that means stagnation. Without clear budgets, the Canarian Government is forced to raise taxes, and that means less money to spend.

Do you have a Christmas message for our readers, Señor Alcalde?

I'd just say that I hope that the New Year brings work, which means good health; and union, which brings strength.



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Merry
Christmas
& a Happy
New Year
to all



ED'S POSTBAG

Readers are reminded that views and comment expressed within the g-mail pages are those of the contributors and may not necessarily reflect the opinions or standpoint of our staff. It should also be noted that we are an independent publication free from political persuasion or governmental censorship.

Send your letters to Facebook @Gazettelifelanzarote or our email editorial@gazettelife.com

Going Underground

Dear Editor

If a bridge between Lanzarote and Fuerteventura is too unsightly and controversial, then surely the better alternative would be a tunnel.

That would keep the constructors and engineering firms on both islands even busier. Having visited La Palma recently I know they can do tunnels pretty well, so why not?

Alexander Von Buhl

Ed: Too late, Alexander. The Fuerteventura Cabildo-sponsored study that proposed the bridge also mentioned the possibility of a 17 km tunnel costing well over a billion Euros. In fact, they've drawn up two options – a single tunnel with traffic going in both directions, and two tunnels, one for each direction. Again, the response from Lanzarote has been non-existent.

Thumbs Down!

Hi guys

Can we just stop with the thumbs, please? You're not hitching a lift. You're not scuba diving. Once upon a time the only people who stuck their thumbs up were small kids and halfwits. Now we

see Donald Trump and Boris Johnson sticking their thumbs up at every photo opportunity.

And please don't whatsapp me that stupid thumb emoji, either. "OK" will do just fine, and doesn't look like a picture of an old man's willy.

Hayley Parker, via email

Lay Down the Law!

Dear G Life

I've just seen a man cycling on the wrong side of the road after dark. I'm very glad I saw him, because I was heading straight towards him.

This happened three days after I was almost knocked flying by a cyclist pelting along the promenade at Costa Tegui. No bell, no warning,

nothing – I just decided to step to one side to look at the view over Playa Jablillo and this idiot was lucky not to hit me harder than he did.

There are plenty of responsible cyclists on the island – I know some of them, I've even been one of them, but I think the police are being negligent in not enforcing basic laws of safety.

Yours K. Robson

Shocking Experience

Dear Gazette Life

Last Saturday, my wife (71) and I (79) were walking from the H10 Rubicón Palace towards the Timanfaya. Near the Natura Palace a man with a clipboard got up from a seat and approached us. Knowing the signs, my wife simply said "No thanks" and we walked on. Later he overtook us and went on to talk to another couple 20 or 30 yards away. We got up and continued towards town. When he had finished his conversation he turned and walked towards us. As he passed us, he spat in my wife's face and walked off.

Obviously, my wife was extremely upset and shocked. We immediately returned to the hotel and my wife posted details on the Playa Blanca Facebook site. She received dozens of expressions of sympathy and also other examples of outrageous behaviour by these scammers.

We have been coming to Playa Blanca once or twice a year for 10 years now and have always felt safe. This may well be our last time. The general impression given by locals who responded was that the police weren't interested in this sort of thing. Some suggested contacting the council, which I wouldn't know how to do.

Your publication gives a very positive view of life in Lanzarote. Unfortunately, we have just experienced another side to it.

Regards,
Roy Shyvers

Ed: Sorry to hear about your experience, Mr Shyvers. The clipboard scammers, usually pestering for donations to a charity that doesn't exist, have been a problem on Lanzarote and several other areas of Spain for several years. Anyone who sees them should report them to the police as soon as possible, and in the case of assaults such as that suffered by your wife, a denuncia should be made immediately.



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100 Years of Juan

Since April 2019, Lanzarote has been celebrating the centenary of its most famous son, César Manrique. But Manrique wasn't the only island legend to have been born in the year 1919.

Juan Brito came into the world seven months after Manrique, but while the famous artist was born to a wealthy family in Arrecife, he belonged to a poor peasant household in a remote rural zone of Tinajo. Young Juan never went to school, and was a silent, tongue-tied child who grew up herding camels and other livestock in the fields, where he came to know the island's wildlife deeply.

When the Spanish Civil War came in 1936, the illiterate youth was called up to fight in the Nationalist army, and it was there that he not only learnt to read and write, but also began to talk after he was almost killed in a shelling.

Juan returned to Lanzarote, where he tried to set up as a camel farmer before "getting into an argument" with a camel, "I lost" he said ruefully. For years he worked as a taxi driver, at one point driving film star Raquel Welch down to Papagayo.

While waiting for tourists he'd taken to the beach or volcanoes, Juan would explore the island, making several important archeological discoveries. He also learnt pottery at the side of the island's last traditional potter, Dorotea de Armas, and formed a folklore group called Los Campesinos. Poems and songs poured from his pen, and he immersed himself in the island's folklore, gaining immense knowledge that was only made more profound by his deep roots in the island.

"Born in 1919
Juan Brito
became a
living library
of Lanzarote
lore."



Don Juan died shortly after his beloved wife Isabel less than two years ago, at the age of 98, and his life has since been the subject of a prize-winning documentary. To mark the centenary

of his birth, the Juan Brito Foundation will be holding various events in every municipality on the island. Activities will include folk music, pottery workshops and archeology talks.

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It Really Could Be You...



El Gordo means “the fat one”, and is actually the name Spaniards use for the big prize in any lottery. But while other lotteries such as the UK National Lottery and Euromillions may offer bigger prizes, they can’t come close to the spectacle, the sense of community and the sheer festive spirit of the Sorteo Extraordinario de Navidad – the fattest El Gordo of all.

Every participant will have a ticket, or a share in one, that has five numbers. There are 170 series of tickets, and if,

for example, the winner of the grand €4 million prize is the number 12345, then all 170 tickets bearing that number will win that amount.

This year, for example, there are 170 series of 100,000 tickets each, giving a total of 17,000,000 tickets that cost €200 each. That’s €3.4 billion of tickets, which give €2.38 billion (70% of ticket sales) out as prizes.

But there are also several prizes: a €1,250,000 second prize, a €500,000 third prize and thousands of €1,000

El Gordo is the biggest and oldest lottery in the world, and you’re as welcome to take part as anyone.



event. A cinema-style production lasting over five minutes, it’s usually a tear-jerking, heart-warming tale, and one that always provides insights into Spanish life and culture.

Next to Spain’s annual explosion of joy, sharing and charity, it’s hard to avoid the feeling that there’s something a bit miserable and materialistic about other lotteries, with their solitary multi-million prize winners.

How to take part in El Gordo

Buy a Ticket

Like any lottery, you need to be in it to win it, but that’s a bit more of an investment when it comes to El Gordo, as every ticket costs €200. As a result, most people will buy a décimo (tenth share) for €20, entitling them to one tenth of the winnings. Décimos are popular gifts around the Christmas period, and are often bought and sold on by bars or in community



Peace on Earth and good Will to all

The NTM team would like to take this opportunity to send festive greetings and thanks to all the charity's supporters, past, present and future.

Special thanks go to Gazette Life for generously providing publicity space; to Sarah & Martin at Colorworks for printing our information leaflets; to Maria Romero for helping us through the maze that is Spanish bureaucracy; to Robbie & Geraldine and their amazing staff, Carol & Tom, for their ongoing support providing the charity with a great venue and hospitality for our events; to Ned Benjamin for his technical know-how; to photographer Ronn Ballantyne, for capturing all our many special moments and to Roddy Benjamin, our dedicated fieldworker in Ethiopia, who works so hard overseeing our educational projects.

And last, but certainly not least, to all our members who donate year after year, all those that attend our events, those who put coins in our collection boxes and those that hold fundraising events, like the lovely Toucan Two Ladies; and of course to all our wonderful volunteers who generously donate their time and energy to the charity.

www.ntmlanzarote.org

associations, but you can also get them at official lottery shops and from ONCE sellers.

Watch the Draw

The draw takes place on the morning of the 22nd of December, and takes several hours. Throughout the morning, a parade of freshly-scrubbed boys and girls from the San Ildefonso school for orphans will pluck wooden balls from a huge, whirling spherical cage, then announce the numbers in a sing-song voice. Sometimes they burst into tears with the emotion of the spectacle. It's absolutely weird, strangely hypnotic and utterly unique.

Collect your winnings

If El Gordo falls in your neighbourhood, then expect TV cameras to turn up soon. The streets will fill with people popping the corks on bottles of cava.

The winnings are tax free, and for several years certain Spanish politicians would seem to win with surprising frequency. In fact, this was usually a crude but effective way of money laundering, and for a while those in the know might contact their local corrupt official to see if they could get an even better price for their winning ticket.

Then all that's left for you to do is *tirar la casa por la ventana* – throw the house out of the window. The phrase is associated with the earliest days of the lottery, when winners would throw all their old clothes and furniture into the street to be replaced, but nowadays it just means “celebrate wildly”.



Sodeto's Story

Sodeto, a tiny village of 250 souls in Huesca, Northern Spain, shows how El Gordo can bring wealth to an entire community. In 2012, the big prize landed in the village, whose housing association had taken charge of several tickets with the winning numbers.

As a result, every adult in the village except one shared a €14 million jackpot. The story of a declining rural village that suddenly struck the big time went international, with features in the New York Times. However, a report a few years ago showed that the win hadn't really changed the village. “Most people bought tractors” said one villager.

“Mr Unlucky”

Sodeto's €14 million win was shared by every adult in the



Costis Mitsotakis

village except one – Costis Mitsotakis, a Greek film maker who had arrived recently and didn't even know what was going on. However, “the unluckiest man in Spain” won something that was just as important to him – a story. Mitsotakis picked up his camera and made a popular documentary film about his new home.



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BUSINESS UPDATES



Ride on Time

Johan at Lanzarote Bike Sensations has just opened his first shop in Playa Blanca, at 15 C/Papagayo, bringing the best unbeatable rental offers, cycle tours, new and second hand bikes, equipment and repairs to Lanzarote's south.

Lanzarote Bike Sensations already leads the field in Puerto del Carmen, and now five-times Ironman finisher Johan is pushing ahead of the field again.

If it's bike related, you know where to go, and what to get on when you get there.



Flower Power at Christmas

A trip to Flower Power in Macher is a must at Christmas, and now the island's best garden centre has new premises just down the road from the existing centre.

Pick up a real Christmas tree, shop for trees, flowers and outdoor equipment in the old garden centre, or head to the new indoor area where you'll find a huge range of containers, indoor plants and much more!

35 Years of Roper Properties

Roper Properties has been making the dream come true for generations of property buyers on Lanzarote for 35 years now. That's three and a half decades that has seen the island develop and grow into one of the most desirable locations in Europe. And that's not just down to the weather, the landscape, the sun and the sea – it's also down to trustworthy, reliable operators like Roper Properties.

Discover Canario Emporio

Lanzarote is an island whose fragile beauty makes us all want to protect the environment, and if that's on your list of priorities, Canario Emporio in La Santa is a shop you need to discover.

Find wonderful gifts that have been handmade in the Canaries, a range of zero waste, plastic-free products and plenty of items that you won't find anywhere else. Shopping at Canario Emporio is a pleasure and a revelation, no matter who you are or what your budget is.

Learn to Cook In Lanzarote

The trend for experience-based gifts is growing faster and faster, as people realise that the best memories are made of what we do and learn, rather than what we have. Cook In Lanzarote in Uga offers a range of cookery classes that are among the best examples of experience tourism on Lanzarote, where anyone can learn kitchen skills and tips that will last them a lifetime, taught in stunning surroundings by experienced chef Antonio Chicón.

The perfect Christmas gift – vouchers for classes begin at €29.



Lanzarote BIKE SENSATIONS

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Duration: full day excursion
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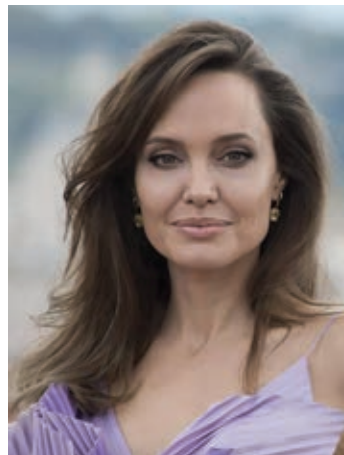
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Angelina's Here

Angelina Jolie came to the Volcan del Cuervo on Lanzarote last month to film scenes from the new Marvel film, The Eternals.



Angelina Jolie and family at Corralejo

The Eternals is a new departure for Marvel studios, introducing several new characters based on an epic comic book series spanning tens of thousands of years. Jolie is expected to play the role Thena, and has already been spotted on Fuerteventura filming with British co-stars Kit Harington and Gemma Chan. Jolie was also seen on a windswept outing to the famous sand dunes of Corralejo with four of her six children, where they attended the annual kite festival.

Most of the Fuerteventura filming has taken place in the south of the island,

where a special set has been built in a location that is usually reserved for army manoeuvres. The area had to be briefly evacuated when an unexploded missile was found.

Angelina Jolie is just the latest in a series of big names to visit the Canaries in recent years. George Clooney visited Tenerife to scout locations for a new film earlier this year, while Jolie's ex-partner, Brad Pitt, came to Fuerteventura three years ago to film scenes for the war film Allied, in which he starred alongside Oscar-winning French actress Marion Cotillard.

Dramatic Scene

The Volcán del Cuervo was the first volcano to be thrown up by the eruptions of the 18th century, and remains one of the most dramatic sights on the island – all the more so because it is outside Timanfaya National park and thus accessible by the public. Recent renovations, which have provided a footpath, information boards and a car park, have helped to popularise the volcano.

With its stark surroundings, its "shark's fin" and its impressive crater, the Volcán del Cuervo has already proved popular with the makers of the BBC's Dr Who series.



The Volcán del Cuervo

OUR CHRISTMAS SERVICES

December 22nd: Carol Service in Playa Blanca at 5.00pm

December 24th: Holy Communion Service in Playa Blanca at 5.00pm

December 25th: United Christmas Day Service in Puerto del Carmen at 12.30pm



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IDA Y VUELTA

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LA GRACIOSA	08:00	08:40	10:00	11:00	12:30	15:00	16:00	17:00	*18:00	*19:00

*1 May -31 Oct *1 Jul - 31 Oct



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The Thought that Counts



Lanzarote vet Jane Burke reminds us that dogs and cats don't need treats and daft presents - all they really want for Christmas is you.

Have you sorted out your pets list for Santa yet?

I tried to get my dogs to discuss this article with me but they really only showed enthusiasm for 'walkies' and 'food'.

As a veterinary surgeon and an animal lover my first and most positive advice for all pet owners is that the best Christmas presents money can buy can never compare to the gift of more of your

time. Time given regularly, dependably and willingly, and spent sharing physical activities is the ultimate gift of love and kindness, whether it is for a child, an elderly neighbour, a sedentary old cat or frenetic puppy. The gift of your time, your attention and your enthusiasm to learn something with them is truly twice-blessed.

So, I am thinking more frequent and/or longer walks; games that involve seek and/or fetch; time to attend courses to learn search and rescue, agility, basic obedience; or really any activity that involves

exercising both physically and intellectual participation. Both the longevity and quality of life of your old cat or dog can be improved by introducing short stimulating periods of play to each day. Organize these to take place before feeding or going for a walk - this way their attention is further rewarded. If you can, get your children involved, or try to get any elderly relatives to, at least, supervise!

But most importantly you yourself need to put this time aside to ensure the activity is challenging but not punishing! Make sure it always ends on a success, however small, (and if the kids are involved this means they get to be praised too!) Remember we all only make progress if we get consistently rewarded at the appropriate moment. Remember too that it takes three weeks to make an activity habitual (whether good or bad) so you need persevere at least through to the end of January!

So, I hope I have inspired you to work out and set up a pet stimulating course, (e.g. for the cat maybe feathers on the end of a fishing line that can persuade them to chase through tunnels and hoops, for the dog maybe a scent trail to find a buried sausage at the bottom of the garden), get your kids busy searching the internet for inspiration and do send me the videos of your progress!

Nevertheless, I suspect many of you will still be wanting to buy presents to wrap. Again, may I strongly suggest you look for interactive toys? Get your children to do research on the net to evaluate safety and durability. Do not take risks with small parts, sharp objects or upset stomachs, and please think very carefully about houseplants and

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flowers in the home - a gift of scented lilies can be fatal to cats while a difenbaccula plant can be a death threat to the pet dog.

Books, dvds, magazines or tokens for local classes here on island to attend obedience, agility or fly ball classes would all make brilliant presents for a pet or pet owner.

Finally, I can't resist asking you all NOT to buy food treats. Please! Do not buy any! Brightly coloured ones are often the worst, but almost all of them are dangerously loaded with preservatives, artificial flavouring and extremely high in salt. And be very careful they can't steal the kid's chocolates, the Christmas cake or the mince pies. Don't let your visitors feed them. Too much of anything can and will be lethal. At best, their illness will spoil your Christmas - at worst it will haunt every Christmas to come.

One last personal plea. Try and spend your Christmas present budget this year on gifts from our local charities, and urge your children to do the same. This way your money buys some kindness for pets that do not have a loving home or families



that cannot afford food, let alone Christmas luxuries. Please encourage your friends to make it a shared Christmas ritual that you strive to buy each other only presents from the charities and to spend at least a few hours of their holidays together helping out at a fundraiser or walking homeless creatures.

Just imagine the impact if everyone could be persuaded to try this and change our season of selfish greed into a competitive culture of kindness!



Remember too the special impact of loneliness that Christmas imposes on the lonely and bereaved. Ensure your pets bowls are brimming with clean water and drink a toast to giving just a little time to share with those who don't have a furry friend to sing carols to and love.

To adopt, sponsor, donate prizes or to help in any other way contact the charity of your choice

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- **P.A.L.S:** 928 830 298 • **HUELLA A HUELLA:** 669 158 736
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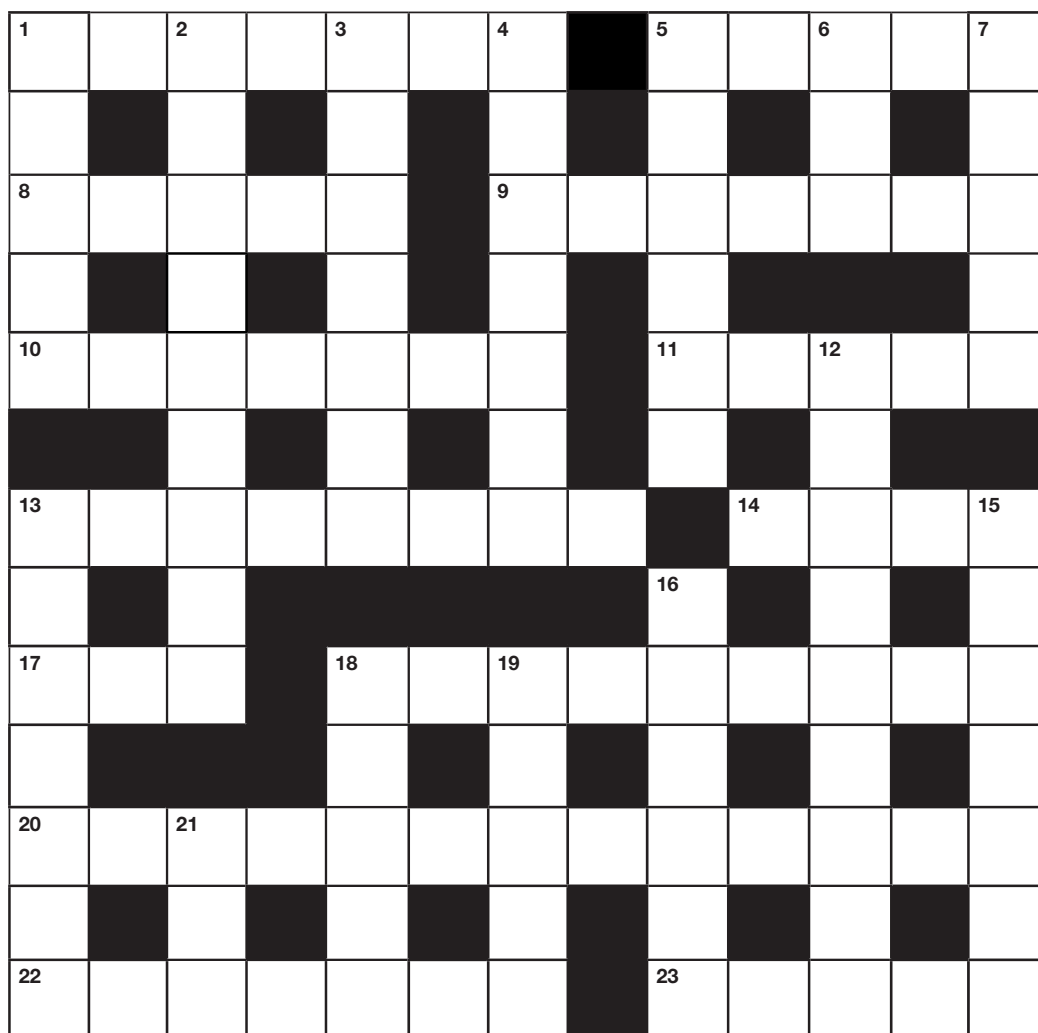
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This month's crossword has a festive theme, so solve the clues, send them to us and you could be seeing the New Year in with a bottle of Lanzarote wine.

Last month's winner was Wendi Felgate. Well done, Wendi!

Please send your entries to: editorial@gazettelife.com. See our addresses on pg 5.



Across

Down

1. Charles, author of A Christmas Carol. In Prose. Being a Ghost Story of Christmas (7)
5. Neneh Cherry's pop star daughter, who sang "Don't Call Me Up" (5)
8. Brag (5)
9. Welsh, classic melted cheese on toast dish (7)
10. Main ingredient of snuff, sobranies and cheroots (7)
11. Drood, hero of 1 across's final novel (5)
13. Chickenfeed; bait used to catch a roadrunner? (8)
14. Applaud (4)
17. Shaft of light or flat fish (3)
18. 4 down's miserable festive catchphrase (3,6)
20. Type of school found in most secondary education in the UK (13)
22. Son of 6 down, who cried "God bless us, every one." (7)
23. Number of days in the week according to The Beatles (5)

1. Premiere, first appearance (5)
2. Red fruit used to make sauce for turkey (9)
3. Lures, tempts (7)
4. Ebenezer, miserly character created by 1 across (7)
5. Jacob, 4 down's ghostly partner (6)
6. Mr Cratchit, 4 down's employee (3)
7. Language of ancient Rome (5)
12. State of being comfy, healthy and happy (4-5)
13. Sour Eastern European beetroot soup (7)
15. Natural colouring agent, in skin for example (7)
16. Hard, apple-like fruit known as membrillo in Spain (6)
18. Sasha Baron Cohen's Kazakh character (5)
19. Expression of boredom or disinterest (2-3)
21. Children of ...", 2006 Alfonso Cuarón film (3)

Last months answers: Across: 1.Malvasia Grape 8.Jam 9.Tactician 10.Eric 11.Goatees 13.Anchovies 15.Dud 17.Sub-Zero 18.Tiger 20.Goats Milk 23.Fad 24.Sweet Potatoes Down: 1.Mojo 2.Lemur 3.Artichoke 4.Incognito 5.Guitars 6.Aniseed 7.Ennis 12.Sausages 14.Cabbage 16.Doradas 18.Tikka 19.Gofio 21.Set 22.I Do

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HAPPY
HOLIDAYS

THE HEART AND SOUL
OF LANZAROTE



Service with a Smile at Blevins Franks

After more than two decades of looking after the finances of both expatriate Canary Island residents and non-residents, business is going from strength to strength for Blevins Franks Financial Management Canary Islands. Further expansion has begun under company Partner Paul Montague, starting with the appointment of Adele Thomas as Private Client Manager.



Alison and Adele combine experience, enthusiasm and customer care.

“Our growth over the past few years has been incredible”, says Paul. “With continued low high street interest rates, bank insolvency and survival playing on people’s minds, investors have been looking for a different home for their money. People also want to ensure that they are perfectly positioned tax-wise in the Canary Isles and that they are not looking over their shoulder; especially with the Brexit issues. Our reputation for trust and honesty in such tumultuous financial times has ensured that client referrals are at an all-time high. We’ve basically had no choice but to expand the team.”

Adele Thomas began her financial career in 2003 with various roles at NatWest bank in the UK. A keen football fan (and a fully qualified coach), her next position was at her favourite team, working in corporate sales and business development at Everton Football Club.

This was followed by four years as director of a mortgage advice company, before she was head-hunted by Paul in July 2019 to assist with the ongoing expansion plans at Blevins Franks Canary Islands.

“Adele will help me carry out reviews of existing client portfolios,” says Paul. “Between us we’ll ensure funds are in the right place at the right time to satisfy the needs of not just the clients, but also their immediate family thereafter.”

Before the move, Adele had been a regular visitor to Tenerife since childhood, always thinking that one day she would like to live on these sunny islands.

“Obviously, it was a big decision,” she recalls. “It wasn’t just me to consider; there was also my husband and my three children, Ivy (11), Evie (6) and

Frankie (2). We’d all be uprooted. And I didn’t know where to start.”

Fortunately, she had in-built help. Alison Skirrow has worked with Paul for 11 years. She’s the business coordinator and the first point of contact for clients. According to Adele, mother-of-two Alison couldn’t do enough to help her settle into a new life in Tenerife; both in and out of the office.

“Alison is unbelievably efficient in the office, but she’s also such a warm, people person,” says Adele. “Both she and Paul were instrumental in helping me find the right schools for my kids and making in-roads to a social circle via local sports and activity groups for ourselves, and for Ivy, Evie and Frankie.”

The rapport amongst the trio in the office is palpable, and Adele had no problem fitting into this informal office culture. “It’s a unique atmosphere,” she says. “The level of professionalism is so high, but it’s not stuffy at all. Paul is one of the most meticulous people I have ever met, but also so down-to-earth. What you see is what you get. No airs and graces, just straight talk, mixed with a great sense of humour.”

Alison agrees; “Paul might be the boss,” she says, “And a good one at that. But at the end of the day, he knows it’s me who wears the trousers!”

Paul looks up from his screen at the far end of the office. A cheeky smile crosses his face. “We have a chuckle,” he says, “A good team spirit; but we’re deadly serious when it comes to looking after our clients. It’s all about customer care. People trust us.”

It’s this trust and approachability that has sustained Blevins Franks’ reputation as the leading tax and wealth management

advisers for UK nationals living in Europe. All Blevins Franks Partners and Private Client Managers are regulated by the UK's Financial Conduct Authority, including those covering the Canary Islands. This gives clients an extra layer of trust and security.

"It's quite simple," says Paul. "If you are living in the Canaries, you need to consider how to hold your wealth and assets in the most efficient manner for you. We're the best at looking at your overall financial situation when it comes to retirement, investment and estate planning. No one is better at making sure your money is in the right place."

The expansion of the company in the Canarian archipelago is a testament to the Tenerife team's success and popularity. They care for the finances of many families and have well over 100 million euros of funds under advice in the Canary Islands.

With the client base growing, and the consequent expansion of the Canary Islands team, it's no wonder that there's such a positive atmosphere in the Tenerife office.

"I actually love coming to work," beams new recruit, Adele, "And I'm proud to be associated with such a well-respected company. I've now got a dream job, with my dream company, in my dream destination. What's not to smile about?"

Blevins Franks Financial Management Canary Islands offer two decades of experience in financial advice.

No one is better at making sure your money is in the right place.

Paul Montague: "We have a chuckle, and good team spirit. But we're deadly serious when it comes to looking after our clients."



Blevins Franks has been providing specialist financial advice to British expatriates across Europe for over forty years. If you want to check that your current financial situation is at its maximum potential, call Paul and his team now on +34 928 433 411 or email canaryisles@blevinsfranks.com

For more information visit www.blevinsfranks.com

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

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ALL I WANT FOR

Christmas

Christmas on Lanzarote is different – a sun-kissed, laid-back holiday with plenty of special events and no pressure at all. It's just a time to do what you want and be who you are.

That intense pressure cooker sensation you get with Christmas in darker, colder countries is absent here – instead you've got sunshine from morning to evening, welcoming warmth and views of a glittering azure ocean.

Christmas Eve isn't a mad rush and Christmas day isn't over in a mess of wrapping paper and uneaten sprouts on the 25th. Instead, there are parties, more holidays and plenty of events to wait for, with traditional gift-giving on 6th January.

On this island you'll find people from all backgrounds out and about, all enjoying the friendly, festive atmosphere. There'll be little kids who are as every bit as thrilled about the magic as their counterparts elsewhere in the world; and there are older people who are also looking forward to familiar, beloved faces and old, comforting traditions.

And, of course, on Lanzarote some things never change. This is a place that will never miss a chance to dress up, show off, and feel a little special; where no one will refuse an opportunity to eat, drink and to be merry.

Over the following pages we show you the very best of Christmas living on Lanzarote.



Christmas
is coming
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menus for
groups!!**



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A LITTLE OF WHAT YOU FANCY

Treat yourself, but do so in moderation.

On Lanzarote, Christmas never happens behind closed doors. It's an open-air holiday full of sunshine, fresh air and freedom. And that means there's no excuse for not staying in shape.

Sure, in the weeks to come there'll be plenty of opportunities to succumb to temptation, and no one will be expecting you to remain in peak training over the festive period, but there's also no real

reason to let things slide. On an island like this, staying fit at Christmas will help keep your energy levels high and ensure you feel fantastic at a time when you'll want it to count the most.



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PUMP IT UP

Working out will put you in perfect physical and mental shape for Christmas.



It's a question of attitude as much as anything. Instead of resigning yourself to weeks of gluttony, greed, sloth and other deadly sins, followed by guilt and poorly kept resolutions; make your mind up to stay on top of things from the start, keep in shape, remain positive and really enjoy yourself.

There's more to it than just maintaining your weight, strength, suppleness and

staying power, though. Christmas is a great time to get in touch with your own body, pamper yourself a little, book a massage or a spa session. It's a sensual season of colours, textures, fragrances and tastes, and you are absolutely right to indulge yourself to the utmost.

It's also the perfect time to get your health checked up and make sure you're in perfect working order for

an extended season that you'll want to enjoy to the utmost. If you've been putting that trip to the dentist, the optician or the doctor off, now's the time to get it sorted.

There's no better time to get started. Enjoy the crisp, cool mornings and the invigorating breezes, take a walk and explore the island; get wet; work up a sweat – you won't regret it.

*We wish you
a Merry
and Healthy
Christmas*



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TIME TO Sparkle

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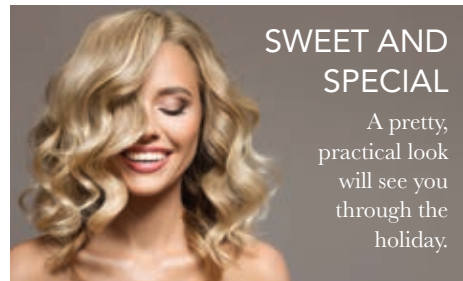
JUST A TOUCH

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SWEET AND SPECIAL

A pretty, practical look will see you through the holiday.



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LA LUZ
HAIR & BEAUTY



For all your hair and beauty need please call us for an appointment!

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f @LaLuzSalon

l aluzhair_

*Mobile
Appointments
Available*

If you like to look fantastic, Christmas is a joy - a chance to dress up, make up, treat yourself and knock 'em dead around the tree.

Christmas hair should, of course, be stunning, fun, formal,

practical, elegant, natural, demure and in perfect condition. OK, so you might not tick all the boxes, but with a bit of professional help and an open mind, you can really make a splash.

El árbol de la Vida
YOGA, MASSAGE & MORE

Holiday Wellness Special

YOGA CLASS & MEDITATION + MASSAGE
FOR 2 PEOPLE 125€ | FOR 1 PERSON 65€
DUO PERSONALIZED MASSAGE 98€

All Levels Welcome!

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1/2 hour €20
Full hour €40

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Gift Vouchers Available

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C/ Janubio nº 1 - Puerto del Carmen - Los Mojones Near the Restaurant Arena
amaya_barr@hotmail.com

Cita Previa: / For appointment call: (+34) 928 515 836 or (+34) 620 269 179

GET ZINGY

Let your skin sing with life and vitality.



FACE FORWARD

Eyes, teeth, hair, skin - get them all in shape for Christmas.




Before Christmas arrives, take a little extra time in your routine to give your hair some TLC. Then book an appointment with your hairdresser just before the Christmas whirl begins in earnest.

Men should also make an extra effort at Christmas. Remember that Christmas is a season when photos happen all the time, and you don't want to be looking back on your scruffy haircut in 20 years.



Get your skin zinging with health and vitality by booking a massage or peel, and walk out of the session feeling like a million dollars – ready for anything the festive season throws at you.

And this is also the perfect time of year to give yourself a good once-over; checking eyes, teeth and overall health to make sure you're in fine fettle for a holiday that will hopefully be full of smiles, laughter and selfies.



Latifa Hairdressers

UNISEX



Treat you to a new look this Christmas

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

- Visit our new Unisex Hairdressing Salon-Beautician in Puerto del Carmen
- Bridal service
- Argan oil – Natural products

Avda. de las Playas – C.C. Costa Luz loc. 49 - Open every Day Except Sundays - Tel. 928 514 348 – 663 955 144



ÓLEO

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**NEW BAR OLEO IN PUERTO DEL CARMEN WITH A NEW BEER GARDEN
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**BEST QUALITY LOCAL PRODUCTS WITH VEGETABLES USED FROM FINCA MACHINDA
BEERS ON TAP & LOCAL ARTISAN BEERS
SPECIALITY COCKTAILS
SELECTION OF INTERNATIONAL & LANZAROTE WINES**



**OPEN EVERY DAY 16:00H - 23:00H
WANT TO BOOK AN EVENT OR JOIN
US FOR A SPECIAL OCCASION?**

**FOR RESERVATIONS - CALL 676 496 698
oleolanzarote@gmail.com or  OleoLanzarote
C/ Doramas 5, Puerto del Carmen**



SOMETHING

Special

THE VERY BEST

Savoury, cured *jamón* is the taste of Christmas in a million Spanish homes.



Christmas has always gone hand-in-hand with the very best in food and drink. It's a time when we gather together after another long year and celebrate our fortune, our family and our friendships.

It's a time of year when all the senses are heightened, and flavours and fragrances surround us. It's a time of pleasure - when we indulge unashamedly in the things we like best; and it's a time of sharing, laughing, toasting and celebrating.

Here on Lanzarote, thousands of couples, families and friends

CHEERS!

Christmas is another excuse to pour yourself a glass of local Lanzarote wine and celebrate.



will sit down together over the Christmas period. They'll lift their glasses, joke, eat, praise the cook, and thoroughly enjoy themselves. But before they do so, there will be a brief moment of silent, joyful appreciation, and the grateful acknowledgement that moments like this are what life is all about.

Whether it's a wedge of Stilton, a leg of jamón, a bottle of bubbly or some luxury chocolates, make sure you treat yourself and be generous with your blessings this festive season.



SHARING TAPAS FROM AROUND THE WORLD
EVERYTHING HOMEMADE WITH LOCAL PRODUCE AND PASSION
HOMEMADE PASTRIES - SELECTION OF COCKTAILS



OPENING TIMES - 12:00 TO 23:00 MON TO SAT - SUN CLOSED
C/ EL CORREILLO 54 PLAYA BLANCA - RESERVATIONS: 928 635 579 - citumalanzarote@gmail.com

Liken

RESTAURANTE
TAPAS - COCKTAIL



NEW OPENING IN PLAYA BLANCA

Mon, Tue, Thurs, Fri & Sun - 12pm to 11pm and Wed & Sat 10am to 11pm

*Xmas and
New Year
Reservations
now being
taken!*




Dailos Perdomo


At 28, Dailos Perdomo is one of the brightest and youngest hopes in Lanzarote cooking. A graduate of the Cordon Bleu school in Madrid, where he also worked under Diego Guerrero at his two Michelin-starred DSTAgE restaurant, he has now returned to Lanzarote as the head chef and manager at Liken at the Marina Rubicon in Playa Blanca.

"I love the sea, and the products of the sea, and the possibilities here excite me," says the young chef, who also counts fresh local produce and excellent service as the essentials of his philosophy.

**CANARIAN RESTAURANT, TAPAS & COCKTAILS OF THE
HIGHEST STANDARD IN THE HEART OF MARINA RUBICON.**

 *Merry Xmas and a Happy New 2020 to all our customers* 

 Liken Restaurante

 @Likenrestaurante @dailos.perdomo

Av. Marítima, 159F, Marina Rubicon, Playa Blanca

For Reservations with Confirmation please email:
reservas@likenrestaurante.com or call: +34 928 270 587

Christmas RECIPE

COURTESY OF COOK IN LANZAROTE

Christmas Ham with Mustard and Honey Crust

A cooked ham is the perfect centre-piece for a holiday meal, and one of those festive treats that somehow tastes even better cold than hot. Look for a piece of gammon and don't make the mistake of putting a cured Spanish *jamón serrano* in the oven!

Ingredients

1.5 to 2 kilo piece of ham or gammon
4 tbsp of honey
1 tbsp of soy sauce
1 tbsp of salt
1 tsp of brown sugar
2 tbsp of Dijon mustard
1 tbsp of old-fashioned mustard
Some white wine and water
1/2 tbsp of pepper
Aluminium foil

Method

Slash any fat or skin on the ham in a cross-hatch pattern. Rub the salt into the ham 30 minutes before cooking it.

Mix all the other ingredients apart from the water and wine until you get a paste. If it's too liquid, add more honey.

Preheat the oven to 200°. Rub the paste into the ham. Once it's ready, add a glass of wine and half a glass of water, cook the ham for 20 minutes, then cover it with aluminum foil.

Decrease the heat of your oven to 150°, and cook until you reach a total of one hour for every kilo of ham (e.g if your ham is 2 kilos, you'll need the first 20 mins plus 1 hour 40 minutes.)

You can serve it hot or cold.



CHEFS TIP

Stud the skin of the ham with cloves before cooking if you wish.



Eco-friendly -
no prep - cookery courses in Uga

Informations and bookings:
cookinlanzarote.com +34 633 16 71 70



03/12/19
Pasta Workshop



10/12/19
Express Cooking -
Veal Blanquette



13/12/19
Vegan Indian Cooking



18/12/19
Sushi Workshop

CLASSY Cuisine

SEASONAL SETTING

Festive table decorations make all the difference.



BON APPETIT!

Sit down, relax and let someone else do the hard work.



A Christmas dinner with all the trimmings will take at least five hours to prepare, cook and serve and that's not including all the shopping and the washing up afterwards. Honestly, why bother, when you can pick up the phone and get someone else to do all that for you?

Dining out at Christmas is always a special

event, and even if you decide to stay at home for the main meal, the holidays are long enough to offer plenty more opportunities for a perfectly-presented, luxurious, sit-down, slap-up meal, with attentive, welcoming service in gorgeous surroundings.

Trouble is, there are plenty of other

people thinking exactly the same thing, so make sure you choose your venue, get on the phone and book your table well in advance. Then all you have to do is sit back and wait for your special day.

There are so many venues to choose from, too, from luxury hotels to acclaimed restaurants;

Cont'd on pg.48>>

bakery  café

Lolita

Reservations : 928 520 652
 Puerto del Carmen • C.C. Deiland •
 Playa Honda • San Bartolomé • Arrecife



Our Christmas.



Ask for our CHRISTMAS PRODUCTS:

·Joint of pork (seasoned) ·Leg of pork off the bone
·Leg of lamb seasoned for roasting ·Turkey breast (stuffed) ·Fresh turkey ...

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Fresh Fish

GRAN CANARIA

CLASSY *Cuisine*

“WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT IF THE ONLY WORK YOU HAD TO DO BEFORE CHRISTMAS DINNER WAS LIFT YOUR GLASS AND PULL A CRACKER?”



YOU CHOOSE...

From haute cuisine to comfort food - it's all here.



KIDS WELCOME!

On Lanzarote, family dining is a way of life.

<<Cont'd from pg 48

intimate establishments perfect for a dinner for two or fresh, breezy places with an exhilarating view. You probably already have your Lanzarote favourites, but it's never too late to discover somewhere new.

And on an island whose reputation for good food and fine dining has never been

better, with exciting new restaurants and established favourites offering an unparalleled choice.

If any members of your party have special dietary requirements, or if you want special Christmas equipment such as crackers, make sure you ask as well –

crackers are unknown outside the the British isles, so you may have to bring your own.

On the day, make sure you make a bit of effort to dress up for the occasion, and if you're planning to imbibe during the meal, get in touch with a taxi. Then all that's left is to raise your glass and enjoy!

Santo Zumo
Frutería - Zumería
OPEN EVERY DAY - 07.30 - 21:00

tripadvisor

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all

- Breakfasts and salad bowls with fresh fruits and vegetables - sandwiches - croissants - fruit salads - crepes - waffles - cakes.
- 100% Fresh fruit juices with vegetables and fruit
- Selection of fresh fruit and vegetable drinks with all milks (Cow, Almond, Soya, Oat, Rice & Spelt)

fruteriazumeria@gmail.com C/Tegala, Playa Blanca

Come with us

GAIA

2019

Christmas and New Year's
Eve Galas at **Altamar Restaurant**



More information & bookings at:

ARRECIFE GRAN HOTEL & SPA *****

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CHRISTMAS

Customs

TALKING TURKEY

Whether it's a traditional Christmas dinner, or something a little different - you'll find it here.



On Lanzarote, Christmas traditions are your choice. You can do things by the book, or you can explore new, exciting feasts that are every bit as festive.

To get an idea of the different attitudes towards Christmas customs on Lanzarote, compare the traditional British Christmas dinner with the meal Spanish families sit down to on Christmas Eve.

Turkey, sprouts, carrots, pigs in blankets, bread and cranberry sauces, pudding, brandy butter – the British Christmas meal almost seems to be set in stone, a tradition that changes only slightly from year to year. And there's good reason for this – it's not

SO HOT RIGHT NOW

Lanzarote's dining scene is sizzling hot.



just traditional, it's also delicious.

But in Spain there's no rule book. There's likely to be seafood, but it could be anything from delicious grilled prawns to a hearty fish stew or a baked grouper; the main course could be anything from turkey to roast lamb to beef – it depends entirely on what the family enjoy. It's a tradition that is different in every household, but one where flavour and sheer enjoyment of food rule.

On Lanzarote there's the added bonus that this island depends on tourism, and is full of restaurants where

On behalf of Johnny, Josie & the staff at The Bodhran we wish all our customers a Very Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year

Open every day from 1pm till late!

the **BODHRÁN**
- IRISH BAR -

Live music nightly with Johnny and Guests

f /The Bodhran Bar Lanzarote
Calle Anzuelo 5. Puerto del Carmen Lanzarote

All Sports Shown daily!



SOCIAL SCENE

Clinking glasses, the tinkle of cutlery and, above all, happy chat and laughter.



WHATEVER YOU WANT

Sushi at Christmas? Why not? On Lanzarote you can invent your own traditions.

you can sit down and enjoy a lavish meal without having to worry about cooking or washing up. And whether it's a table for two or a family meal with children, you're never far from the perfect venue.

If you want a turkey dinner with all the trimmings you won't be disappointed,



but here you can also sample plenty of other Christmas traditions from regions ranging

from Scandinavia to Argentina. Then there are a wide range of Indian and Chinese restaurants where Christmas may not be on the menu, but fantastic, celebratory food definitely will be – for many British families, that post-Christmas curry or Chinese are the best meals of the holiday.

But time is drawing close, and there only a few sleeps left until the big day. To avoid disappointment make sure that you reserve a table at your favourite restaurant. Then all you have to do is wait and whet your appetite.



Big Bobs

Happy Xmas & New Year from all at Big Bobs to our customers new & old!

START THE DAY WITH BIG BOBS

BREAKFAST - LUNCH - SNACKS - DINNER

OPENING HOURS 12 NOON TILL 11PM
7 DAYS A WEEK

*Fresh Home Cooked Food, Lunch & Evening Meals
Large Beer, Cocktail, Shot & Drink Selection
Large Outdoor Terrace - All Live Sports Shown
Friendly Atmosphere*





BOOKINGS
BEING TAKEN NOW
FOR CHRISTMAS
& NEW YEAR

BOOKINGS
TAKEN FOR
LARGE
PARTIES

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MENTION BAZETTE LIFE FOR
10% DISCOUNT

FESTIVE

Flavours

A NEW TASTE

There's a whole world of festive food out there to discover.



THE RIGHT BITE!

Christmas is a time for indulgence, but also for sharing with your peeps.

Lanzarote offers you the chance to celebrate Christmas exactly how you want to, with new flavours and dishes that may well become firmly established in your Christmas routine.

Ever since the Three Kings brought their gifts, Christmas has been about exotic flavours and fragrances from far-flung shores. This year, as every year, Lanzarote's cargo port at Arrecife will be the entry point for

all sorts of Christmas goodies. Just watch as the shelves and counters at shops and supermarkets fill up with bounty.

On Lanzarote, people from all over the world celebrate Christmas in their own way, and in many cases you're perfectly welcome to join them. This is a long, drawn out holiday with plenty of opportunities to discover food from Italy, Scandinavia, Greece and many other places.

The only part of a British Christmas dinner that existed 500 years ago was the pudding - and many of the things we take for granted - pigs in blankets, cranberry sauce - only appeared in the last 50 years. Christmas traditions change all the time, and from Stollen cake, panettone and potato salad to gingerbread, turrone, and jamón, you're in a fantastic place to discover them.

In Spain, there's no shame and no hesitation in pushing the boat out a little at Christmas time.



THE HOGAN STAND

IRISH SPORTS BAR



*Great Friends,
Great Times!*

PADDY FROM KILKENNY AND TRISH FROM CARLOW WISH YOU A VERY MERRY XMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR

FOOD SERVED FROM 11AM - 3PM EVERY DAY

- Homemade food with Irish Products freshly made to order served with Barry's Tea
- Irish breakfast is a speciality

OPENING HOURS - EVERY DAY 11AM TILL LATE - FOOD SERVED 11AM TILL 3PM

f /THE HOGAN STAND IRISH SPORTS BAR - CALLE REINA SOFIA 7 OLD TOWN PUERTO DEL CARMEN

IRISH OWNED AND RUN



TREAT YOURSELF

Christmas is a time to splash out on something very special.

Life is for living, after all, and you can't take it with you. Check out the groaning seafood counters on the days leading up to Christmas, the piles of sweet turrões, ranks of bottled cavas and ciders, well-cured legs of jamón and piles of fruit.

All of us have a Christmas favourite that



reminds us of the comfort and joy of home. It could be a chocolate orange, a bowl of trifle, a slice of Stilton or a

MULL IT OVER

You don't need to come in from the cold to enjoy warm, spicy boozy, Christmas treats.



morsel of marzipan; it could be spicy ham, turkey, curry, gingerbread or glühwein, but whatever it is, there's an increasing likelihood that you'll be able to track it down on Lanzarote.

If we wanted to consume sufficient calories, vitamins and fibre to live, we could eat brown rice forever. However, most of us realise that food is about more than health and nutrition. It's an adventure, and an way to satisfy all five of your senses, as well as your mind. Everything is important, from the seasoning to the table setting, from the crockery to the company, and Christmas is when it all comes together.

LA RUSTICA
GRILL PARRILLA
Specializing in Grilled Meats

24th Dec and 31st Dec
SPECIAL MENU - ONLY BY RESERVATION

TUES - FRI OPEN FROM 18:00 - 23:00
SAT & SUN: 13:00 - 23:00

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For Reservations +34 928 273 723 or info@restaurantelarustica.com

LA RUSTICA
Pizza and Pasta
The most famous artisan pizza in Playa Blanca

Special Menus
available for groups
at Xmas
see on FACEBOOK

FAST and FREE DELIVERY

Avda. Papagayo 67 (in front of the church)
Home delivery, from 12.30 to 01.30 am
928 349 390 or online orders
at www.restaurantelarustica.com

Order online & Pay by Card!

20% OFF
ONLY ON FOOD
FOR RESIDENTS & FOR THOSE SUBMITTING
THIS AD BEFORE REQUESTING THE BILL
(Not on home deliveries, not combinable
with other offer) DECEMBER



Indian
restaurants

Quality & Service since 1999

ZAFFRAN
GROUP

IMAGINE INDIA AUTHENTIC INDIAN CUISINE

At its Best



Seasons
Greetings
To All
Our Diners

WE SERVE
WHAT WE EAT,
HEALTHY FOOD

- Children Menus
- Gluten-free food
- Unique vegetarian dishes



IMAGINE INDIA

Playa Blanca
Avda Maritima
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Near Pandora Shop & Yum Yum
Open daily 12.15 - 23.00

SPICY
only if you want



**Lunch
Menu from**
€5,95
12:00 - 16.30



Indian restaurants Puerto del Carmen

Quality & Service since 1999

SPICY
only if you want

**Lunch
Menu from**

€5,95

12:00 - 16:30



Dear Guests

We opened in 1999 and are still around, trying to preach the gospel that there really is no food as wonderful as Indian food.

Now, twenty years later we have converted several connoisseurs; some forcefully, but mostly by offering our seductive cuisine. The critics themselves think we are great and have even given us awards now and then. Some guests have even invited us over to feed their friends, which we do with pleasure.

Some just ask us to drop it off and leave, but we watch them through the windows and see them hungrily devour our creations.

We have even married a few of our customers off; weddings from 50 to 60 guests. We love to see everybody here, because this is our social life. We never leave our restaurant night or day, we cut and chop and boil and bake, stir and shake just for you, our dear guests, because we want you back with your friends even dragging them in by force if you have to - we will be gentle with them. If you throw a party, call us. We'll cater it and it will be the talk of the town for quite a while.

Food has always been a passionate subject for us.

We love it here -

Lanzarote is really our home away from home - but most of all we love you, our dear guests. So enjoy, and if there is anything we can do to make your experience more pleasurable, do not hesitate to ask.



VEGAN WE SERVE WHAT WE EAT,
option **HEALTHY FOOD**

- Gluten-free food • Tandoori Specialties
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Near the Biosfera Commercial Center

Open daily 5pm - 11.30pm

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Near Sunset Beach Bar & Tito's Bar

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Puerto del Carmen

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Near Sam Perfumes

Open daily 11.30am - 11.30pm

Seasons
Greetings
To All
Our Diners

20% OFF
ONLY ON FOOD
FOR RESIDENTS & FOR THOSE SUBMITTING
THIS AD BEFORE REQUESTING THE BILL
(Not on home deliveries, not combinable
with other offers) DECEMBER

Here's to you & yours!

Thank you for all
your support
in 2019.

Wishing you
the very best
for 2020!

G
Lanzarote
life



Vintage CHRISTMAS



CHEERS!

Go on... break out the bubbly and toast your good fortune.

SWEET & SPICY

Even on Lanzarote a spicy winter warmer is welcome.



Lanzarote's wine tradition is unique and ancient. From the sweet fortified wines that were so prized by Elizabethan England to the crisp young whites of today, celebration has always gone hand in hand with a glass of local cheer.

There's no better time of year to discover the wines Lanzarote has to offer, from those drinkable dry whites

to delicious sweet dessert wines - perfect with a mince pie; from surprisingly high quality reds to sparkling cava-style bubbly. You'll soon find a favourite.

But there are plenty more vintages on offer from both the Spanish mainland and further afield. Why not try a voyage of discovery, in the most pleasant company imaginable.

Gin & Burger

14€



Paseo Marítimo S/N | Costa Tegui - Lanzarote
Tel: +34 928 59 05 51 | [@barcelotegui beach](#) #champssportsbar

CHAMPS
SPORTS BAR

What's on

MUSIC



ARÍSTIDES MORENO AND BARRIOS ORQUESTADOS IN CONCERT

1st December, 7pm

Jameos del Agua.

Tickets €10. www.cactlanzarote.com

FLAMENCO NIGHT

6th December, 9.30pm

Restaurante Italica, Puerto del Carmen.

CHICUELO & MESQUIDA

6th December, 10pm

Pool Bar, Gran Hotel, Arrecife.

Tickets cost €15 from www.islayritmo.com

ANCLA 2 CHRISTMAS PARTY WITH THE SKATOONS

20th December, 10pm

Ancla 2, Puerto del Carmen.

VOCAL 7 GROUP

22nd December, 9pm

Plaza del Mercado de Abastos de Haría, Haría.

WALL STREET CHRISTMAS PARTY WITH THE SKA DUO

25th December, 7pm

Wall Street Music Bar, Puerto del Carmen

Tickets cost €20 for adults and €15 for kids under 12. Price includes Christmas buffet, games, quizzes, bingo etc.

Available from www.thewallstreetbar.com

SINGALONG PARTIES

13th December, 7pm – Karaoke Classics

14th December, 7pm – Everything 80s

20th December, 7pm – Soul and Motown

21st December, 7pm – 70s Superstars

The Good Old Days, Puerto del Carmen.

Tickets cost €25 for adults and €15 for kids.

Price includes 3 course festive meal and drink on arrival. Call +34 628018296 or via Facebook.

THE GATHERING

28th December, 4.30pm

Mulligans, Old Town, Puerto del Carmen. Entry: €5.

THE SKA DUO

29th December, 5pm

Ancla 2, Puerto del Carmen.

THEATRE AND SHOWS

THE TEMPEST (LA TEMPESTAD)

7th December, 8.30pm.

El Salinero Theatre, Arrecife.

Tickets €15 from www.entrees.es

THE CHRISTMAS STORY (LA CUENTA DE NAVIDAD)

21st December, 8pm.

El Salinero Theatre, Arrecife.

Tickets from €15 from www.culturalanzarote.com

FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS: FARO, EDUARDO GUERRERO'S FLAMENCO SHOW

27th and 28th December, 8pm

Cueva de los Verdes.

Tickets from €25 from www.cactlanzarote.com

KIKE PÉREZ

28th December, 8.30pm.

El Salinero Theatre, Arrecife.

Tickets €15 from www.culturalanzarote.com

MALABHARÍA CIRCUS

Early January

A three day circus festival with classes suitable for young people and adults, plus some incredible free performances including trapeze, juggling and tightrope walking! Haría.

EXHIBITIONS

WRITING A BODY

Until 31st December

Exhibition by Patrick Germanier.

Casa de la Cultura Augustín de la Hoz, Arrecife.

INSULARIA EXHIBITION AND GRABADO EN LÍNEA

Until 31st December

Cabildo de Lanzarote, Arrecife. Free entry.

FROM THE BEGINNING

Until 31st December

Exhibition by Fernando Higuera.

International Museum of Contemporary Art (MIAC), Castillo de San José, Arrecife. Entry from €2.

THE INDEX FINGER

Until 11th January

Exhibition by Pepe Vera. CIC El Almacén, Arrecife.

Free entry. www.culturalanzarote.com.

ANTHROPOLOGY OF A MURDER

Until 31st January

Exhibition by Pepe Betencort.

Casa de la Cultura Augustín de la Hoz, Arrecife.

IT'S A PLEASURE (ES UN PLACER)

Until 26th April

Exhibition by César Manrique. César Manrique

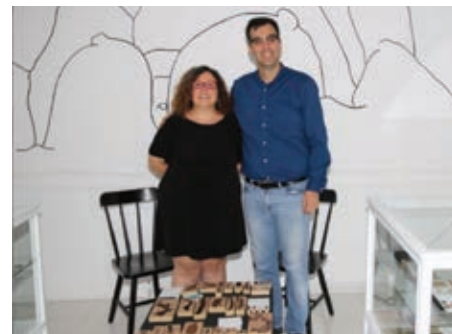
Foundation, Tahiche. Entry from €1 for residents, €8 for non-residents.

QUE NOS ZURZAN

Until 11th January

Exhibition by Sandra March. CIC El Almacén,

Arrecife. Free entry. www.culturalanzarote.com



TRADITIONAL CRAFT & FOOD WORKSHOPS

Open daily from 10am-5:45pm.

Workshops occur throughout the day.
Casa-Museo del Campesino. €3 per person.



OTHERS

VISIT FATHER CHRISTMAS AT THE BIOSFERA SHOPPING CENTRE

7th, 14th and 21st December at 6.15pm
24th December at 11.30am

Biosfera Shopping Centre, Puerto del Carmen.

VOLUNTARY BEACH CLEAN

First Saturday of every month

Playa Blanca. For more information, call 620 28 19 00.

JAMEOS FOOD AND MUSIC NIGHTS

Tuesdays and Saturdays from 7pm

Entry: Dinner and concert from €39.90. Vegan option also available. Concert only: €11.50. Jameos del Agua

MUSEUM NIGHTS – NOUVELLE CUISINE

Fridays and Saturdays from 7pm

Castillo de San Jose, MIAC

REGULAR MARKETS AND SALES

...MONDAY...

9am - 2pm: Market
Caleta de Sebo, La Graciosa

...TUESDAY...

9am - 2pm: Farmers Market
Pueblo Marinero, Costa Tegui

9am - 2pm: Market Puerto Calero

9am - 2pm: Market
Caleta de Sebo, La Graciosa

...WEDNESDAY...

9am - 2pm: Market
Marina Rubicón, Playa Blanca

9am - 2pm: Market
Caleta de Sebo, La Graciosa

**10am - 3.30pm &
4.30pm - 10pm:** Artisan Fayre,
C.C Biosfera, Puerto del Carmen

6pm - 10pm: Handicraft Market
Pueblo Marinero, Costa Tegui

...THURSDAY...

9am - 2pm: Market
Caleta de Sebo, La Graciosa

...FRIDAY...

9am - 2pm: Market
Caleta de Sebo, La Graciosa

9am - 2pm: Market, Puerto Calero

10am - 2pm: Market, Old Town
Harbour, Puerto del Carmen

5pm - 10pm: Market
Pueblo Marinero, Costa Tegui

...SATURDAY...

9am - 2pm: Market
Marina Rubicón, Playa Blanca

9am - 2pm: Market
Plaza Iglesia de San Ginés, Arrecife

9am - 2pm: Market
Caleta de Sebo, La Graciosa

9:30am - 1:30pm: Market
Calle Joaquín Rodríguez, Uga

10am - 3.30pm & 4.30pm - 10pm:
Artisan Fayre,
C.C Biosfera, Puerto del Carmen

10am - 2:30pm: Market &
Handicraft Market, Plaza León y
Castillo, Haría

7th December 10am - 2pm:
First Saturday of every month
Great Kennel Klub Sale
Calle Las Puntas 6, El Cable, Arrecife

**14th December -
Second Saturday of every month
9:30am - 12:30pm:**

Car Boot sale in aid of SARA Animal
Centre, Tahiche Garden Centre
Call 646 838 749 for more
information or to volunteer.

...SUNDAY...

9am - 2pm: Market Tegui

9am - 2pm: Original PALS Car
Boots Sale. Lanzarote A Caballo.
Sellers arrive 8-8:30am. No booking
required. Price per stall: €10

9am - 2pm: Farmers and Handicraft
Market. Mancha Blanca, Tinajo

9am - 2pm: Market
Caleta de Sebo, La Graciosa

9:30am - 1:30pm: Market
Calle Joaquín Rodríguez, Uga

1st December 9am - 2pm:
First Sunday of every month
Farmers and Art Market,
Plaza León y Castillo, San Bartolomé



inter-denominational

Sunday Worship

*As we welcome the birth of Jesus, we wish you
all Peace, Hope, Joy and Love this Christmas
time and in the year ahead.*

**Pastor José Vasquez and
all at Sunday Worship.**

**Come and join us at our
Christmas Carol Services**
Sunday 22nd December - 11am
Tuesday 24th December - 5pm



At the Hotel Beatriz Costa & Spa, Costa Tegui

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Art & Culture



César Manrique Exhibition: Es un placer

Until 26th April, César Manrique Foundation, Tahiche

A unique exhibition that focuses on the various features that made up the multifaceted character of César Manrique and built him into a social and media icon.

Central to the Centennial exhibition, it explores his life and development as a public figure through an intense media projection which is associated with Lanzarote and his house (now the César Manrique Foundation) in Tahiche, "where he developed an aesthetic of pleasure that transformed art into life and life into the art of living".

This is a large-format exhibition that consists of

more than 400 photographs, both of the public and private elements of the Manrique's life, and a total of 17 audiovisuals, occupying an area of 1,600 square metres.

Reproductions of his carnival masks are also exhibited, plus ceramics that he designed in the 50s, paintings etc. Different rooms of his house are to be used to display objects including mannequins, books, clothing, African sculptures and personal diaries. It really is a fantastic insight into the life, likes and legacy of the man who was so essential in shaping Lanzarote into the island it is today.

Christian Calendar

Now Available



Don't miss Christian Honerkamp's 2020 calendar, perhaps the most vivid, inspiring, life enhancing way to get through the year.

The calendar features 12 of Christian's most recent

works, some of which you may have seen at his exhibition in Yaiza in October. It costs €25 and is available from Christian's Studio in Tinguatón, which is open from 2pm to 6pm on Sunday.

Find out more on www.honerkamp.es or call 928 840958 to book a private visit.



Faro

27th & 28th December, 8pm
Cueva de los Verdes

Part of the Escena Lanzarote Festival of Performing Arts, Faro is a flamenco show with a difference. Inspired by the poetry of lighthouses, it was especially written for a 2017 summer tour around lighthouses in Spain.

Performed and directed by Eduardo Guerrero, the tour ended in Cádiz, whose lighthouse is one of his first childhood memories. Simple stage settings emphasise Eduardo's colourful costumes along with his magnificent and precise choreography.

Taking place in the beautiful auditorium in the Cueva de los Verdes, Faro is a moving, charismatic piece with no script. Performed to different flamenco tunes, mythical songs and cover versions of renowned songs, it combines music with Eduardo Guerrero's dance in a way that leads the performance to a stunning crescendo and will be an incredible experience.

Tickets cost from €25 and are available from www.cactlanzarote.com.

Conexiones - Sandra Eisen

4th to 29th December, Casa de la Cultura – Yaiza.

Launch: 4th Dec, 7 pm. Opening hours 11 am – 2 pm.

"One of the main reasons why I fell in love with this Island are its beautiful colours," says Sandra Eisen, a German artist who's made her life in Nazaret, Lanzarote. Sandra will be hosting her first exhibition in Yaiza's pretty Casa de la Cultura this month.

Inspired by the fascinating landscape of Lanzarote, Sandra captures those colours and brings her impressions and emotions to the canvas, creating abstract paintings that shimmer with joy and subtle beauty.

Following the motto "Nature is connected to everything", Sandra creates work that is focused on the various influences the landscape has on almost every aspect of life on Lanzarote.



A launch party will take place at 7pm on 4th December, and Sandra will be at the gallery to talk about her work from 12-2pm each day.



Experience...
Christmas & Kings Day
in San Bartolomé

28th November to 5th January





Spotlight On...

GERIE B

Gerie B has been one of the island's favourite entertainers for almost 20 years. Julie Helliwell met with her to find out more about her singing career and how she keeps it so fresh and vibrant!

How long have you been a singer?

I've been singing all my life. I sang with my Dad's band, The Al Rath Dance Band, when I was 14. I did a few shows with them, but I didn't have much confidence at that age. My Dad was an amazing showman and I think he'd be proud of me now. I met my husband when I was young. We started a family and he already had kids, so raising seven children meant I had a late start to my entertainment career.

I became a professional singer by accident really, when I was 36. We had a pub, and one rainy night, a woman came in to sing karaoke. She was called Christine Brennan and I thought, "Wow". I sang too, and she thought, "Wow". After talking, we decided it was now or never and formed a duo called 'Feminine Touch'. We won an award in the Variety Club of Great Britain and work was coming in fast.

Christine and I came here on holiday over 20 years ago. We did a bit of singing and were invited back three times that year. The following year, we came for a month and did a gig at Las Calas. From that, we had a show every night. We then went into business with a guy and opened Bonkers, a cabaret showbar. After a year, Christine had an accident and had to go home so I became a solo artist. It's my 20th anniversary next year, so I should do something to celebrate it!

How have things changed over the years?

The money's halved! With the depression, people in England were struggling financially and the island suffered with fewer tourists. But I do think that the entertainment scene is booming now – especially in Costa Tegui. Within five minutes, you can find great entertainment and venues. Audiences still want to be entertained, rather than sung at, but I think it's harder to entertain younger audiences and you have to find other ways to engage them. I have a comedy element to my show where I'll use wigs or props when singing Cher, Dolly Parton or Tina Turner. People won't let me drop that side of it and continue to ask me to do it.

What's your favourite style of music to sing?

Coming from a cabaret background, I had a broad base, but over time, my voice has matured so I now sing other styles, like rock. It just depends what the audience want. I can instantly change my show, and I think flexibility is the name of the game, especially when you're playing at the same venues and to people who come back year after year. I've got a few people that have been coming to see me since the beginning.



Tell us more about the band that you're in.

We're called The Sound Collective, and it's a collective of eight wonderful musicians who each contribute their own area of expertise. For me, the Latin rhythms and tempos that we play fit well with the island and will appeal to all nationalities. We take songs and freshen them up, making them our own. I have recorded three solo albums and would like to do a country one in the future, plus an album with the band eventually.

How many songs can you sing?

If I sang my entire playlist, I could sing for at least 24 hours. As long as the audience are enjoying it, I enjoy singing any genre, and I really like introducing new songs. I also really love doing Latin music with the band that I'm in. That's what attracted me to the island in the first place; bars with small rooms and different styles of music in each.

To see where Gerie B is performing, check out the Live Music Guide.

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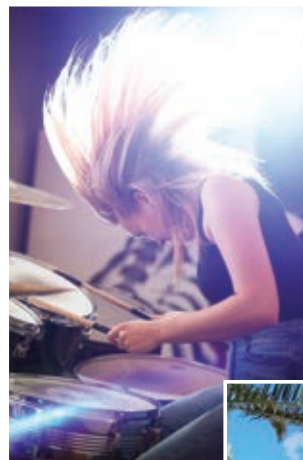
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Music, Maestro!



LIVE MUSIC - as listed
BINGO NIGHTS
AFTERNOON KARAOKE SESSIONS

Our annual Xmas fayre in aid of breast cancer,
Saturday 14th December, from 7pm!

Avenida Islas Canarias - Costa Teguiuse | +34 928 590 153 | Open 7 days a week 9:30am - Midnight

*Merry Christmas
 & a Happy New Year*

Julie's Live Music Guide

'Tis the season to be jolly! And all the more reason to go out and paint the town red!

As it's a year-round holiday destination, there is live music every single night – but how do you choose where to go?

This guide can tell you where your favourite singer or band are playing, or give you ideas of other bars to try if you want to hear some excellent live music. Please bear in mind that the festive period might mean some changes to listings, so it's worth checking the Facebook page of the bar or artist before you go.

To include your event or poster in the next edition (in print and online), please contact Julie Helliwell via Facebook.



Bars with Resident Bands / Live Music:

The Big Easy – Concrete Jungle from 9.30pm (Monday to Friday) The Answers at weekend.

Tequila Lounge – Question from 10pm (The Answers on Tuesdays)

American Indian Café – Perfect Circus from 10pm

The Dubliner – Dave & Johnny from 10pm every night

Decades Bar, Costa Teguiuse – Band of Gypsies (Wed, Thurs, Sat & Sun) from 9.30pm

Maguires Bar, Africa Bar and O'Reillys all have live music every night from 10pm

Regular Live Music Around the Island

Arrecife

Thursdays at 8.30pm

Flamenco music at Arrecife Vintage

Thursdays at 10.30pm

Live music at Mojitos Lounge Bar

Sundays at 7.30pm

Cuban and Dance music at Arrecife Marina

Teguiuse

Sundays from 12pm

Cuban Music at El Patio Creperie

Sundays from 1pm

EMMIEL, Guitar Duo at Cantina Restaurant

Sundays at 4pm

Spanish Guitar at Barbazul

Sundays at 6pm

Rock Afro Blues at La Palmera

Other Areas

Fridays at 8pm

Spanish & Fusion Music, Don Quixote, Mala

Saturdays from 10pm

International Music, Mompas Duet,

Asadero Macher

Sundays at 7.30pm

Eclectic Live Music, El Chupadero, La Geria

All information was correct at time of printing, but is subject to change. Please check the Facebook page of the artist or venue to verify. To stand out from the crowd, please contact the sales department: advertising@gazettelife.com

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 50's 60's 70's 80's 90's 00's
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LIVE MUSIC VENUE OVER THE DECADES

BAND OF GYPSIES LANZAROTE



Monday

COSTA TEGUISE

7.30pm: *Liam Davies*, The Shamrock

9pm: *Nik Rivers*, The Mill

9.30pm: *Kactus Jam*,

Tekkers Bar & Restaurant

Rikki Ryan, The Venue

Paul Goodman, The Highlander

Raggle Taggle Gypsies, Irish Bailey

10.30pm: *John Alan Pick*, Cactus Jacks

PUERTO DEL CARMEN

4pm: *Fiddlestix and jam session*, Bar Rock-Ola, C.C. Matagorda

8pm: *Mick Garry*, Hangovers

8.30pm: *Ricky Lee*, Little Royal Cocktail Bar

9pm: *Nolita James*, The Good Old Days

9.30pm: *Marcus Rose*, Scotch Corner
Gerie B, Hotel Gloria Izaro Club (11th & 25th)

10pm: *Collie Farrell*, Mulligans Bar, Old Town
Vanilla Soul, The Irish Viking

Jill T, The Phoenix

Pete Scott, Slattery's

Adrian Bambrough, Ned Kelly's Bar

Billy Cusack, Peggy's Snug, C.C. Matagorda

PLAYA BLANCA

8.30pm: *Don Parker*,

Beruga Bar, Marina Rubicón

9pm: *Colleen Meje*, Atlantic Gardens

9.30pm: *Gerry Cassidy*, The Old Mill

9.45pm: *Spice*, The Tavern Bar

10pm: *Caz Davies*, The Flagship Bar,
Marina Rubicón

Tuesday

COSTA TEGUISE

5.30pm: *The Ska Duo*, The Venue

7pm: *Colleen Meje*, Hotel Beatriz

8pm: *Acoustic Spanish Guitar*, La Bohemia

8.30pm: *Ricky Lee*, Club Tahiti

9pm: *Ryan M*, Abbey Road

Band of Gypsies, Decades Bar (24th & 31st)

9.30pm: *Man in Black*, The Venue

Vanilla Soul, The Lighthouse

Scott McQ, Tekkers Bar & Restaurant

Liam Davies, The Highlander

Adrian Bambrough, The Cavern

Gerie B, The Shamrock

PUERTO DEL CARMEN

8pm: *Milo Son of Soul*, Bar Rock-Ola,

8.30pm: *Mick Garry*, Little Royal Cocktail Bar

9pm: *Dave Bandana*, Rocas Blancas

Chris Green, The Good Old Days

9.30pm: *Marcus Rose*, Scotch Corner, Old Town

Billy Cusack, The Irish Rover

10pm: *Gayle Donovan*, The Phoenix

Tommy Heffernan, O'Briens

Seanie, Peggy's Snug, C.C. Matagorda

Midnight: *Collie Farrell*, Electric Island Bar

PLAYA BLANCA

8.30pm: *Collie Farrell and Zsolt Kovacs*, Blue Note

9.30pm: *Martin McCormack*, Old Mill

The Millsy Brothers, Timanfaya Palace Hotel

Ellen and Steve, The Irish Anvil Bar

Andy King, Las Brisas

10pm: *Don Parker*, The Flagship Bar,
Marina Rubicón

Wednesday

COSTA TEGUISE

7pm: *Kactus Jam*, Jam Session & Open Mic,
The Cavern

9pm: *Band of Gypsies*, Decades Bar
Steve Amis, The Mill

9.30pm: *John Alan Pick*, Galeon Playa (11th)

Band of Gypsies, Decades

Paul Goodman, Tekkers Bar & Restaurant

Jill T, The Shamrock

Starman Show, The Venue

Spice, Abbey Road

10pm: *Raggle Taggle Gypsies*, Irelands Eye
Gerie B, The Crown

John Alan Pick, Bluebay Lanzarote (4th & 18th)

PUERTO DEL CARMEN

2pm: *Mick Garry*, Billy's Pool Bar

4pm: *Fiddlestix and jam session*, Bar Rock-Ola,
C.C. Matagorda

8pm: *Pete Worthy*, NoStress Italian Restaurant,
Old Town

8.30pm: *Colleen Meje*, Lava Beach Hotel

Graham Jacques, Mario's Restaurant, Old Town

9pm: *Dave Bandana*, Rocas Blancas

Ross O'Sullivan, Finnegans Wake

Liam Davies, The Good Old Days

9.30pm: *Billy Cusack*, The Irish Rover

Marcus Rose, Scotch Corner, Old Town

10pm: *Collie Farrell*, Mulligans Bar, Old Town

Andy King, The Phoenix

Pete Scott, Slattery's

Seanie, Ned Kelly's Bar



LIVE AT DECADES
COSTA TEGUISE



CONTACT ME
VIA FACEBOOK

PLAYA BLANCA

10pm: *Martin McCormack*, The Flagship Bar,
Marina Rubicón

Thursday

COSTA TEGUISE

4pm: *Rikki Ryan*, Motowns

9pm: *Band of Gypsies*, Decades Bar

9.30pm: *Sax & Songs with Anthony*, The Venue
John Alan Pick, Tekkers Bar & Restaurant

Kactus Jam plus jam session, The Highlander

PUERTO DEL CARMEN

5.30pm: *The Ska Duo*, Bar Rock-Ola

9pm: *Pete Worthy*, Little Royal Cocktail Lounge

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Mick Garry, The Good Old Days

9.30pm: Ellen & Steve, Dicey Reilly's, Old Town

Ross O'Sullivan, Scotch Corner, Old Town

10pm: Collie Farrell, The Irish Viking

Connor James, The Phoenix

PLAYA BLANCA

5.30pm: Sarah Müller, Café Terraza

9.30pm: Gerry Cassidy, Barney's

The Millsy Brothers, H10 White Suites Hotel

10pm: Don Parker & Seanie Boy, Irish Anvil

Ricky Lee, The Flagship Bar, Marina Rubicon

Friday

COSTA TEGUISE

3pm: Smokin Barrels, Abbey Road

5pm: Jam session hosted by Kactus Jam, Tekkers Bar & Restaurant

7.15pm: Jill T, The Shamrock

9.30pm: Rikki Ryan, The Venue

Barries request, The Highlander

Andy King, The Cavern

10pm: The Millsy Brothers, Four Seasons Bar

PUERTO DEL CARMEN

8pm: Hair of the Dog, Bar Rock-Ola

9pm: Dave Bandana, Rocas Blancas

Nolita James, The Good Old Days

Mick Garry, Marco Aless Tapas Cocktail Bar

Scott McQ (Costa Sal or Aqua Suites)

9.30pm: Marcus Rose, Scotch Corner

Billy Cusack, The Irish Rover, Old Town

Ellen and Steve, Dicey Reilly's, Old Town

Gerry Cassidy, Las Calas



International Singing Sensation...
Gerie B
CONTACT ME VIA FACEBOOK

John Alan Pick, Hotel Gloria Izaro Club (13 & 27)

Colleen Meje, La Isla y El Mar Hotel (13 & 27)

10pm: Seanie, Ned Kelly's Bar

Pete Scott, Peggy's Snug, C.C. Matagorda

PLAYA BLANCA

9pm: Don Parker, Paulos Bar, Las Coloradas

10pm: Ricky Lee, Irish Anvil

Adrian Bambrough, The Flagship Bar

Saturday

COSTA TEGUISE

7.30pm: Billy Cusack, The Shamrock

8pm: Trio Caribe, Mi Place

9pm: Mike Cuddy, The Mill

Band of Gypsies, Decades Bar

9.30pm: Gerie B, The Shamrock

Barries request, The Highlander

Paul Goodman, Tekkers Bar & Restaurant

Soul Motown, The Venue

PUERTO DEL CARMEN

8pm: Milo Son of Soul, Bar Rock-Ola

8.30pm: Mick Garry, Little Royal Cocktail Bar

Graham Jacques, Mario's Restaurant, Old Town

Saxophone Jazz & Blues, Restaurante Italica

9pm: John Alan Pick, Aqua Suites (7th & 21st)

Scott McQ, Aqua Suites (14th & 28th)

John Alan Pick, Costa Sal (14th & 28th)

Scott McQ, Costa Sal (7th & 21st)

Ross O'Sullivan, Finnegan's Wake

Charlie Chapman, The Good Old Days

Dave Bandana, Marco Aless Tapas Cocktail Bar

9.30pm: Aaron Bruyning, Lava Beach Hotel

Marcus Rose, Scotch Corner, Old Town

10pm: Ryan M, The Phoenix

Pete Scott, Slattery's

The Ska Duo, Wall Street Music Bar

PLAYA BLANCA

9.30pm: Ricky Lee, Barney's

9.45pm: Ellen and Steve, The Irish Anvil Bar

10pm: Martin McCormack, The Flagship Bar

Sunday

COSTA TEGUISE

7.30pm: Ricky Lee, The Shamrock

8.30pm: Ryan M, Club Tahiti

8.45pm: Marc Piano, Los Zocos

9pm: Band of Gypsies, Decades Bar

Colleen Meje, Meliá Salinas

9.30pm: Kactus Jam, The Cavern

Scott McQ, Tekkers Bar & Restaurant

Spice, Abbey Road

Starman Show, The Venue

Barries request, The Highlander

John Alan Pick, El Trebol (8th & 22nd)

10pm: Tommy Heffenan, Irelands Eye

PUERTO DEL CARMEN

1pm: Sax on the Roof with Anthony Cummins, Biosfera Shopping Centre

3pm: Mick Garry, Heineken Bar, Old Town

4pm: Jazz session with Intrinsic, Sassi's Bar

& Bistro, Old Town

6pm: Live Music, Mrs Murphy's

8pm: The Ska Duo, Bar Rock-Ola

8.30pm: Aaron Bruyning, Hotel Jameos

Graham Jacques, La Avenida Restaurant

Seanie, Finnegan's Wake

Adrian Bamrough, Little Royal Cocktail Bar

9pm: Dave Bandana, Rocas Blancas

Pete Worthy, Little Royal Cocktail Lounge

Gerie B, The Good Old Days

Colleen Meje, Lava Beach Hotel, Matagorda

9.30pm: Jill T, Las Calas

Billy Cusack, PJ's Bar, Old Town

Ross O'Sullivan, Scotch Corner, Old Town

Ellen and Steve, Dicey Reilly's, Old Town

10pm: Collie Farrell, The Irish Viking

Connor James, The Phoenix

Pete Scott, Slattery's

PLAYA BLANCA

9.30pm: Martin McCormack, Old Mill

Andy King, The Irish Anvil

10pm: Max Patini, The Flagship Bar



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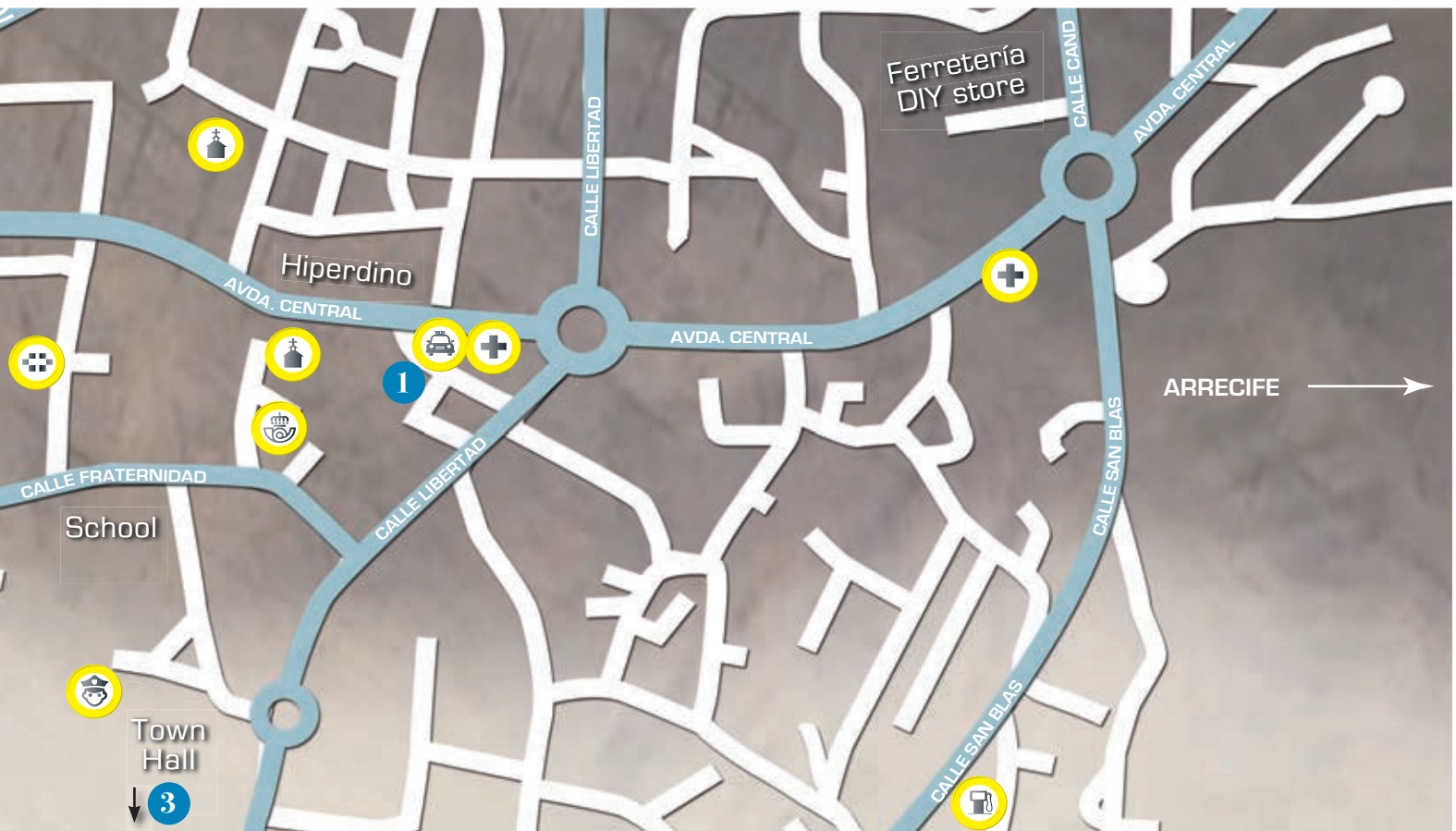
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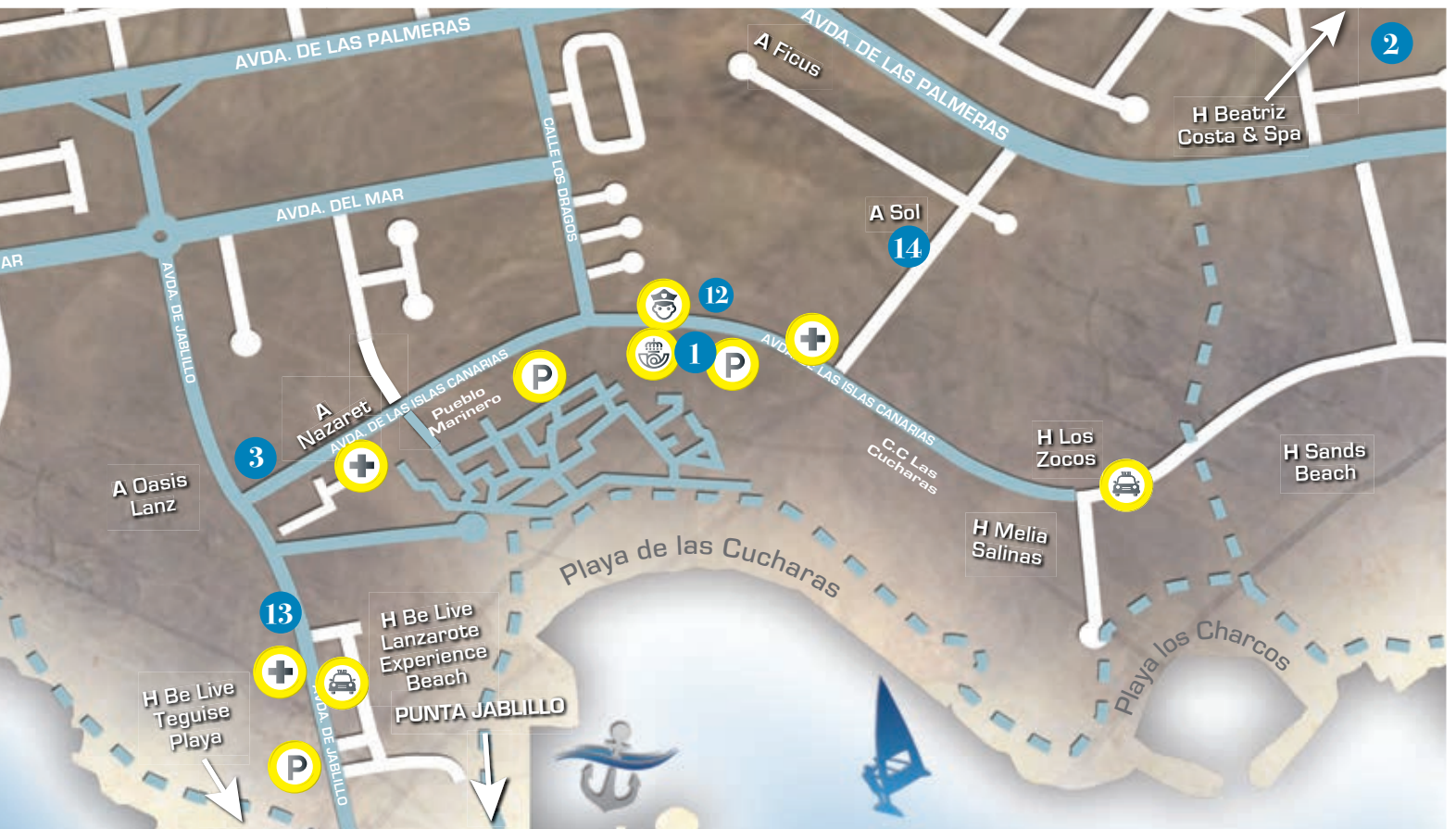
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Price: 269.000€



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Price: 259.000€



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A young girl with light brown hair, wearing a grey dress with black star patterns, is standing in a bedroom and decorating a small Christmas tree. The tree is placed in a large, light-colored woven basket. The room has a bed with a metal headboard and a striped pillow in the background. The title 'My HOME' is overlaid on the image in a gold, elegant script font.

My HOME

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PROPERTY SHORTS



Terminal 4 Barajas

BAMBOO TIME

Richard Rogers' Terminal 4 building at Madrid's Barajas airport is one of the major works in which bamboo has played an important role.

Bamboo is a vital building material in the Far East, and several modern homes

are made entirely of the material. However, in Europe the material is forbidden as a basic construction material, although smaller structures and details are permitted.

The fact that bamboo doesn't grow in Europe is another

barrier to its adoption here, but several architects are also developing new ideas to make greater use of a material that is light, strong, flexible and sustainable. From Madrid airport to chiringuito beach bars, bamboo could soon be everywhere.

LOTS OF EGGS, LOTS OF BASKETS

Spain's Tourism Minister, Reyes Maroto, warned the Canary Islands not to rely too heavily on big tour operators during a visit in October.

Maroto's visit came in the aftermath of the collapse of Thomas Cook, and the minister has been working round the clock with tourist professionals from the Canaries and further afield.

Maroto announced that the Spanish government would extend a €15 million grant to help deal with the consequences of Thomas Cook's fall, and recommended that the island seek a diverse and varied range of tourism providers.

The minister's announcement could have a direct effect on holiday rental laws which, along with budget flights, have been key to the rise of independent tourism on the islands.



Reyes Maroto

FIRST AID FIRST

Any holiday rental property in Spain must have a First Aid kit by law, but it makes sense to go a little further extra than the basic kit most of us will provide.

Your kit should contain: plasters in a variety of different sizes and shapes, various-sized gauze dressings, at least 2 sterile eye dressings, triangular bandages, crêpe rolled bandages, safety pins, disposable sterile gloves, tweezers, scissors, alcohol-free cleansing wipes, sticky

tape, thermometer (preferably digital), skin rash cream, cream or spray to relieve insect bites and stings, antiseptic cream, painkillers such as paracetamol (and an infant paracetamol such as Apiretal for children), aspirin (not to be given to children under 16), or ibuprofen (Dalsy for kids), cough medicine, antihistamine cream or tablets, distilled water for cleaning wounds and an eye wash and eye bath.

A First Aid guide in English will also be useful,



and be sure to provide details of emergency numbers, the nearest health centre, directions to the hospital etc.

José María Salcedo



SAVINGS FAIR GAME

The Spanish Supreme Court has made a controversial ruling that will allow tax authorities to sequester tax debts from the accounts of those on the minimum wage, in cases where the money is not spent.

Previously, minimum wage earners were exempt from embargos (forcible sequestration of funds), but now the Supreme Court has ruled that any money unspent will be classed as savings and subject to sequestration.

The decision is likely to prove highly contentious among consumer groups. However, it also reflects a reality in which the official wages of hundreds of thousands of employees do not reflect their real income.

Lawyer José María Salcedo said that the decision was a “dangerous” precedent that could lead to tax authorities emptying the accounts of workers.



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FOREIGN INTEREST



of buyers in all four provinces comes from outside Spain.

Rural inland areas with traditionally high levels of unemployment also see little foreign interest. 1,000 years ago, Córdoba was the biggest and most important city in Europe, but nowadays it, and other historical hotspots such as Badajoz and Salamanca, are languishing in a long-term trough, as younger locals move to bigger cities and the remaining population gets older.

Of course, the information in the map remains general. In Las Palmas,

If you want to get an idea of where foreign buyers prefer to set up home in Spain, a map produced by the Spanish Society of Registrars provides a good starting point.

16,209 homes in Spain were bought by foreign buyers in the second quarter of this year – a total of 12.46% of all Spanish sales. This means that foreign buyers are still a vital element of the country's real estate market, but only in certain areas.

The province of Alicante saw by far the largest amount of foreign buyers, with over 40% of sales going to non-Spanish buyers. Tenerife came next,

with 28% of sales, while Las Palmas – the other Canarian province which contains Lanzarote, saw 23.48% of sales go to foreigners.

Figures show that British buyers are still very much focused on the traditional coastal areas and the islands. This is almost certainly a result of their already strong presence in these areas. Meanwhile, healthy property sales

to foreigners in inland provinces near to the larger cities are probably a result of younger working migrants from Morocco and Latin America managing to get onto the property ladder.

Nevertheless, there are still provinces in Spain where foreign buyers simply don't seem to matter. The stunning north-eastern area of Galicia is one of them. Despite magnificent scenery, food and a strongly Celtic culture, fewer than 1%



for example, you'll find several "micro-markets". There are the traditional tourist flats and villas, but also significant amounts of urban accommodation and inland rural areas, and all of these categories display different behaviour.

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Cozy two floored house. Ground floor: living room, kitchen, distributor, toilet and covered patio, BBQ & garden. Upstairs: 2 double bedrooms, fitted wardrobes, Storage room bathroom. Fully furnished.

REF: 1117 - € 143.000



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REF: 1132 - € 199.000



This ground floor apartment has two bedrooms, bathroom, newly renovated kitchen-living room, covered terrace, utility room/storage room. Ready to move into and is located about 20 minutes walk from the center.

REF: 1123 - € 125.000



Playa Blanca, for sale brand new villa. Top floor; two bedrooms, bathroom, terrace and balcony. Low level; hall, living room, kitchen, bathroom and bedroom. Terrace, garden, 3 x 7 pool and parking space.

REF: 1137 - € 226.513



New duplex 300m. from Playa Bastian incl. parking, top quality materials and therm-acoustic insulation. On the main floor has large living room, dining area, kitchen, utility room, bathroom and terrace. Upstairs are the 3 bedrooms + 2 bathrooms

REF: 1143 - € 212.000



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REF: 1113 - € 210.000



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REF: 763 - € 235.000

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PROPERTY BUYERS GUIDE

This article is a general guide to buying real estate in The Canary Islands. It has been compiled from the knowledge and experience of a number of professionals involved in the selling, buying and conveyancing of property in Spain, but it should not be taken as a substitute for proper legal advice.

LOCATION

Is your property intended for holiday use, longer term visits, or do you intend to live here all year round? Your choice of location should take your needs into account, such as schools, medical services and recreational outlets.

RESEARCH

You need to know a great deal more about your property than you would if you were just spending a couple of weeks there. If there is a community association, ask your neighbours if it is well run. Ask about the community fees - don't forget that if you are in a community you are legally obliged to pay these.

BUYING THE PROPERTY

First, make sure that the person selling you the property is entitled to do so. Your agent will be able to supply you with a list of suitable lawyers to act on your behalf, or the British Consulate in Las Palmas can provide a suitable list on request. Your lawyer needs to check out your intended property thoroughly.

A check of legal title will be made through a search in the local Land Registry Office, which will also indicate if there are any mortgages or charges against the property. If you are buying a plot of land, the lawyer will also check if you can obtain permission to build on the land, and what size and type of property you can build. Once you have been assured by your lawyer that all is in order, you will need to sign a Contract of Purchase raised by a lawyer, and pay a deposit which is usually 10% of the intended purchase price; this deposit is normally held by the lawyer who has been appointed to arrange the signing of the title deed.

The contract will state the terms and conditions of the sale and will state a specific time for completion. If you decide, up to this completion time, that you cannot proceed with the purchase, you will forfeit the deposit paid, but if the seller changes his mind, he must return the deposit to you in full, plus a compensation payment for damages.

The next step is to complete the transaction by making the outstanding balance of payment and signing the title deed, which is known in Spain as the Escritura. This must be done in the Notary's Office. The Notary's task is to ensure that all of the legal documentation is correct. He will also carry out a search in the Land Registry Office on the day of signing to check the current status of the property or land (and will require the last annual rates receipt from the council in which the property is situated), that this is up to

date as well. It is essential to ensure that your lawyer has current receipts for all other payments such as water, electric and community charges, as debts such as these in Spain are levied against the property and not the owner. Notaries now also demand an Energy Performance Certificate. When in the Notary's Office, you will be asked to produce your passport as evidence of identification. You will also be advised to obtain a NIF number, which your lawyer can arrange for you.

MONEY MATTERS

If you are not resident in Spain and are buying property or land it is advisable to bring money from abroad to complete the purchase. It is simple to open a non-resident account in a local bank, and your estate agent will normally help you with this. You can then transfer your funds from your own bank in the UK to this new account. On the signing of the new title deed your cheques for payment will be shown to the Notary and included as part of the documentation of the deed.

They must be inscribed with details of the property of land to be purchased, or have an investment certificate from the issuing bank attached. The Notary will also require you to sign a Spanish ministry form, declaring that the investment has been made. It is also possible when purchasing from a non-Spanish resident to pay the completion funds abroad in any currency. In this case, the deed will state an equivalent amount in Euros, as this gives the value in which the transmission tax (stamp duty) is calculated. You will have to produce more than one cheque as you will be liable for capital gains tax. In this situation, a sum of 3% calculated against the value declared in the title deed will need to be retained and paid to the Spanish Tax Authorities.

Estate Agent's fees are normally paid by the vendor and the details of the specific percentage to be paid will normally be noted in the Purchase Contract.

Some unscrupulous illegal agents have been known to charge the purchaser as well as the vendor for their fees, so ensure this is not the case. You may well also find that the price of your title deed is not exactly the same as the cost of the purchase, as some sellers prefer to treat the furnishings and fittings, if they are included, as a separate item.

REGISTERING THE PURCHASE

To complete the transaction you must register the deeds at the Registro de la Propiedad (Property Registry). When the deeds are taken to the Registro, the purchase tax of 6.5% of the value of the property must be paid.

Later the Registro will request a second payment to

THE COMMUNITY OF OWNERS

The Community of Owners is a Spanish institution affecting any property owners who enjoy shared facilities and services, such as lifts, swimming pools, gardens and communal garages.

Information about your Association must be freely available to you, as should the accounts which have to be published to the members every year. You should check before you buy that your Community Association is functioning well, how much the monthly payment is, and whether the payments for your intended property are up to date.

cover their charges. In addition, a tax to the Local Authority, based on the increase of values of land in their area since the property last changed hands (known as 'Plus Valia') is payable.

This is often negotiated between the vendor and purchaser. Your Lawyer can get an estimate in advance of the purchase, so that you have the funds ready. At the same time, a form should be entered to the local authority, advising them of the change of ownership. You should remind whoever is doing your paperwork about this, as it is often forgotten.

Residents must also be tax registered in order to sell property and avoid retentions, even if they pay no tax.

OTHER COSTS

Other costs include the Transmission Tax, the Notary's bill, the fees from the Registro and your lawyer's fee, which will probably come to about 10% of the purchase price.

Your lawyer will ask for these funds to be placed with them before the work is done as clients have often disappeared leaving these bills unpaid.

Non-residents will be liable for property tax, while residents will pay the IBI assessed by the local council.

OUTSTANDING BILLS

When you buy a property you become liable for any outstanding bills for water, electricity, local rates and community fees. Both the Electricity Board (UNELCO) and the Water Company (CANAL GESTION) have forms which you and the seller must sign, to transfer the bills into your name. When you go to do this check that all payments are up to date.

Local rates are payable at the Town Hall. You or your representative will need to visit the 'Oficina de Recaudacion' at the Town Hall to complete the form changing the rates into your name, and again, checking that all payments are up to date. As bills are not sent out for the rates, property owners often forget to pay them, and they can soon mount up.



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THE ASKING PRICE

Francis Fernández Ariza



"It's almost standard practice," explained Francis Fernández Ariza, a director of marketing research association SIRA. Quoted in the Spanish press he said

"Vendors take it for granted that they will get a counter offer and start off with an asking price that leaves them some wiggle room, in some cases this is as much as 20% higher."

Only 10 per cent of properties sold in Spain go for the original asking price, according to new figures. It's a stark contrast with the USA, where more than 35 per cent of properties go for the price asked.

However, the practice is not good news for the property sector in Spain. In many cases, an inflated asking price will simply exclude the property from the viewing list of prospective buyers right from the start. Few buyers will waste time visiting properties that are significantly over the budget in the hope that they can bargain the price down.

Fernández argues that the problem is caused by lack of involvement by estate agents. "The best transparency is

achieved when sellers and buyers agree on the target price, as happens more frequently in the US", he said. And it's the estate agent, who knows the market well, who is best-placed to advise on that target price.

However, that's exactly the argument you'd expect from an estate agent. Others have argued that sales prices should be made public, allowing sellers to find out what figures are realistic, and helping buyers to set a budget.

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WHAT IS A TRASPASO?

In the Spanish property sector, some words often go untranslated. Here are a few you need to be aware of.

Traspaso: In Spanish, *traspaso* literally means transfer, and the English legal equivalent of this term would be “lease.” That means that the buyer is purchasing a right of use for a given period of time. Many traspasos have now been replaced by *cesión*, and you’re advised to get legal advice to know exactly what your rights are.

Finca: It’s a bit like a farm, a bit like a ranch, but it’s really something all of its own, which is why the term finca is still used for large rural properties. A *finca* is, effectively, a large or small estate – a piece of land with a house or houses on it, and often close to a farm area such as a vineyard.



Aljibe: This Arabic-derived term refers to a stone covered water tank. These were vital to every Lanzarote home in the days before fresh water was regularly available, and many properties still use water that supplied to an *aljibe* by the mains. Aljibes can be converted into all sorts of other things.

Comunidad de propietarios


A rare concept in the UK, the community of owners is a legal necessity anywhere in Spain where facilities are shared by homeowners. It will have an elected president and treasurer, and hold annual general meetings devoted to the upkeep of shared assets such as entrances, communal swimming pools etc.



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THAT

Thing

Every room needs something special – a piece that draws attention and sets the overall tone without necessarily stealing the show.



You can call it a centre piece, a focus, an anchor, a conversation piece or whatever you like, and it could be anything from a painting to a vase, a sofa or a plant – but once you have it you'll know what it is immediately.



It's that thing – the piece you look forward to seeing when you arrive home; the item that almost always has a bit of a story behind it – a tale of falling in love with it in a shop, hunting it down online or receiving a gift you actually did always want.

Christmas is a great time to look for these items. The decorations you'll be creating in your home means that everything takes on a new aspect, allowing new stars to step to the forefront and opening your eyes and mind to new possibilities for your interior.

Every room
needs that special
something.

One of the great things about gift shopping for others is that you'll often spot things that you want for yourself – leaving you to drop hints to friends and family, or just treat yourself - those

Christmas presents you buy yourself are one of the secret joys of the season.

But if you're going to find that thing, you almost always have to go off the beaten track. Whether it's a designer's shop, an

artist's studio, a craft fair or a car boot sale, all you need to bring is your taste, your eye and your means of payment.

SENSUAL *Christmas*

When you're decorating for Christmas, don't forget that this is a time of the year when every sense should be indulged.

GLITTER AND RICHNESS

The visual key for Christmas is richness and luxury. We're talking about deep greens, plush reds and shimmering golden metallics. However, plenty of other colours play their part as well, from the snowy whites that are reflected in Lanzarote's architecture, clouds and endless surf, to profound deep blues and vivid orange. The important thing is to choose a combination, stick with it and make it work.

Another important feature of Christmas decor is movement – the shimmering of lametta and tinsel, the twinkle of fairy lights and the gleam of gold and silver baubles. On Lanzarote you're unlikely to have an open fire, but there'll be plenty of other items that bring motion into your home.

TOUCH ME

The tactile theme of Christmas cleverly echoes the visual theme, with those warm cosy throws and cushions contrasting with hard, burnished metal. However, there's a very different feel to a Lanzarote Christmas to a northern one. In colder countries it's all about locking yourself away from the cold outside, getting warm and cosy and snuggling up together. Here on Lanzarote you can keep the windows open, feel the sun shine in the day and then shutter up later on. It's a much fresher, lively feeling, and one that you'll soon get used to.



LISTEN TO CHRISTMAS

Bells jingling, brass bands, Christmas carols – Lanzarote offers plenty of the sounds of Christmas and many more besides, but in your home you'll be looking for a refuge. Not necessarily silence – there's plenty of space for comforting ambient sounds – but most of the festive sounds will be made by you and your guests – the chat, laughter and human buzz that Christmas is really about.

Cont. on p.97 >>>

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SENSUAL Christmas

>>> Cont. from p.94

FESTIVE FRAGRANCE

Christmas is all about smells, and the only rule is that they ought to be tantalising and evocative. Cinnamon and cloves are the classic Christmas spices, but they can be joined by cumin, ginger, nutmeg, cardamom and rosemary. Then there are those evergreen aromas of pine needles, rosemary and sandalwood that add maturity and complexity to the atmosphere.

Tangy citrus smells and the heady whiff of brandy or sherry add the final touches to a recipe for fragrance. If you haven't already, Christmas is a time to experiment with scented candles or essential oils.

“Close your eyes and
enjoy the sounds and aromas
of Christmas,”

A TASTE OF THE TIME

At Christmas we eat too, and food will often come into our living spaces in a way that it doesn't normally do. More than just a bowl of tangerines or mandarins and another bowl of glossy brown nuts, in Spain you can also find pretty wrapped turrónes or even a deep, marbled *jamón* propped up on its special stand.

Then there are the chocolates hanging on the tree, ice clinking in a nice cold drink or the welcoming smell of a mug of hot chocolate. Do it right and Christmas will be good enough to eat.



SHOCKING SCENES

In Spain the most important decoration element is probably the *belén* – a standard nativity scene that is often set up by children in a central part of the house. There'll be Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus, as well as shepherds and Wise Men, but you may also spot a *caganer* – a Catalan tradition of a model character hidden away doing a poo somewhere in the nativity.

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SNUG & WARM



*"Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;*

*The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled down for a long winter's nap..."*

Don't worry about how many sleeps there are until Christmas – it's the quality that counts, not the quantity.

Most of us will remember the excitement and anticipation of Christmas – trying to fall asleep because you knew Santa wouldn't come until you did, yet so wired that you could hardly keep your eyes shut.

Even when we get older, the bedroom has a special relationship with Christmas – snowy white sheets and cosy blankets provide a comfortable refuge from the festive chaos outside.

And that refuge is important. The bedroom is one place that tends not to be decorated for Christmas – instead, it's a place of rest and recuperation from the celebrations elsewhere.

And just look at how important that refuge is. All sorts of Christmas stories take place in the bedroom, from Peter Pan's magical dreamland that has transported generations of pantomime goers, to Scrooge being visited by a ghost. Even the original Christmas story revolves around a makeshift bedroom where a baby sleeps.

At Christmas, then, take a little extra time to make sure that your refuge is as cosy and welcoming as ever. Update that crisp, fresh linen; make sure your sheets are spotless and, if you need to, ensure that your bed is ready to be your magic carpet to health and relaxation throughout the year to come.



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CANARIAN

Zen



The emblems of Japanese art are Hokusai's great wave and his views of Mount Fuji, and waves and volcanoes are nothing new to the Canary Islands. In fact, the 19th century Canarian artist Nestor created paintings that are strangely reminiscent of Japanese art.

There are other parallels, too. The Spanish colonial style seen here is functional and unadorned, with plain wooden shutters, iron balconies and white walls. Lines are straight, but not too straight, and natural elements such as trees and plants occupy their own position in courtyards and gardens – hardly ever symmetrical.

The whole thing carries the feeling of wabi-sabi, the Japanese philosophy that celebrates asymmetry, roughness, simplicity, economy, austerity, modesty, intimacy, and an appreciation of the economy and efficiency of nature.

This is the ideal that Lanzarote always returns to. Even César Manrique, who embraced the most modern forms of art, never abandoned the charm of the traditional courtyard – a place where sunlight, rough lime-washed walls, black picón, raw volcanic stone and green cacti or leaves combine joyously.

Manrique understood that the simplest things are often the most profound, and that endless search for the essence of nature is a quest that still inspires us today, no matter what side of the world we live on.

When designing your exterior space on Lanzarote, don't forget to make the island's stark beauty and natural dynamics work alongside you. It's not difficult to approach a state of beauty and simplicity that's reminiscent of Japanese zen.



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STAY

dry



For an island with a sunny, warm climate, Lanzarote can get quite damp, especially in the winter months. Here are some of the main factors to bear in mind when keeping your home dry and cosy.

to dry it out. That's why ventilation is vitally important, both inside and out. If possible, try and keep some space between items of furniture and walls to allow air to circulate. Moving furniture around can also be highly effective in protecting against damp.

LOCATION

Lanzarote's coastal areas are hugely popular among homeowners, but that sea you yearn to live near is also pretty wet. So wet, in fact, that it can seep into the ground below sea level, bringing dampness and salt damage.

But you're unlikely to escape from the damp by hitting the heights, either. On Lanzarote, homes located in elevated areas are often prone to heavy dewfalls in the morning. These places are also where clouds are likely to gather, and clouds mean rainfall. Lower

temperatures at higher levels means drying out isn't as quick, either.

ORIENTATION

As we're north of the equator, there are north-facing parts of your property that are likely to receive little, if any, direct sunlight. These should be monitored closely, and if possible, airflow should be maintained.

VENTILATION

Damp thrives when there's no air movement

LOCATION, ELEVATION
AND ORIENTATION ARE
ALL VITAL

IMPERMEABILIZATION

Waterproofing your home will be one of the key aspects to fighting damp. If you prevent moisture getting inside in the first place, your battle is already half-won. Full waterproofing of your roof will put your mind at rest and spare you from what can be a really frustrating and prolonged battle with damp.



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LIVING BEHIND

Glass



Manrique's stunning window at Mirador del Rio

the 20th century progressed, larger windows became more commonplace.

Nowadays they can be found everywhere on this island, from Manrique's own creations at Mirador del Rio to the rooftop restaurant at the Gran Hotel in Arrecife. These days you're more likely to find a large patio window in a newly-built house than old-fashioned doors and windows.

This revolution has been made possible by new materials – tempered safety glass and strong but flexible steel frames, as well as new techniques and new artistic visions that have been set free by technology.

But living with glass has also been made possible by air-conditioning, heating, double glazing and other developments that have allowed us to control the temperature within our homes. Glass has many advantages, but heat retention isn't one of them, so we've had to adapt and be ingenious.

Another vital step forward has been safety glass, which means that glass doors and windows can become a perfectly normal part of households with children, or simply where there may be some rough stuff going on. Glass still demands respect, but it's no longer going to be a serious risk in any house.

But if you're thinking off glass in your home, be absolutely sure to get in touch with a respected professional with plenty of experience. This is not something you want to cut corners on.

Think of glass and architecture and your mind will usually turn to big cities and shimmering skyscrapers. But the modern taste for glass has also transformed life on Lanzarote.

César Manrique's brother Carlos recently told this magazine about the house that his father built in Famara as a surprise gift for his mother. This property, with its views of the cliffs and beaches inspired the teenage Manrique, but no element was more

important to him than the large picture window that his father had installed.

Windows at that time were usually small, owing to the weakness of wooden frames and the cost of replacing them, but as

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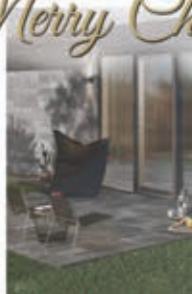
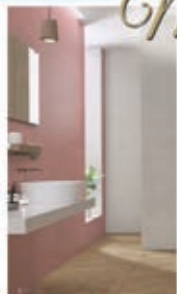
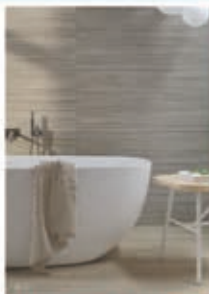
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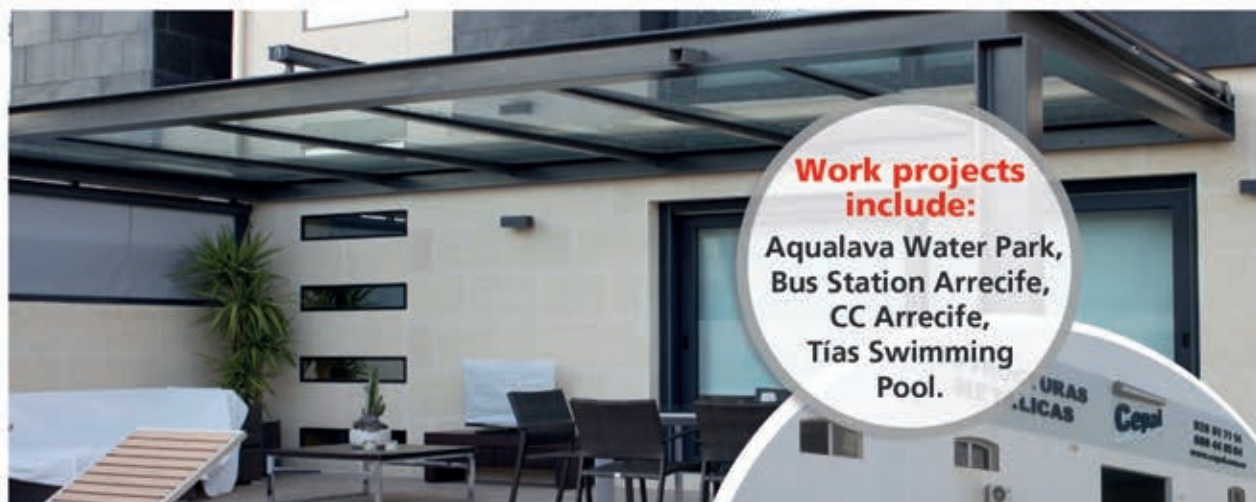
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THE GARDEN *Experience*

When we think about buying gifts for a gardener, we usually end up plumping for a flower or a tree in a pot. Of course, no serious gardener will turn down a plant, but there are other ideas that would thrill your green-fingered friend or family.

In recent years, "experience" has become an important keyword in the world of gifts. Researchers have found that people prefer to be given experiences – for example, an excursion, a meal, a special day out or a makeover – to physical objects and things. The reason is that experiences live on in the memory, while objects are simply there.

It has to be said that social media has a lot to do with this trend, with millions of us now curating

our lives on Facebook and photographing amazing experiences for Instagram. But it's also nothing new – a pair of tickets or a meal for two has always been the most romantic of gifts.

For gardeners, experiences are clearly important. They're the type of people who relish the fact that they're creating something that can never truly belong to



them – a place where experience, in the form of shapes, colours, fragrances and the stories of every plant, is the most valuable element.



Merry Christmas

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MAKEOVER TIME

Not all of us enjoy gardening, but we still like having a garden to relax in. In this case, hiring the services of a skilled gardener could be a terrific gift idea. Whether it's a one-off renovation project, or a more regular agreement covering care and maintenance; whether it's a full landscaping job or just the installation of a watering system, the results are sure to make life more enjoyable and memorable.

TAKE A TRIP

Lanzarote is dotted with beautiful gardens that will give any gardener heaps of inspiration. You could take a trip up to Haría and just wander around, book a restaurant table in one of the islands magnificently-planted hotels or find out what the Cabildo's gardeners get up to at one of the tourist centres.

A plane ticket will also widen your horizons, giving you the chance to discover amazing gardens, forests and landscapes on the other Canary Islands or mainland Spain.

RETAIL THERAPY

Gardeners tend to know what they want, and don't always respond well to surprise gifts they weren't expecting. That's why gift tokens and vouchers are a great idea, giving them the chance to choose for themselves at the garden centre.

Kid's Christmas

Christmas is a time when kids will be looking for fun outdoors, too, and if little ones are a regular part of your holidays it may be worth considering some tough, durable artificial grass to let them play in much greater safety.



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LANZAROTE FONT VELLA INTERNATIONAL MARATHON

7th December

Lanzarote's oldest long distance competition is still a massive event on Lanzarote, and the finishing line at Costa Tegui sees plenty of epic scenes. Full marathon competitors set off from Costa Tegui and make their way to Los Pocillos in Puerto del Carmen before returning. The half-marathon runners set off from Los Pocillos and another 10 km race departs from Arrecife to Costa Tegui.

Photo: James Mitchell



UD LANZAROTE VS CF UNION VIERA

11th December

The Reds host the veteran Las Palmas team at the Ciudad Deportiva, 5pm.

LANZAROTE GOLF TOUR 2019, GRAND FINAL

13th & 14th December

The AESGOLF Tour culminates in Lanzarote, with one day at Lanzarote Golf in Puerto del Carmen and the other at Costa Tegui Golf. Find out more at aesgolf.com

QUEMAO CLASS 2019

Date to be confirmed

Eyes are watching the wind and swells carefully for the optimum conditions for the island's most exciting surfing and bodyboarding competition. When the legendary El Quema wave at La Santa is breaking just right, the village comes alight for two days of intense competition.

The Lanzarote Marathon on 7th December usually offers a brilliant, breezy day out along the seafronts of three of Lanzarote's most important towns, and always guarantees a great start to December. Later, there's football, golf and more city racing as the year draws to an end.

Our monthly Sport Diary will be a regular feature of the magazine from now on, and is open to all events. If you have a sporting event you'd like to publicise FREE get in touch with us: editorial@gazettelife.com

UD LANZAROTE VS CD BUZANADA

22nd December

The boys from South Tenerife come to Arrecife's Ciudad Deportiva, 12 noon (Confirm time in advance).

BE BRAVE AND RUN

29th December (tbc)

The Princesa Yaiza Suite Hotel and Restaurant organises a charity race in aid of Yaiza charity Creciendo Yaiza and Aspercan, the Canarian Aspergers Syndrome Association.



SAN SILVESTRE RACES

31st December

The tradition of city runs held on St Sylvester's Day (New Year's Eve) has been widespread throughout the Spanish-speaking world for decades, and there are currently over 200 such races in Spain.

On Lanzarote, there are two San Silvestre races – both 5 km park run style events. However, as neither event has been officially confirmed, you're advised to check beforehand for registration and prices.

- San Silvestre Conejera, Puerto del Carmen
- San Silvestre City Race, Arrecife



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STRUGGLING FOR POINTS



UD Lanzarote have looked promising, dominated matches, rattled the woodwork and missed penalties, but the harsh fact is that, at the time of writing, the Reds have gone seven games without a taste of victory. Ian Lane reports.

With twelve matches behind them, Lanzarote have lost only twice, but sadly that's also the same amount of times they've won. In this competitive league, you can't draw your way to promotion, and the team are currently lying in 12th place. That's eight points away from a playoff place and, while there's plenty of season left to make up the deficit, it's also uncomfortably close to the relegation zone.

On a positive note, the support the team has been getting from both local and foreign fans is incredible. The players, management and directors of the club are overwhelmed by the support and are determined to get Lanzarote back on track and battling for a top four finish.

Last season the final match before Christmas ended up being a classic. Lanzarote were trailing 0-3 to Las Zocas at half time, but an almighty fightback saw them leave the pitch as 4-3 winners. Fans will be hoping for similar spectacle when another South Tenerife team, Buzonada, visit on the 22nd.

If you fancy seeing a match in Spain's fourth tier, the stadium in Arrecife is easy to get to on public transport and entrance is cheap, with youngsters under the age of 18 admitted free of charge. A warm welcome, a steak sandwich, a glass of beer and a dancing pineapple awaits...



Ian at the Tegui stall



For all the information please go to:

www.lanzarotefootball.com

[Lanzarote Football Club](#)

+34 649963943 (Ian)

info@mercancialanzarote.com

Official club shirts and merchandise are on sale with Ian at the clubs stall at Tegui market every Sunday (near the public toilets) and also at the Puerto Del Carmen Old Town market every Friday. At Playa Blanca on the Rubicon Wednesday and Saturday market. All markets are from 10am to 2pm. Club shop now open in Costa Tegui Monday to Friday 10am to 1pm at CC Nautical, local 25, (opposite Pueblo Marinero and behind Café Bonjour)

UPCOMING HOME MATCHES

11th Dec UD Lanzarote v CF Union Viera
(Wednesday 5pm (check))

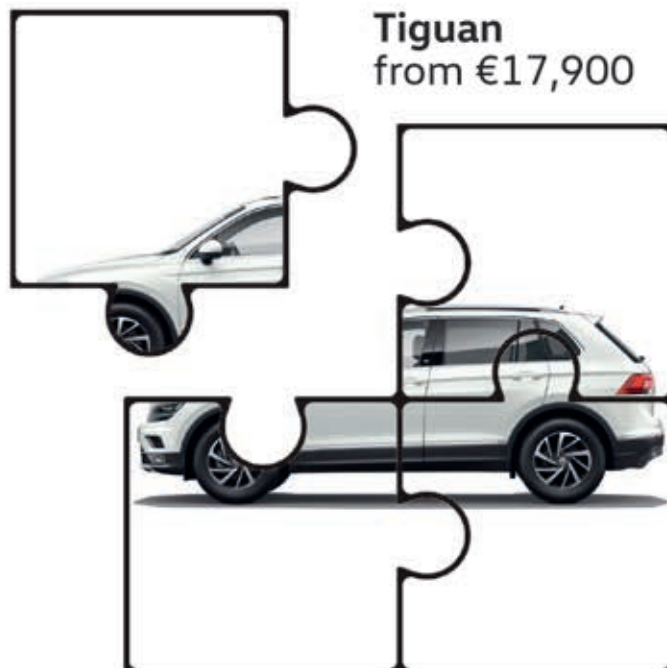
22nd Dec UD Lanzarote v Buzonada

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Do the right thing

The new Mazda 3 is a handsome, fully remodelled version of a car that's sold over 6 million models to date, and the update is likely to be every bit as popular. Unlike many new cars on the market these days, the Mazda 3 does just one thing, and if you're after a family hatchback that's a joy to drive, it does it brilliantly.

If you've never got to know a Mazda, perhaps you won't understand the devotion that the brand inspires, but if you have you'll know what the fuss is about. Mazda call it *jinba ittai* – a Japanese term for oneness of car and driver.

The Mazda 3 isn't the roomiest car of its class; and it only offers two engines – a 2.0-litre 120bhp petrol

and a 1.8-litre diesel – but with six trim levels, there are plenty of options for people to choose from.

Mazda's decision to focus on a model that ignores trends towards hybrid and electric technology may seem odd for such an innovative company, but it's also a choice that shows a firm commitment to quality. If you're going to do it, do it right first of all.



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Motor News



Saved on screen

Spain's Traffic Department is developing an App that means drivers will not have to carry their physical driving licence with them at all times.

Currently, drivers who don't have their licence with them face fines of €100. However, the new MiDGT App will be downloadable to any smartphone and will be accepted as proof by security forces. The App will also allow drivers to monitor their penalty points and permit them to pay fines rapidly and efficiently.

Driving licences aren't the only documents that will be accepted on the App, either. Drivers will also be able to scan and upload their vehicle registration documents to the app. Currently, all drivers must carry original copies of these documents in their car at all times.

Safety tech

The IFEMA road safety fair in Madrid premiered some of the technology that may influence and control our future driving practices.

Among the technology on display was the Alcolock – a device that measures alcohol levels in a driver's breath and only unlocks the steering wheel if they are below the legal limit. A radar device that can detect speeding vehicles at a distance of up to a kilometre away was also displayed.

Drone technology has also led to the Milvus, a three-metre fixed wing drone that can travel at up to 100 kmh in high winds and reach heights of 4,000 metres. It is planned that Milvus will be used to detect infractors and monitor roads in the case of adverse conditions.

Rain sense

This time of the year it's a good idea to brush up on your wet weather driving techniques. Here are a few you may have forgotten...

1. Check your windscreen wipers are working well. Replace if necessary.
2. Keep a cloth and some water in your car to clean windows that get dirty and splotchy after rainfall.
3. Lower your speed in the rain and leave more distance between the car in front. Lanzarote roads can become slippery in wet weather.
4. Keep your headlights on when driving in rain. In seriously heavy rain consider using rear foglights.
5. Watch other traffic closely.
6. If rain is too heavy to see properly, pull over into a safe place and WAIT.



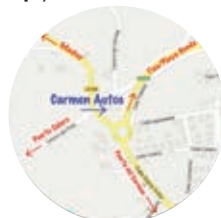
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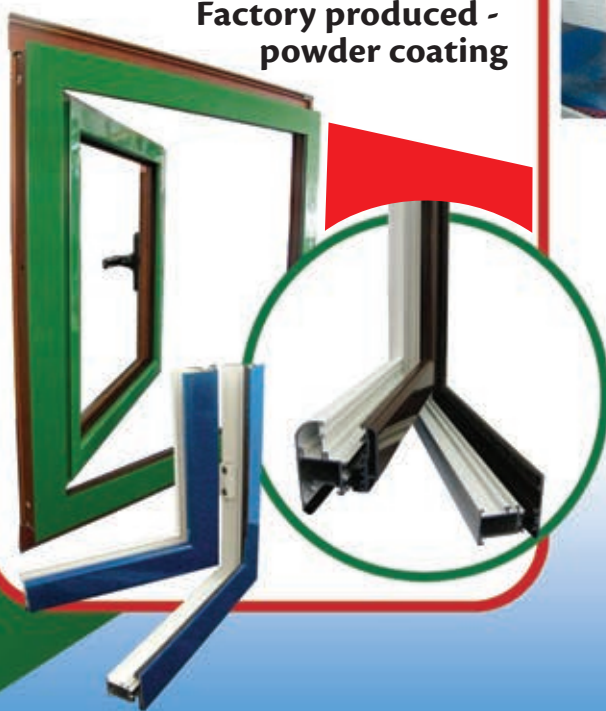
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Need to Know



Christmas planning

To make the most of Christmas on Lanzarote, it helps to get an idea of the important dates and customs that take place around the island. This year, to put it simply, don't expect to find normal service at any time between 20th December and 7th January.

Friday, December 6th: Day of the Spanish Constitution. This public holiday will form a "puente" (long weekend) that is often considered the start of the Christmas period.

Sunday, December 22nd: The draw for the world's biggest lottery, El Gordo, marks the start of the Christmas holidays for many.

Tuesday, December 24th: Christmas Eve. Shops remain open, although many may close early. Spanish families celebrate with an evening meal, perhaps followed by Midnight Mass at their local church.

Wednesday, December 25th: Christmas Day. Public holiday.

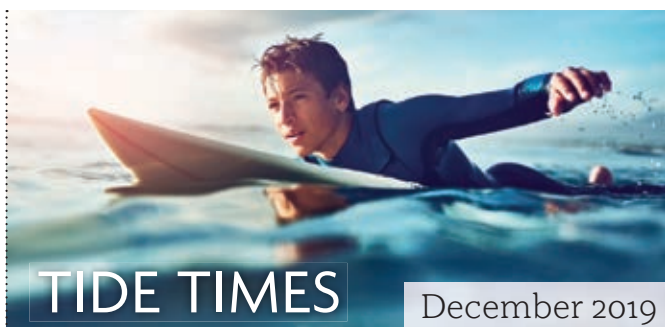
Thursday, December 26th: St Stephen's Day is a normal working day in the Canaries, but as the 26th and 27th fall between Christmas Day and the weekend, don't expect normal working days to be observed.

Saturday, December 28th: Day of the Holy Innocents: Spain's equivalent of April Fools' Day.

Wednesday, January 1st: New Year's Day. Public holiday throughout Spain.

Sunday, January 5th: Three Kings parades take place all over Lanzarote.

Monday, January 6th: Epiphany. Public Holiday throughout Spain.



Tide Tables for Arrecife, Lanzarote. Height are in metres.
(Times may vary by a few minutes around the island)

Day	Hour	Metres	Day	Hour	Metres
1	H: 03:45	2.6	17	H: 04:25	2.6
	L: 10:11	0.8		L: 10:53	0.7
	H: 16:17	2.2		H: 17:03	2.3
	L: 22:17	1.0		L: 23:08	0.9
2	H: 04:32	2.4	18	H: 05:25	2.5
	L: 11:02	1.0		L: 11:57	0.8
	H: 17:11	2.0		H: 18:11	2.2
	L: 23:10	1.2			
3	H: 05:28	2.2	19	L: 00:17	1.0
	L: 12:04	1.1		H: 06:35	2.4
	H: 18:17	1.9		L: 13:09	0.8
				H: 19:27	2.2
4	L: 00:17	1.3	20	L: 01:34	1.0
	H: 06:36	2.1		H: 07:50	2.4
	L: 13:15	1.2		L: 14:22	0.8
	H: 19:32	1.9		H: 20:40	2.3
5	L: 01:34	1.3	21	L: 02:49	0.9
	H: 07:50	2.1		H: 09:02	2.4
	L: 14:25	1.1		L: 15:28	0.7
	H: 20:42	2.0		H: 21:45	2.4
6	L: 02:45	1.2	22	L: 03:56	0.8
	H: 08:57	2.2		L: 10:06	2.5
	L: 15:24	1.0		L: 16:26	0.6
	H: 21:37	2.1		H: 22:39	2.6
7	L: 03:43	1.1	23	L: 04:53	0.7
	H: 09:50	2.3		H: 11:00	2.6
	L: 16:11	0.9		L: 17:15	0.5
	H: 22:23	2.3		H: 23:28	2.7
8	L: 04:30	1.0	24	L: 05:42	0.5
	H: 10:36	2.4		H: 11:49	2.7
	L: 16:51	0.8		L: 18:00	0.5
	H: 23:02	2.4			
9	L: 05:11	0.8	25	H: 00:11	2.8
	H: 11:16	2.5		L: 06:27	0.4
	L: 17:29	0.7		H: 12:33	2.7
	H: 23:38	2.6		L: 18:41	0.5
10	L: 05:49	0.7	26	H: 00:52	2.9
	H: 11:54	2.6		L: 07:09	0.4
	L: 18:04	0.6		H: 13:15	2.7
				L: 19:20	0.5
11	H: 00:14	2.7	27	H: 01:31	2.9
	L: 06:26	0.5		L: 07:49	0.4
	H: 12:31	2.7		H: 13:54	2.6
	L: 18:40	0.5		L: 19:58	0.5
12	H: 00:49	2.8	28	H: 02:09	2.8
	L: 07:04	0.5		L: 08:28	0.5
	H: 13:09	2.7		H: 14:33	2.5
	L: 19:16	0.5		L: 20:34	0.6
13	H: 01:26	2.9	29	H: 02:46	2.7
	L: 07:43	0.4		L: 09:07	0.5
	H: 13:48	2.7		H: 15:11	2.4
	L: 19:55	0.5		L: 21:12	0.7
14	H: 02:05	2.9	30	H: 03:24	2.6
	L: 08:24	0.4		L: 09:46	0.7
	H: 14:30	2.6		H: 15:50	2.3
	L: 20:35	0.5		L: 21:51	0.8
15	H: 02:47	2.8	31	H: 04:04	2.5
	L: 09:08	0.5		L: 10:28	0.8
	H: 15:15	2.6		H: 16:33	2.2
	L: 21:20	0.6		L: 22:30	1.0
16	H: 03:33	2.7			
	L: 09:57	0.6			
	H: 16:05	2.4			
	L: 22:10	0.8			
H=High Tide L=Low Tide			<div><div></div>New Moon</div>	<div><div></div>First Quarter Moon</div>	
			<div><div></div>Full Moon</div>	<div><div></div>Last Quarter Moon</div>	

H=High Tide L=Low Tide



Even though we are into our winter here and most days are warm and sunny, if a little cloudy with the December skies, we do see some absolutely gorgeous sunsets full of warm colour tones reflecting off those clouds - and don't forget that the sunrise can be just as beautiful, too!

On the whole the wind tends to be moderate at this time of year, but we did see gusty episodes with a wind weather warning just before Christmas Eve last year. Bear in mind that December 2018 was the warmest on record, so let's hope for a repeat. We can also expect a few overcast days and maybe some rain. Here it all comes down at once and is usually over and done with in a few days as opposed to the continual wet, damp days seen in northern Europe.

December is full of celebrations - Christmas Eve sees the Misa del Gallo (midnight mass); the Santos Inocentes is the Spanish equivalent of April Fools' Day, celebrated on 28th December and, of course, New Year's Eve is a huge event with many parties and firework displays. Having an extra layer close at hand is a good idea as many nights are spent outdoors celebrating.

I will be repeating my 3 LIVE broadcasts at 3pm Costa Teguise, 4pm Puerto del Carmen and 5pm Playa Blanca, so if you have friends and family you would like to send love and wishes to be sure to get all the details from my Facebook page and come along!

Have a wonderful Christmas and end to the year, see you all in 2020!



Follow @TerrieWeatherLanzarote on Facebook for Weekly weather videos and daily posts!

What to expect in December



Day Time Temps
22°C (Ranges from 19 to 25°C)



Night Time Temps
16°C (Ranges from 13 to 18°C)



Sunshine Hours
7 hours



Sea Temp
20°C



Rain
3 days. Approx 23mm in total



Wind
Upto 15kph

By Clairvoyant Shona Langholm

Horoscopes

DECEMBER



21 March to 19 April

Aries



You've got that high tide feeling this month, Aries – you're buoyant and bobbing happily along on the waves, but you're also feeling that restless urge to cut loose and set sail into the wild blue yonder. Pack a bag quickly, grab a friend if you want, but don't miss that tide.

20 April to 20 May

Taurus



A classic Christmas awaits you, Taurus, and one that you fully deserve after what you've been through this year. Make it a special one, but more than anything, make sure you enjoy yourself, get some rest during the holiday and connect closely with the folks you love.

21 May to 20 June

Gemini



Remember that not everybody's as fascinated by your new hobby as you are, Gemini. Don't keep it to yourself, though – there are loads of geeks out there just like you, and you're so charming at the moment that you could become the centre of something delightfully exciting.

21 Jun to 22 July

Cancer



You've kept your mouth shut and your opinions to yourself for some time, Cancer, but now's the time to let loose. Someone deserves to know the plain truth, with no bows or ribbons attached. Once you've got that out of the way, you'll find it's so much easier to move on towards the future.

23 July to 22 Aug

Leo



Don't plan too much, Leo. This is a holiday season where you'll be offered all sorts of last-minute opportunities, and you won't want to be tied down when they come. Play things smart and only commit to the stuff you really need to do or want to do.

23 Aug to 22 Sept

Virgo



It's going to be a musical month, Virgo, and even though you may be tone deaf with two left feet, there'll be plenty of singing and dancing to do, so enter into the spirit and enjoy! And don't forget to let the music make you sad as well as happy. Make sure you make the most of the rhythm and the blues.

23 Sept to 22 Oct

Libra



Make sure you get away from things for a while, Libra. A break will renew you, charge your batteries and, most of all, lead you to new social contacts that may just develop into something even more exciting. It doesn't have to be long – just do it.

23 Oct to 21 Nov

Scorpio



You've gained a new perspective on life recently, Scorpio, and it's one that not everyone's happy with. But stick with that new sense of personal priorities – you're moving towards a real life change in a few months, and you can't afford to let it go.

22 Nov to 21 Dec

Sagittarius



Family ties may be a little frustrating this Christmas, Sag, so try and remember to focus on the positives. This may be a Christmas where you'll have one last chance to enjoy the company of certain people, so make the most of it.

22 Dec to 19 Jan

Capricorn



You'll enjoy a strange sense of freedom this Christmas, Capricorn. You've already fulfilled your obligations and paid off those social debts, and will be at liberty to enjoy yourself in any way you want to – and you'll learn that maybe you just want more of the same!

20 Jan to 18 Feb

Aquarius



While the rest of the world parties you'll be feeling serious and focused, Aquarius. That's great – you've got important things to do, but remember to take your social life seriously too, and that will involve having a little fun. Serious fun.

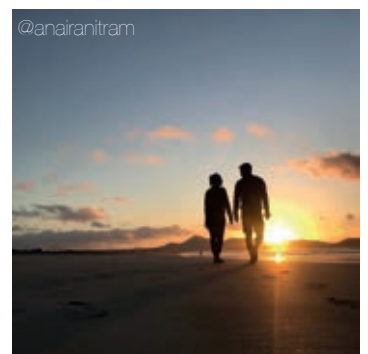
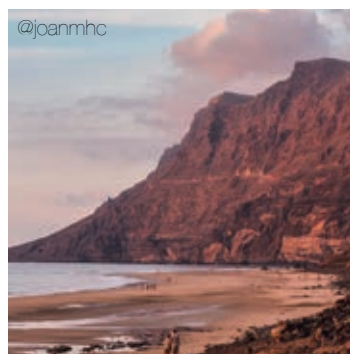
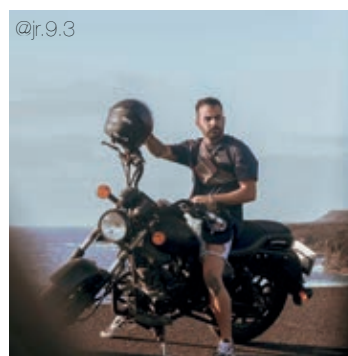
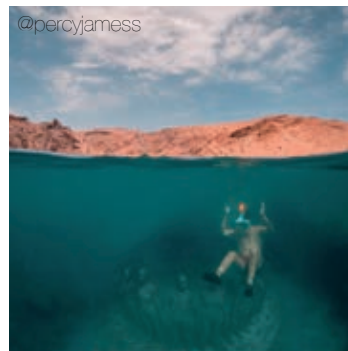
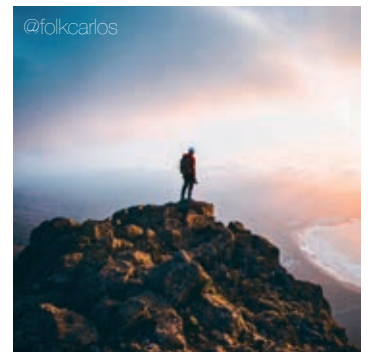
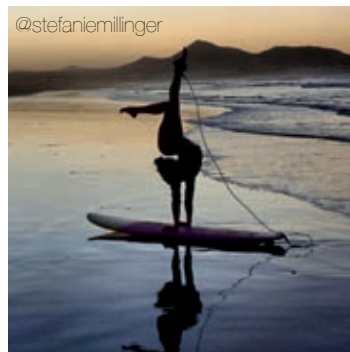
19 Feb to 20 Mar

Pisces



The holidays come just when you were getting into a solid, enjoyable groove, Pisces, so instead of getting frustrated, try and find another outlet for your energy and intelligence. You may have a wobble, but it's important that you don't come off your bike completely.

Instagram of the Month



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