



GAZETTE LIFE JULY'S MIRACLE

Ed's Letter

If you want to understand the miracle of Lanzarote wine, first head to Timanfaya. That's where you'll get an idea of the immensity of the eruptions that created this violent yet beautiful landscape. It's a beautiful but harsh, hostile environment where you'll see very little life.

Then head to La Geria, where rolling hills of black volcanic ash are covered in thousands of horseshoe-shaped walls, like the scales of a fish. Each wall protects a pit; and each pit contains a small woody vine that could easily be older than you.

And this month, you can see the miracle happening under each of those vines – a heavy pile of luscious golden grapes. It seems amazing that such a small plant could produce such bounty, but there it is, in the bottom of each pit, in front of your eyes.

These grapes are just the start of the miracle, though. They'll be picked, washed, pressed and the juice fermented, resulting in millions of bottles of wine. Some of this wine will find its way half-way round the world; much more will stay right here on Lanzarote.

On Lanzarote, wine is for everybody. It's the fuel for many of the fiestas that will take place all over the island this summer – fiestas that are likely to be even more joyous after two years of suspension; it's the eternal accompaniment to those long, lazy meals that are so important to life on the island, and it's a simple way of life for several hundred farmers and winemakers here.

This month we raise a glass to Lanzarote wine, an industry that is becoming more exciting and innovative every year, and which is also becoming more and more important to tourism, as thousands of visitors decide to learn more about this unique miracle for themselves.

Cheers, and salud!

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Published By CANARY ISLAND IMPACT SERVICES S.L.

Avenida Central de Tías No.84, Local B 35572 Tías - Lanzarote Cif: B76362367 DEPOSITO LEGAL: GC 786-2015 Whilst we make every effort to ensure that material published in the magazine is decent, legal and accurate, it can take no responsibility for any damage or loss which might arise as a result of material published herein. We are not responsible for third party advertisers within the magazine. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the publishers or the editor.

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ELECTIONS IN THE AIR



THE SMELL OF FRESHLY-POURED TARMAC, THE WHIRR OF CEMENT MIXERS, PHOTOS OF SMILING POLITICIANS IN HARD HATS AND HI-VIS – IT CAN ALL MEAN ONLY ONE THING – ELECTIONS ARE ON THE WAY!

On Sunday, 28th May 2023, Spain will go to the polls to elect new representatives at local, island and regional levels. It may seem a long way away, but preparations and campaigning for the vote will have a profound effect on Lanzarote life over the months to come.

That's because the future of Lanzarote's seven Ayuntamientos (Town Halls), its island government, the Cabildo and the Canarian Government will all be decided on that one day. Local politicians at all levels are fully aware that their jobs will be on the line in less than a year, and many have started campaigning already.

As elections approach, the ruling coalitions that are frequently formed due to Spain's PR voting system often start to crumble as parties seek to assert their identity and distance themselves from rivals. This process has already started on Lanzarote. After the elections of 2019, the island saw an unprecedented alliance between traditional rivals from the right-wing PP and the left-wing Socialists, with the aim of ejecting the Coalición Canaria (CC) from power. This agreement dictated the makeup of the ruling groups in the Cabildo and Arrecife Ayuntamiento, but collapsed last November after Arrecife Mayor Astrid Pérez sacked all socialist councillors and formed a new ruling pact with the CC.

Politicians will also be more active generally, firing out press releases that criticise their opponents and trying to gain as much exposure as possible. There'll be photos galore in the local press, and lots of smiles and handshakes.

The other sign that elections are coming is the amount of new works and projects taking place. This is partly because politicians like to show they've kept their



promises and point to their achievements; but they also have to use up funds and grants that they will lose otherwise. That process is even more accentuated this term, after the Covid pandemic paralysed a lot of plans.

So if you want that pothole on your street to be filled or a lamppost to be fixed, now's the time to have a word with your council.

At Gazette Life we'll soon be counting down to next May's elections, with guides to local parties and politics; and interviews with some of the main contenders for your vote.

YOUR VOTING RIGHTS

Despite Brexit, the Spanish government have granted British residents in Spain the right to vote at the lowest level – the municipal council, or Ayuntamiento.

To vote, you'll need to declare your intention to do so at your local Ayuntamiento, usually before the end of January in election year.

The same voting rights apply to Irish residents and others who come from EU member countries. However, these will also have the right to vote for their local Euro MP in the 2024 EU elections.

We'd strongly recommend everyone who is eligible to vote to do so – it is an immense privilege and a fundamental way of integrating with Lanzarote society.





LOCAL NEWS

PLAYA HONDA UNDERPASS

The contract to build a new underpass to relieve pressure on the notorious Playa Honda roundabout has been put out to tender for $\notin 3.3$ million.

Canarian Works Minister Sebastián Franquis announced the contract last month, reiterating that the new underpass will be parallel to the existing underpass under the LZ-2 which connects the two roundabouts, in the direction of Arrecife. The aim is to filter off traffic coming to the Deiland Shopping Centre from Arrecife, relieving pressure on the roundabouts by an estimated 9,000 vehicles a day.

Another key objective is to improve pedestrian and cycle access between Playa Honda and its industrial zone. For this there will be a cycle path, separated from the road by a green verge, as well as a broad pavement for pedestrians. The underpass will be lit naturally by skylights.

Buses will now stop on the LZ-2 above the underpass, relieving more pressure on the roundabouts.

FOOD WASTAGE LAW

A new Spanish law attempting to cut down on food wastage will change the way many hotels and restaurants handle left-over food.

Each person in Spain throws away around 30 kilogrammes of food a year, according to figures for 2020. The new law will attempt to reduce food waste by making it compulsory to introduce waste prevention strategies at every stage of the food chain.

The law will require restaurants to allow customers to take any food they paid for but have not consumed at no extra cost (buffets excluded), and they must provide appropriate packaging for this.

Hotels, restaurants and other establishments will be expected to have an agreement with local food banks, where possible, and will donate food that is in good condition but is unlikely to be consumed by customers.

GREEN TAX EXEMPTION



Canarian President Ángel Víctor Torres has announced that the Canaries will be excluded from a new "green tax" on flights, which is soon to be approved by the European Parliament, due to the islands' status as an ultra-peripheral community.

The green tax law has not been passed yet, but Torres claimed that an amendment exempting outermost communities had already been drafted, and said that the chances that it would not be included in the directive were "almost non-existent."

Last month, the Lanzarote Business Confederation warned that the new tax could be "devastating" for Canarian tourism.

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By appointment only Tuesday & Thursday 9am - 1pm <u>Playa Blanca Office</u> Call: 928 815 262 Calle La Peña nº10, (above Foto Event) 35580, Playa Blanca - Yaiza - Lanzarote

By appointment only

Puerto del Carmen Office Call: 928 815 262 Calle San Carlos 1, Nº. 26 Local 2 - Pto. del Carmen (Opp. Lidl beside Hiperdino Express and Tias Land Registry Office)

PLASTIC CONTAMINATION

A new study by the University of Las Palmas has found that 9 out of 10 shearwater birds had plastic in their stomachs.

After the University researchers found plastic in the stomachs of dolphins, turtles and jellyfish, they were not surprised to find that shearwaters also faced the same problem. However, they did not expect that 9 out of 10 examined birds would have plastic present in their stomachs.

88% of shearwaters were found to have plastics in their stomach, and the average number of plastic fragments found in shearwaters was seven, mostly fishing lines.

PETROL SUBSIDY EXTENDED

Spain's Prime Minister, Pedro Sánchez, last month confirmed the extension of anti-crisis measures to combat the cost of living crisis. Among the measures which will be extended until the end of September is the 20-cent subsidy on a litre of petrol.

As well as the petrol subsidy, other measures that will be extended for three months include a reduction in electricity tax, an increase in the minimum basic income and a ban on rent increases over 2^{0} %.

WIND PARK REJECTED

The Canarian Government has upheld an appeal by Lanzarote's Cabildo opposing the construction of a wind park in Las Caletas, near Costa Teguise.

The 6 megaWatt Vista del Mar Wind Farm was originally approved by the Canarian Goverment in October last year, but this was immediately opposed by the Cabildo for its "impact on the landscape of an especially vulnerable island."

"MODERNIST HOUSE" PROTECTED

The seafront building known as the "Casa Modernista" (Modernist House) at Caleta de Famara is one of the most remarkable examples of architecture on Lanzarote. Curving outwards and decorated with plaster relief decorations of jellyfish, seashells, octopuses and moray eels, it was built by Luis Ramírez as a summer home before his death in 1950, and is clearly influenced by the art deco movement and the works

been matched by its words, with virtually no progress on renewables in recent years.

"We wish to increase the percentage of electricity

generated by renewable sources drastically,"

the Cabildo continued, "But we also think it's necessary to control which areas these type of

The Cabildo's words on renewables have hardly

installations can be located."

of Antoni Gaudí in Barcelona.

On his death, Ramírez left the house to the Diocese of the Canary Islands on the condition that it would be kept in a good state. However, the building is now in an advanced state of deterioration due to decades of neglect.

The declaration of the house as an "asset of cultural interest" means that it will receive official protection. Meanwhile, the Diocese of the Canary Islands, unwilling to lose the asset, is reported to have commissioned a renovation of the building while the Canarian Government is making plans to restore the façade of the house.



ISLAND INFO

TIME FOR TRACY

On August 12th, 2021, 17-year-old Christian passed away from LAFORA, a rare and incurable degenerative genetic disease. Despite his strength and courage, his parents Giovanna and Lucio had to provide 24-hour care for their son, who suffered from seizures and severe problems swallowing food and walking. Apart from the emotional and physical cost, the experience also cost huge amounts of money.



Just six months later, Christian's younger sister Tracy began to suffer the same symptoms as her brother, and has now also been diagnosed with LAFORA. Tracy is a teenager, a keen athlete and a sweet girl described as a "hurricane" by her mother.

It's almost impossible to imagine a crueller blow for a family which has already suffered the worst of nightmares. For Tracy, who knows the nature of what lies ahead; for her sister Carmen, who faces the loss of another sibling, and for two devastated parents who no longer have the financial safety net that helped to make Christian's final months a little more bearable.

Applications for support for dependent persons take time – time that the family do not have. That's why any financial support received now will help to buy quality time for Tracy and allow the rest of her family to accompany her in the best way they can on her path.

The smallest contribution adds up. Current account: Lucio Anastasio ES93 0049 3975 2621 1409 9920 SWIFT: BSCHESMMXXX Email contact: fullcleancanary@gmail.com

SUMMER AT NORTYSUR

From 25th of June until 1st August, Nortysur will be presenting its summer catalogue of brand new summer stock items. If you're thinking of spending summer outdoors, and are looking for garden or patio furniture or any other outdoor items, a trip to Nortysur is a must, and there'll also be plenty of special summer offers!

NEW TEAM AT THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Lanzarote's Chamber of Commerce elected its new President last month. José Valle will head a team which is 50% female as he takes on the task of steering the chamber through it's third term since it came into existence in 2005.

At the first meeting of the Chamber, Valle called for all present to "continue with the high level of activity that we've achieved up until now in order to confront the crucial challenges that lie ahead of us." Valle also offered a tribute to José Torres Fuentes, the outgoing president.

AGREEMENT ON DRIVING LICENCES

British Ambassador Hugh Elliott has announced that the UK and Spanish governments have finally reached agreement on the driving licence issue.

However, it will take time to formalise the agreement, including approval by Spain's Council of Ministers. Ambassador Elliott

JANET SIGNS OFF

Janet Anscombe has announced that she is bringing her Haven Tenerife blog to an end. Janet's blog has been a

clear-eyed and important source of reliable information for British expats on the Canaries for several years, and her efforts were recognised earlier this year when she was awarded an MBE.

In her final posts, Janet made a passionate appeal for the world to come to its senses with regard to the environmental threats facing it. We fully endorse her appeal, thank her for her years of work and wish her a happy retirement.

PLAYA BLANCA GOLF

Ronan Clarke writes: "Playa Blanca Golf Society membership continues to grow, with members enjoying golf at both Costa Teguise and Tías on every Tuesday and Sunday. These games are played in a competitive but friendly environment.

We have recently taken delivery of new Society polo shirts, working with Waiwurrie Clothing S.L in Playa Honda.

We entertain Corralejo G.S on 5th August at Costa Teguise G.C, and will be travelling At the Gazette we'd also like to thank José Torres for his collaboration with the magazine over recent years, and wish him the best.



predicted that British residents affected, who have been forbidden from driving with a UKissued licence since May "could be back on the road by late July."

The Ambassador provides weekly updates on the issue at the British Embassy's Facebook page Brits in Spain.

UNDERWATER WORKSHOPS

Rubicon Diving at Puerto Calero will be hosting two fascinating workshops this July.

On 6th July at 4.30pm the subject will be **Biomimetics** – the study of how humans can copy nature – with a special focus on marine life.

The following week, on 14th July, there'll be a workshop on **Angel Sharks** – the amazing, endangered sharks that are a common sight for divers in the Canaries.

Contact Rubicon Diving on 928 849544 or email calero@rubicondiving.com to find out more.

to Fuerteventura on 14th and 15th October to play Mustang Sally's G.S. at Elba G.C. The battle for the Lanzarote Ryder Cup Challenge Trophy will also take place in November at Costa Teguise G.C against Las Palmeras G.S, when we hope to retain the trophy we won last year.

Finally many congratulations to Paul Tracey who had a hole in one on the 17th at Tías on 7th April.

If you are interested in joining Playa Blanca G.S please contact Tony Corkindale on 0044 7971 260212 or tonycorkindale@yahoo.com

A GONG FOR LARRY



Congratulations to Larry Yaskiel, who was awarded a British Empire Medal for services to the British Community in Lanzarote in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, published last month.

Larry Yaskiel moved to Lanzarote after a busy career in the music business in 1981, establishing the Lancelot Island Journal shortly afterwards.

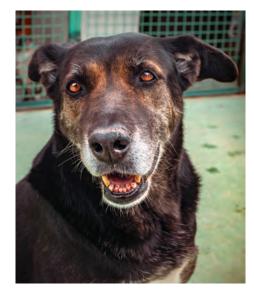
British Ambassador Hugh Elliott said "I am delighted that such a longstanding and important cultural ambassador has been honoured for his work."

Larry Yaskiel remarked: "It is humbling to receive the British Empire Medal from Her Majesty the Queen for basically carrying out a job which gives me such pleasure. I would never have reached this stage without the solid support of my beloved wife, Liz, who has been my gracious partner in every aspect of my life including the production of Lancelot Island Journal from the very beginning."

CAT AND DOG OF THE MONTH

Bolivara is the grand dame of SARA. This twelveand-a-half-year old female Pastor/Bardino-mix has been at the shelter for four years. She doesn't get on so well with other dogs, but loves people! She is affectionate, playful and a joy to walk. Yet she keeps on getting overlooked. Can you give her a home? Find out more about her at www. saraprotectora.org or book an appointment on 928 173 417 (English spoken). Dog walkers welcome from 10.30-13.00 Monday-Saturday (Saturday by appointment only). If it is your first visit, please bring ID.

Katmandú is a friendly, two-year-old white male cat who has had his ears removed due to skin cancer (sadly a common issue for white cats in sunny places such as Lanzarote). A lovely boy, he is fully recovered and would live a full and happy life in a new home. He is available now for



adoption from SARA. Find out how to meet him and about adoptions at www.saraprotectora.org.

There are also limited places for people to help with socialising cats. Email info@sara-lanzarote.eu.



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The days of smoking on beaches look increasingly numbered. However, Lanzarote is lagging behind much of Spain and the Canaries in this respect.

> Spain leads the world in many antismoking initiatives. Smoking is now forbidden in all indoor public places, and anti-tobacco campaigners are aiming to extend the ban to outdoor areas. They claim this will reduce passive smoking, and also improve the environment.

> The Playas Sin Humo programme currently lists 61 beaches on the Canaries where smoking is forbidden. It is one of the initiatives of the Canarian Government to cut down on smoking on the islands. However, not one beach on Lanzarote is listed.

> A visit to any tourist beach in Lanzarote will confirm that plenty of smokers never bother to dispose of their cigarette ends. This is the case even on beaches that have provided ashtrays for smokers to use. Previous

campaigns to request beachgoers not to smoke are now being replaced by by-laws and fines.

The decision to ban smoking on beaches is currently up to local councils. For example, if you smoke on Las Palmas's famous Playa de las Canteras, you can receive a fine of up to €300, but in the resort of Mogán in the south of Gran Canaria, smoking can cost you €400 and throwing cigarette ends away up to €1,800.

This may change in the near future when the Spanish Government issues its new Anti-Tobacco Law, which is currently being drafted. The law already includes plans to ban smoking in cars in which children or pregnant women are travelling, and to sell tobacco products in neutral packaging, but the government is being put under increasing pressure to include a ban on smoking on beaches and the terraces of bars.

While proposals to ban smoking in the open air are widely supported in Spain, any such change may come as a surprise to tourists from other countries, where smoking on beaches is not regulated. In the UK, for example, only one beach, in Pembrokeshire, Wales, is "smoke free".

Canaries: cheap fag paradise

The price of tobacco is another important factor in the amount of smokers in Spain. While a packet of 20 Marlboro will cost over $\notin 15 \ (\pounds 13.50)$ in the UK, the price on mainland Spain is less than a third of that at just under $\notin 5$.

Prices are even lower on the Canaries, a special economic zone which is allowed to set lower VAT and duties. On these islands, British tourists can smoke four cigarettes for the price of one at home. However, the effect of these low prices on Spanish health is also clear – Spain has far more smokers than the UK, and its health services are paying the price.

Recently become resident in Lanzarote? Looking for financial advice?

If you are new to Spain, you need to understand how the local tax and succession regime affects you and your family, as well as what opportunities are available to improve your situation and protect your wealth. Blevins Franks has been providing effective tax and estate planning solutions to British expatriates for 45 years, along with investment and pensions advice.

Our local advisers have a wealth of experience advising expatriates in Spain. To benefit from their expertise, simply contact your local office to arrange a consultation (which can be by phone or video conference), and we can help you adjust your financial planning for your new life in Lanzarote. Talk to the people who know 928 433 411 canaryisles@blevinsfranks.com

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HAWK PATROL



Lanzarote's César Manrique Airport is one of the island's most important employers, with hundreds of staff visible at any given time. But there are ten workers who passengers rarely get to see – one man, eight falcons and an eagle who keep the airport grounds safer for passengers every single day.

> anzarote Airport's Fauna Control Centre is based in a small building on the far edge of the airport grounds, close enough to the airport's runway so that our words are drowned out by engine noise every so often. However, the nine hawks at the Fauna Control Centre are well used to the racket, perched on small posts to which they are tethered by leather straps. Some of the birds are unhooded, while the ones that are more prone to be nervous by our presence wear small hoods that block their vision and instantly calm them.

The peregrine falcons are perhaps the most striking of the hawks, with their gorgeous black-and-white barred chest plumage and yellow-ringed eyes. This bird is the fastest animal on the surface of the earth, and can reach up to 300 kms an hour when diving. At Lanzarote Airport there is a male peregrine called 22, and two females, Timanfaya and Atmosfera.

The Saker falcons are larger and similarlycoloured – a male named Rubio and a female, Troglodita. Then there are the Harris's Hawks, larger falcons whose wings are a deep chestnut shade. Unlike the peregrines and sakers, these hawks aren't native to Europe and come from central and South America. The birds at Lanzarote are a male, Unicornio, and two females Briana and Pandora.

Finally, alone in a large separate cage, and making a lot of noise, is Alaíz, a large and imposing golden eagle. All these birds are handled, cared for and adored by Steven Mountain, the falconer at the airport, who says "This isn't just a job, it's a passion."

Although the unit at Lanzarote has existed since 2005, these birds have been here for just two years, and were acquired from a specialist breeder on mainland Spain. Since then, they have successfully bred one chick at the unit.

Steven takes one of the birds out first thing every morning and once again later in the evening, when they follow a well-rehearsed route around the airport grounds. The lighter, agile peregrines love to ride thermal





currents of hot air up into the sky, and to avoid this they are usually used in the morning when the air is cooler. The heavier birds get their turn later in the day.

The main risk of bird strikes at Lanzarote comes from seagulls, and keeping them away is also one of the reasons why fishing boats are prohibited in the sea near the airport. However, the falcons also keep pigeons away, and other local birds of prey such as kestrels are also deterred by these much larger predators.

The main aim of the daily flights is deterrence – one glimpse of a predator and other birds tend to make themselves scarce and flee. Mostly, the birds fly to mark this territory, but they are not tame animals, and if they see a bird, they will hunt and, perhaps, kill.

Steven calls the birds back with a whistle and by swinging a lure. Occasionally, and especially when a hunt has happened, a bird will not return, but Steven doesn't worry. Each bird is fitted with a GPS tracker, which means he can locate it easily. The airport is their territory, and they do not leave.

Steven has one colleague, who takes over when he's not working, but this is a specialist job and there is a strong link between the falconer and the hawk, a bond of trust which takes a long time to establish.

Recently, there have been reports that the falcons at many Spanish airports could be replaced by drones. However, Steven isn't worried "They don't work," he says.

BIRD MEETS PLANE

When a plane hits a bird at high speed, it can be disastrous for both. Bird strikes have been a serious hazard since the beginning of aviation – Orville Wright hit a bird on the second ever manned flight in 1905. Globally, bird strikes cost over a billion euros a year, have caused several major accidents and have killed more than 200 people since 1988.

In the 1960s, European airports began to experiment, using birds of prey to deter birds from airports. The Spanish naturalist and TV presenter Félix Rodríguez de la Fuente was among those responsible for setting up the first falconry units in Spain, and Fauna Control Units that use falcons are now present at more than 95% of Spanish airports.





BURIED TREASURE





▲ Highlighted are the gothic 'B' marks that researchers believe could be evidence that Lanzarote's first governor issued his own currency.

 Yaiza Mayor Oscar Noda visits the dig at Papagayo after the discovery.

Researchers speculate that the mark might mean that Bethencourt did, in fact, exercise his royal prerogative to issue coins bearing his initial. One thing is certain – no similar discoveries have ever been made in the Canaries or Spain.

The coins were discovered by teams of researchers from the Universities of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria and La Laguna in Tenerife, directed by Esther Chávez and María del Cristo González, and are of such importance that funding is now guaranteed for further excavations.

POTTERY CLUES



The researchers have also found traces of ceramics that can be identified as belonging to colonial settlers as well as the aboriginal Maho inhabitants of Lanzarote. The findings, which date from the late 14th and early 15th centuries, have already led them to believe that both communities inhabited the settlement, although independently of each other with the natives probably acting as guides and menial workers for the conquerers.





A depiction of Enrique II can be seen on the upper coin, and the three-turreted castle of Castilla is seen below.

Playa Mujeres is the largest of the spectacular chain of beaches known as Papagayo, on the southern tip of Lanzarote. And just behind the beach is where one of the most important archeological discoveries of recent years was made last year.

Behind Playa Mujeres is the archeological site known as San Marcial de Rubicón – the first settlement established on the island after French conquistadores set foot on the island of Lanzarote, and the site where the oldest coins ever discovered on the Canaries were unearthed last year and presented to the public last month.

Eight of the coins are "crowns" minted in the reigns of the Castilian Kings Enrique II "The Bastard" and Enrique III "The Infirm", the latter of whom was on the throne in 1402 when the conquest of the Canaries commenced.

But what has really excited researchers is a mark found on all the coins which resembles a letter B in the gothic style. Historical sources have already stated that King Enrique III granted the Norman mercenary Jean de Bethencourt the right to mint coins on the islands, something he was only prevented from doing by the absence of metals on the islands.

M
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 NSTER CHOICE!

Monster Radio is where music lives, and in the evenings and weekend you're invited to listen to a huge range of exciting sounds, chat and opinions on the station's specialist shows.

Monster Radio broadcasts live from Tías for 110 hours every week, and the station's daytime shows are already an institution on Lanzarote. From 7.30am to 5pm each day, the station's fantastic four DJs Phil Dale, Scotty Silver, Steve Wells and Mikey J, rule the airwaves with music, chat, news and competitions.

But it's in the evenings and the weekends when the variety and passion of the station really comes into its own, with dozens of different shows catering to every taste. These are shows presented by local Lanzarote presenters who all share a passion for what they do. The choice is huge, and it's all yours.

Some of these unique shows are about much more than the music - there's Sally Walker's Happy Health Show on Thursdays, for example; the Footie Fan Show on Saturday afternoon; or AJ's shows on Monday evening and Sunday afternoon, which combine in-depth chat with information, requests and great music.

Photo below: Monster Radio Girls.





Monster Presenters evenings

Then, of course, there are specialist music shows. And on an island like Lanzarote. where the resorts are always buzzing with music, Monster does a fantastic job of reflecting the varied tastes of the island in a way that's accessible for everyone.

Monster's motto is "Where Music Lives", and the evenings and weekend are the times when music really comes home on

Monster, with shows covering all bases from heavy rock to reggae, dance classics, indie, soul, 60s, 70s and 80s sounds, country and jazz, and much, much more.

These shows are put together by local presenters and DJs who know their stuff, and who are always willing to take requests. Many of these shows, such as Sunny Blue's Monster Blues show on Tuesday evenings, or Claudio's Nomads of Rock on Monday night, which both recently celebrated their fifth anniversaries, are legends on their own wavelength.

There's so much variety on Monster that its impossible for us to cover the full range of shows here. So head to Monster's Facebook page, or even better, just tune your radio to 99.9 FM and listen for yourself!



Monster Radio The Little Radio Station with a Big Heart!

anzarote

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DAVID'S DETOURS TEGUISE – THE LIVING PAST



Tour guide David Penney takes us on an easy stroll through the history of Lanzarote's ancient capital, Teguise.

We start the walk at the Cepsa gasolinera (petrol station) on the LZ30 just outside of Teguise, the old capital of Lanzarote.

There are a few other options to start this walk but I have chosen this one because it offers the most simple route, without too many confusing turns. Also, there is usually plenty of parking at the side of the gasolinera, unless you come on market day.

The minor road immediately opposite the gasolinera is called the Avenida de las Amapolas, and you'll need to continue along it until the end, bearing right and carrying on as it crosses Calle Malvarosa and turns into a dirt track

Within a few minutes of walking you will see a sign post indicating no vehicles permitted unless they belong to residents. Take the dirt track to the right of the signpost heading over towards some structures built out of volcanic rock.

Walk past the big circular aljibe (water tank) on your left, then cut up towards the first big structure. You are now in front of one of a series of renovated lime kilns, known as caleros. Before cement was introduced to Lanzarote, these kilns were vital for construction on Lanzarote. The lime was used to seal the volcanic rock and earth walls which then made them wind and water tight. Lime also provided the whitewash that has become one of the symbols of identity of this island, and, as a key element in soap production, it was also an important export for the island.

Lime was created by burning the barrilla (glasswort) that is still found all over the island. Once eagerly harvested, dried and burnt by locals, it now grows undisturbed – long replaced by industrial chemicals.

Over the years when I have been exploring off the beaten track I often discover similar lime kilns in rural areas. Some are abandoned but others have been renovated. The name of the marina Puerto Calero reflects this trade. José Calero, who built the resort, was a constructor,

WALK INFO

Distance: About 6 kms

Time: 90-120 minutes

Walk type: Linear, easy, non-challenging level terrain.

Public transport: Lines 07, 33 and 51 take you to Teguise.





"BEFORE

but his name shows that his ancestors made their living from lime.

There is an entrance in front of the

kiln which is how workers accessed it to heat the lime, and if you walk round the right of the kiln to the back you will see some steps which lead up to the top of the chimney (not advisable if you are scared of heights, or it is a windy day).

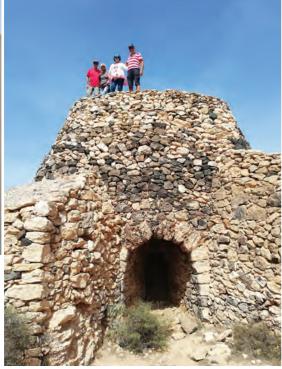
After exploring the other two kilns nearby and taking several photos, we started to head back. As you are walking back on the dirt track look over to the right and you will see a quaint little old church nestling on the hillside. The name of this tiny church is Ermita de San

Rafael, which takes its name from the hill in which it sits.

CEMENT WAS INTRODUCED TO LANZAROTE, THESE KILNS WERE VITAL TO CONSTRUCTION" The ancient settlement here was founded by Maciot de Bethencort in 1418. The second Norman ruler of the island following the conquest by his uncle Jean

to as the island's capital.

conquest by his uncle Jean de Bethencort in 1402, Maciot is said to have married the Princess Teguise, and established the town she gave her name



The existence of this simple little church has been documented since 1674, and was attended by the local farmers in the nearby area.

We rejoin the track and make our way back to the cars.

For further information about walks around Lanzarote please contact, DAVID Penney via **email:** lanza888@yahoo.com OR via WhatsApp message 0034 649389888



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Prize Crossword





LANZAROTE

T INTE

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11							12		13
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	15		16						
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ACROSS

- 1. Spanish winery (6)
- 1. Heated, like mulled wine (6)
- 9. Orchard fruit (5)
- **10.** Feminine, curvaceous (7)
- 11. Glass container for wine (8)
- 12. Disco group led by Nile Rodgers and Bernard Edwards (4)
- **13.** Gramophone (6,6)
- **18.** Loss of liquid (7)
- 20. Spanish word for 'drinks' or 'cups' (5)
- **22.** Stealing (5)
- 23. Lanzarote radio station on 99.9 FM (7)
- 21. Spanish fortified wine (6)
- 23. Coldplay's first global hit in 2000 (6)

Last month's answers Across: 1. Charles 5. Cocoa 8. MMCCL 9. Perfume 10. October 11. Lycra 12. Winston 15. Pried 16. Admit 18. Rosalía 19. Tarantino 20. Sia 21. Bleach 22. Sixty Down: 1. Commonwealth 2. Ascot 3. Lilibet 4. Super 5. Coral 6. Churchill 7. Alexandra Mary 13. Numeral 14. Norwich 15. Pistols 17. Tonga 20. Sex

There's a wine theme to this month's crossword, so pour yourself a glass of local plonk for inspiration and get solving. The first correct answer out of the hat will win a bottle of wine from La Geria, in the heart of volcano country, and another lucky winner will get to spend a €10 voucher at the excellent Hankey Panky's in the CC Montaña Tropical, Puerto del Carmen.

The victorious, happy and glorious winners of last month's Jubilee crossword were Julie Remfry, who wins the wine, and Steve and Eirwen, who get a €10 Hankey Panky's voucher. Contact us for your prizes!

DOWN

- 1. Spirit made of distilled wine (6)
- **2.** ... Mode, UK band who sang Enjoy The Silence (7)
- **3.** Inexperienced, ecologicallyminded (5)
- **3.** Fighting force (4)
- **6.** 12 times a year, like Gazette Life magazine (7)
- 7. A wine with low sugar content(3)
- 8. 1983 Eurythmics hit (5,6)
- **13.** Wine lover's essential tool (9)
- **11.** Spanish port resort in the Valencian Community (8)
- **16.** "Wishing", 1978 hit by Rose Royce (2,1,4)
- **17.** Tall, narrow glasses for champagne (6)
- **19.** Singer who told us "I Drink Wine" last year (5)
- **21.** Large, coloured part of a flower (5)

SUDOKU

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7		9			5	8		
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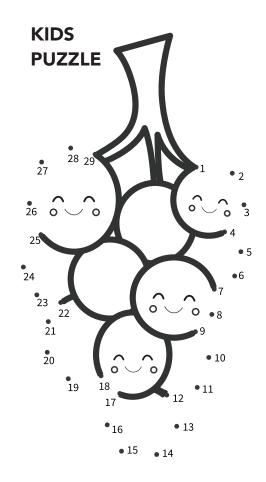
WORD SEARCH

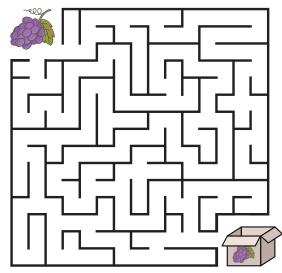
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World Wines

SAUVIGNON CHIANTI MERLOT CHARDONNAY RIESLING PROSECCO CHAMPAGNE MOSCATO MARSALA SHERRY ZINFADEL GAMAY

VERDEJO RIOJA PRIMITIVO SYRAH MALBEC CAVA







LET'S TALK WINE



This month, my feature has a distinct "wine" feel to it, so let's look at a little Spanish 'wine' trivia.

White wine is *vino blanco* (not forgetting our V is often sounded as a B - i.e. BEAN-oh blanco). Rose is *vino rosado*.

Red wine is generally referred to as *vino tinto* – rather than rojo (red). That's because they often used the 'syrup' from boiling up red grape skins to 'stain' white wine, thus creating a dark rose wine rather than a traditional full-bodied red.

When ordering a glass of wine, we refer to *a copa* (a stemmed wineglass) rather than *a vaso* (a tumbler).

DO YOU KNOW WHAT IS THE SPANISH WORD FOR...?

- 1) Corkscrew
- 2) Cork
- 3) Grape
- 4) Wine cellar

See right below for answers.

Raise your glass!

In Spanish, a toast is a brindis (BRIN- dees) and the verb toast is brindar. There are a couple of ways to say "cheers" in Spanish.

One of them is "salud" (health), literally meaning, "good health to you" Interestingly "salud" is also used when someone sneezes, for exactly the same reason, just as in English we say 'Bless you'. A slightly longer Spanish toast, with a great sentiment is "Salud, amor, pesetas y tiempo para disfrutarlos" (pesetas were the Spanish currency before the Euro coin arrived). It means 'Health, love, money and the time to enjoy them!'

Another one is "Chinchin", which many think resembles the clashing of glasses, but it actually comes from Chinese!

¡Arriba, abajo, al centro y pa' dentro!

This toast literally means "up, down, centre and in" and it comes with a little routine. You say "arriba" raising your glass up; then "abajo", lowering it. Then say "al dentro" stretching your arm to the centre of the table or circle of drinking friends, and yell "pa' dentrooooo" taking the glass to your lips and drinking.

Don't toast with an empty glass or water – both are thought to bring bad luck!

INVITING SOMEONE FOR A GLASS OF WINE

¿ Te gustaría tomar una copa de vino? Would you like a glass of wine?

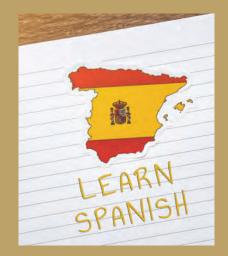
or listen out for:

Te invito a tomar una copa de vino. This means they are inviting you i.e. they are going to pay.



If you enjoyed this mini-challenge you might like to try my Spanish Vocabulary Puzzle Books – a fun way to learn and practice new everyday 'words' – go to www. thespanishcoach.net/collections/ shop

Follow the link to my online shop: www.thespanishcoach.net/ collections/shop



For more Spanish hints and tips, follow me on Facebook: SPANISH COACH

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4) Bodega (bo-DAY-ga) 2) Corchos (saca-COR-chos) 2) Uoa (OO-ba... as in tuba!) 3) Uoa 2) WAWERS

Action on animal abuse



ADEMAL IS A DIFFERENT KIND OF ANIMAL CHARITY. IT ACTS AS A WATCHDOG – CAREFULLY RECORDING AND REPORTING CASES OF ANIMAL CRUELTY AND USING THE LAW TO ENSURE THAT THINGS CHANGE. WE SPOKE TO BIRGIT AND MARLEN OF ADEMAL LAST MONTH – TWO YEARS AFTER THE ASSOCIATION WAS LAUNCHED.

Can you remind us what Ademal do again?

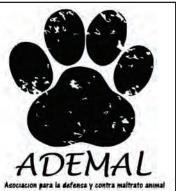
The aim of Ademal is to use the law to its most powerful effect. The first thing we do is gather evidence of cruelty, and when we're satisfied we have a case, we'll issue a denuncia. If that is not answered within a month, we'll officially request information why, and after three months the case will be handed to our lawyer.

We try and make it as easy as possible

for the police and local authorities to take action.

How is their response?

Often non-existent, but it varies. Tías, for example, is the only municipality which hasn't approved local animal welfare laws yet. We've had better results in Yaiza and San Bartolomé. The problem is not the councillors, usually. It's the technical people who work for them not getting round to doing their job.



 Laika spent years chained up in bad conditions in Haría. After Ademal reported the case, the owner gave Laika up and Ademal paid for her to be flown to a new home in Germany.

Do you take animals in?

No. We don't have the facilities, and that's not our aim. We work with plenty of people who do, though, such as Lanzanimal and La Casa de Estrellas in Guatiza. A lot of what we do involves working with other organisations – we've received assistance with denuncias from PACMA, the Spanish party against animal abuse, and also have a good relationship with Seprona, the Guardia Civil wildlife department.

What are your main achievements in the two years of existence?

There have been plenty. We've seen some owners improve the living conditions of their animals after pressure; we've had others confiscated and managed to give them a better life elsewhere, and we're about to come to the end of our first big court case. If we win that, I think we'll be taken even more seriously.

How can people help you?

At the moment we're not looking for volunteers. That can be challenging, upsetting work, and you're exposed to horrific cruelty over a long period. We're always happy to welcome new members, though, and the sub of $\notin 5$ a month comes in useful. Other donations are also needed we have a number of cases pending, and they will cost money. And we always need people to just spread the word, tell people about us on social media etc.

We run a market in Arrecife on the C/Alcalde Ginés de la Hoz, opposite the Bingo Hall, that's open from 11am to 2pm on weekdays and 10am to 3pm on Saturday.

You can find Ademal on Facebook and Instagram, contact them at ademalinfo@gmail.com or WhatsApp on 674654178

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THE TOUGHEST CHALLENGE

Johan Wagenaar and Ilse Verlaan from Bike Sensations both took part in Lanzarote's Ironman earlier this year. For Johan, who has completed seven Ironman races, four of them on Lanzarote, it was nothing new; but for Ilse, it was her first time. We chatted to them about the experience.

What was the race like this year?

Johan: It was tough. Wind is the most important factor in the cycling stage. It's fine if it's behind you, but this year it was against us all the time – every climb, up to Timanfaya, to Mancha Blanca and the Mirador, the wind was against us.

What about the heat and sunshine?

Johan: That depends on the athlete. Some prefer cool weather, but others like it. I'm used to it, so I see it as an advantage.

How much preparation did you both do?

Johan: I started training about five weeks ahead of the event.



"The last lap is nothing but fun. It's a great feeling." - Johan Wagenaar

Ilse: As a beginner, I took a lot more time, and started training at least six months ahead. I've never done a full triathlon before – the longest race I'd done up to now was the Ocean Lava Race last year. I knew it was going to be tough – everyone on the island knows about the Ironman – so I made sure I was prepared.

Which part of the race was the worst for you, Ilse?

Ilse: The marathon, absolutely. That's when the tiredness really catches up with you. I never felt that I was going to give up, but the support of the spectators really helped me on. The swimming was better than I thought it would be, but I think the

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staggered start helped a lot with that.

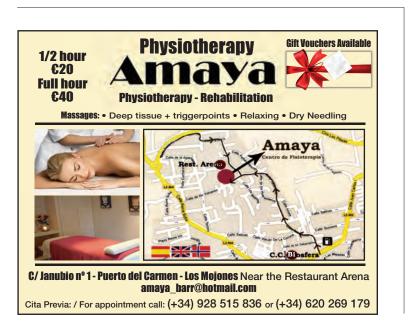
HAIR & BEAUTY

I'm not one of the elite athletes - it took me 16 hours to finish the race, but it's still a huge emotional rush to finish a challenge like that. I was so proud afterwards.

Are the spectators important?

Johan: Absolutely. They cheer you on and cheer you up, and if you start walking, they're the ones who'll urge you to pick up your pace. This year the route was changed so that the marathon went to Arrecife, and that meant lots of stretches with no supporters, which makes it a bit of a drag.

Ilse: They were at Playa Honda, which was great. The day after the race I was tired and very stiff, but I went out for a walk in Puerto del Carmen wearing the t-shirt, and



"The support of the spectators really helped me on." - Ilse Verlaan

plenty of people congratulated me. It's a great feeling to finish the race. There are other races on Lanzarote, but the Ironman is the Ironman.

What were your favourite parts of the race, Ilse?

Ilse: The start. That's a really exciting spectacle. And, of course, the last few kilometres before the finishing line. It's amazing to have all those people supporting you.

Johan: That last lap is nothing but fun. It's a great feeling.

You both work at Bike Sensations, so you must have been pretty busy before the race, too.

Johan: All our bikes were hired out for the race and we assembled 90 more. Athletes bring their bikes dismantled in boxes, and as they've paid so much to get over here and take part, they want to be absolutely sure that everything's in the best working order possible.

Ilse: I took three days off before the race just to get into the right frame of mind.

You're both out taking bike tours around the island all the time. Is the situation on the island improving for cyclists?

Johan: Yes and no. It's good that cyclists have been given priority on routes such as the side road from Tahiche to Guatiza and the smaller road from Yaiza to Playa Blanca, but that last road is in a terrible state. I'd love to be able to chat to the Cabildo President and tell her about dangerous situations such as the road in Mancha Blanca.

I also think it's crazy that they've banned cyclists from the Femés road to Playa Blanca. It should be the other way round - it's actually a little faster and saves fuel for cars to take the main road.

What's next?

Johan: I'm thinking of trying one of the Trail Bike challenges - the Haría or Tinajo Xtreme, for example. Maybe not this year, but soon.

Ilse: I'm looking forward to the Ocean Lava again.

CRAFTSMANSHIP IN A



This month, Lanzarote will begin its wine harvest – the earliest to take place anywhere in Europe. Grapes will be picked from more than a thousand plots located all over the island: in back gardens, in the craters of volcanos, in the bizarre landscape of La Geria and in the malpais (badlands) of the north.

> The result is wines that are rapidly earning a reputation way beyond the Canary Islands for excellence and innovation; bottles that regularly win awards at some of the most important wine contests in the world and, most importantly of all, reflect the traditions and culture of Lanzarote more than perhaps any other products. As wine expert Cristina Alcalá said recently, Lanzarote wine is "craftsmanship in a bottle."

> That craftsmanship is mainly based around one grape – the malvasía volcánica – which has been cultivated here for centuries, and which local growers know backwards. It is this grape that

provides the majority of the crisp, fragrant young white wines for which Lanzarote is famed.

But there also some excellent young reds and rosés, as well as splendid sparkling wines - and Lanzarote has never been afraid to satisfy its sweet tooth through dulces and dessert wines.

Wine is also a central part of the island's tourist appeal – responsible for unforgettable landscapes and fascinating tradition, as well as the perfect accompaniment to the perfect holiday meal on a sundappled terrace.

Over the next pages, we take a closer look at every aspect of enjoying Lanzarote wine, and lift a glass to this year's harvest. Salud!



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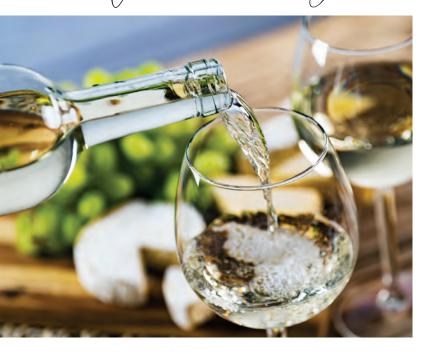
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LANZAROTE



Look north from the La Geria bodega to the horizon and you'll see an unending sea of volcanic ash and gravel, dotted with the horse-shoe shaped walls that are the hallmark of this landscape and stretching towards the mystical volcanoes in the distance.



This beautiful view is less than 250 years old. Before 1730 you'd have seen fields of wheat, peas and barley, and several small villages. This was all buried by the massive eruptions that threw up those distant volcanoes and shook the island for six years.

For decades, no one worked the ash and lava. Then, one day, someone dug a deep pit in the layer of ash and gravel and planted a vine in the soil that lay beneath. Lanzarote had discovered its new calling.

Today, Lanzarote has its own denomination of origin, and the island's winemakers have been progressing in leaps and bounds to produce some of the most unique wines in Spain. The island's wine trade is already miles ahead of what it was 20 years ago, and things only seem to be getting better.

Here's your guide to consuming local wine.

TYPES OF WINE

These are the main types of wine you'll find on Lanzarote.

Seco: Dry white (with < 5 gr of residual sugar per litre).

Semi-seco: Medium-dry (with < 12 gr of residual sugar per litre).

Semi-dulce: Medium (with < 45 gr of residual sugar per litre).

Dulce: Sweet (> 45 gr residual sugar per litre.)

As you can see, a semi-dulce wine is considerably sweeter than the two drier categories.

Espumoso: Lanzarote offers a handful of sparkling wines in the Brut (dry) style.

Moscatel: The most common dessert wine on the island, sweet and complex.

Rosado: Rosé wines are popular on Lanzarote – their delicate pink colouring and refreshing flavour is well-suited to light seafood meals.

Tinto: Red wine. Most reds on Lanzarote are joven (young), matured for less than a year, although longer-oak-matured crianzas and the occasional reserva can also be found.



Several types of grape are grown on Lanzarote, but one strain in particular defines the island – malvasía volcánica.

Malvasía volcánica: The aromatic malvasía grape reaches its most unique expression in Lanzarote, where an entirely new cultivation method was invented to coax sweetness and flavour from the volcanic ashes that covered the island 240 years ago.

These vines are the only ones in Europe to have escaped the phylloxera blight of the 19th century, and have never been grafted with American rootstock. The average age of a malvasía vine on Lanzarote is 30 years, but many are well over a hundred years old.

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"Cultivating and producing wines are what Lanzaroteños do best."



Other white grapes grown here include the fascinating Diego and lesser-known Canarian strains such as Burrablanca and Breval.

Listán negro: The tight-packed bunches of Listán negro are the most widely-used black grape on Lanzarote, and are used for most red and rosé wines. Red wine production is increasing, and growers have been making huge strides in recent years.

Listán negro grapes are also used for blanc de noirs white wines, such as those by Martinón and Vulcano.

Other black grapes grown here include Negramoll, Syrah and Caubernet Sauvignon.

Moscatel: A complex, sweet grape that is harvested late to increase sugar content and used for dessert wines. The Pedro Ximénez and Listán Blanco grapes are also used for sweet or fortified wines.







There are 21 officially registered bodegas (wineries) on Lanzarote. They range from extensive establishments that are open to visitors, such as La Geria and El Grifo, to small operations that are hardly larger than a garage.

Some bodegas grow their own grapes, others source them from farmers on the island, and many combine both.

Most bodegas produce several wines, marketed under the bodega's name, or other brand names for specific wines.

Akaet: Small independent bodega in Tinajo, run by Juan Daniel Ramírez.

Bermejo: Located in La Geria at the foot of the pretty Juan Bello volcano, named after the founder of the bodega.

El Grifo: The oldest bodega in the Canaries, founded in 1775. *Other brands:* Ariana, Chimidas, Ana.

El Morro: Small Tinajo-based bodega.

Femés: The first bodega in Femes was launched in 2019.

Finca Fajardo: Bodega in La Vegueta working entirely with Listán Negro grapes.

Guiguan: Small family bodega based in the heart of Tinajo.

I.

La Florida: Beautiful bodega near San Bartolomé. *Other brands:* Jameo.

La Geria: 19th century bodega in the heart of La Geria's wine country. La Geria is open to the public and hosts an annual wine festival on 15th August. *Other brands:* Manta, Eco.

La Grieta: The northernmost bodega in the island, which uses

grapes grown at altitudes of 500m and matures its red "Tinto Submarino" under the sea.

La Mareta: Small bodega based opposite the Cactus Garden in Guatiza.

Lanzarote Natural: Ecological shop in Tinajo. Other brands: T de Tinajo, Bodega La Morra.

Martinón. Masdache-based bodega founded by the Martinón family in 2006. *Other brands:* Mayor Guerra.

Puro Rofe: Named after rofe, the volcanic gravel that vines are grown in, this new bodega is based in Conil, Tías.

Reymar. Bodega set up in 1995 by the Perdomo siblings. *Other brands:* Vino Los Perdomos.

Rubicón: Beautiful bodega in a 300-year-old building in La Gería, with centuries-old eucalyptus trees outside. *Other brands:* Amalia.

Stratvs: A stunning bodega that produces award-winning wines, although one that has suffered legal problems recently.

Tierra de Volcanes: Yaizabased bodega.

Tisalaya: Miguel Morales is dedicated to creating "exquisite" white wines from the Diego grape. *Other brands:* La Vegueta.

Valle de Malpaso: Haríabased bodega.

Vega de Yuco: This large Masdache-based bodega produces several popular wines. *Other brands:* Princesa Gara, Esencia Yaiza, +Dach, Riscos de Famara. Aurum.

Vulcano: Impressive wines from this bodega, which has an attractive shop in Tías.

THE PERFECT



Maridaje (marriage) is a much more evocative term for combining wine with food than the English word "pairing". And on an island where wine is a way of life, it's also taken seriously. It's not a science, however, and the rules are more like suggestions. The important thing is that you make your own connections.

> ost people think that a chilled dry white is the best accompaniment to seafood, but that's not necessarily true. Lanzarote's dry malvasías are, of course, perfect with white fish such as dorada, sea bass, hake, and cod, but there's absolutely no reason why you shouldn't try a rosé or even a light red, instead.

> Tuna and salmon are hugely popular on the island, but these fish are both oily, and a red wine will go perfectly well with them. Lanzarote's young reds or perhaps a crianza are perfect, and don't be afraid to chill it a little.

> Deep fried fish is popular here, and dry sparkling Brut wine is perfect to cut through that grease.

> Meanwhile, those garlic prawns sizzling in an earthenware dish call for a celebration, and a rosé wine is the perfect glass to lift, echoing the dish's sweet flavour and gorgeous colour.

> The wine you choose to accompany meat will depend on all sorts of factors, from the type, the cut, the cooking method and the sauce. The general yardstick is that, the more intensely savoury the flavour, the darker and more complex the wine that will stand up to it.

Lanzarote's cheeses go perfectly with wine, and the general rule is that the more mature the cheese, the more complex the wine to accompany it. Young cheeses team well with a semi-sweet or semi-dry white, while the astringent bite of a semi-curado cheese demands a dry white, although a touch sweetness can also work wonders. Older cheeses go well with red wines.

As for desserts, few experiences are more pleasant than eating cake and sipping a chilled semi-dulce while watching a favourite TV show.



It's possible to buy some of the more popular local wines in local supermarkets, but these tend to be wines bottled in large quantities by the larger bodegas. If you want to sample smaller bodegas or more limited brands, then it pays to look a little harder.

There are several shops that specialise in local products on the island, and their selection of local wines will often be wider and well-chosen. Miguel Soria Ibéricos in Costa Teguise is one example, with several tempting local bottles. Restaurants will often take care in their selection of local wines, and it's always worth studying the menu closely.

BUYING LANZAROTE WINE

During the lockdown, Oliver Horton of Wine Tours Lanzarote set up an export business which now distributes wines in the British Isles (see ad page 29).

A HOLIDAY IN A Cass



Lanzarote does at least two things brilliantly: tourism and wine, and recently the two have been coming together like never before. Wine is now joining sun, sand and sea as one of the reasons to visit this amazing little island. The wine industry here has adapted rapidly to new realities. A well-kept secret not so long ago, Lanzarote's bodegas are rapidly learning the advantages of appealing to tourism, and more and more of them are opening their doors to the public.

Volcanic wines are having a moment in the wine world right now and Lanzarote's methods of wine cultivation are widely hailed as unique, responsible for one of the most strange and beautiful landscapes in Europe.

It's also a vibrant, rapidly expanding field - five years ago, just 14 bodegas were included in Lanzarote's Denomination of Origin; now it's 21. More and more bodegas are learning that opening their doors to the public makes business sense.

Oliver Horton runs Wine Tours Lanzarote, and regularly takes clients on trips to Lanzarote bodegas. "We like to offer a range," he told us, "A tour may include a trip to one of the big, established wineries such as El Grifo; a smaller, newer operation, and also perhaps an artisan winemaker. This way, we can show people the living tradition of winemaking on the island."

Our clients are all types," says Oliver, "We've had everyone from wine masters to people who've never tried wine before. Most enjoy wine and are interested in finding out more – we're not snobbish about it at all."

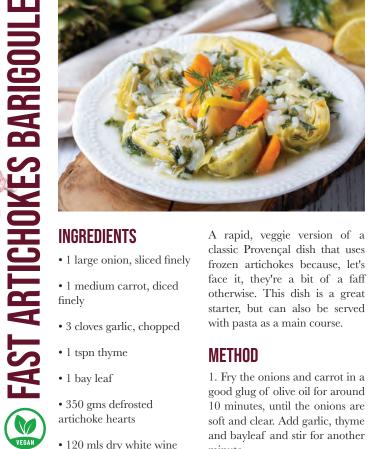
One highlight of wine tourism on the island is the annual festival at La Geria on August 15th, which recreates older methods of wine production, with camels carrying the grapes from the fields in wooden panniers, ancient scales weighing the harvest and then a fragrant session of wine-trading in a large stone vat.





On an island such as Lanzarote, wine is an important ingredient in the kitchen, bringing depth of flavour to all types of dishes. Here are three fantastic recipes that all require a slosh or two of wine to be truly perfect, and which are perfectly suited for Lanzarote vintages.

> Tip: The original barigoule contains mushrooms - if you want to try it, add them around five minutes in.



INGREDIENTS

- 1 large onion, sliced finely
- 1 medium carrot, diced finely
- 3 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 tspn thyme
- 1 bay leaf

I.

- 350 gms defrosted artichoke hearts
- 120 mls dry white wine
- 120 mls vegetable stock
- 2 tspns drained capers
- · Zest of one lemon
- Small bunch of parsley, finely chopped.
- · Zest of a lemon
- Olive oil & extra virgin olive oil for dressing

A rapid, veggie version of a classic Provençal dish that uses frozen artichokes because, let's face it, they're a bit of a faff otherwise. This dish is a great starter, but can also be served with pasta as a main course.

METHOD

1. Fry the onions and carrot in a good glug of olive oil for around 10 minutes, until the onions are soft and clear. Add garlic, thyme and bayleaf and stir for another minute.

2. Place artichokes in the pan and add the wine and stock. Bring to boil, reduce to a simmer, cover pan and cook for 6 minutes.

3. Uncover, reduce the broth a little on high heat - 5 minutes and add parsley, lemon zest and capers.

4. Serve, dressed with olive oil and more parsley.



INGREDIENTS

- 1 kilo mussels
- 4 shallots
- 2 sprigs thyme
- 1 bay leaf

METHOD

1. Pick the mussels over, removing the beards and discarding any that are open or broken.

Peel and chop the shallots finely and remove the leaves from the thyme sprigs (it's a lot easier to do this with the dried thyme available here).

2. Put the chopped shallots, thyme and bay leaf into a saucepan big enough to hold all the mussels (and which has a lid). Add the wine and heat.

Tip: This is a gloriously messy dish. Forget cutlery, use a hinged mussel shell to pick the other mussels out and grab plenty of serviettes.

- 150 mls dry white wine
- 50g butter
- 1 small bunch parsley
- Salt and pepper

Cook gently for ten minutes, stirring occasionally. Chop the parsley.

3. Tip the mussels into the pan, raise the heat and slam the lid on. Check after three minutes – if all the mussels are open, they're done; if not give them a bit more time.

4. Add the butter, bang the lid back on for half a minute, then sprinkle with parsley, season with pepper (only add salt if needed) and serve with crusty bread and the rest of the wine.



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Another French favourite that has also become an English classic – this simple and stunning dessert combines elegance with rich texture.

INGREDIENTS

• 4 ripe pears (Conference or Packham are both available here)

• Half a bottle of red wine (a young vino tinto is fine)

METHOD

1. Peel the pears, leaving the stem intact if you can. Place the wine and other ingredients apart from the orange into an enamel pan, add the pears and simmer for 15 minutes with the lid on, pausing to turn the pears every now and then. Test one pear with a thin knife to find out when it's soft.

2. Remove the pears and refrigerate.

3. Peel the surface of the

- 120 g white sugar
- 1 stick cinnamon
- 2 cloves
- 1 orange

orange, avoiding the pith, and cut into fine strips. Cut the orange into slices, removing the pith.

4.Add orange peel and slices to wine and reduce to a syrup.

5. Strain and chill the syrup. Keep orange peel and slices to one side.

6. Put a spoonful of syrup on each plate, add a pear, spoon more syrup over the top and garnish with orange peel and slices. Serve.



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BUYING LANZAROTE



There are scores of different wines available on Lanzarote, and it's always worth picking up an interesting new bottle or two. Here are the best places to do it.

SUPERMARKETS

Local supermarkets such as SPAR and HiperDino usually stock a fairly limited number of local wines. They're consistently good, but tend to be the wines which are bottled in larger quantities by the bigger bodegas. If you want to sample smaller bodegas or more limited brands, then it pays to look a little harder.

SPECIALIST SHOPS

There are several smaller boutique-style or gourmet shops that specialise in local products on the island, and their selection of local

wines will often be wider and very well-chosen. Miguel Soria Ibéricos in Costa Teguise is one example, with several tempting local bottles.

BODEGAS

Bodegas are quickly learning the benefits of selling their own wines from the premises, and a drive through La Geria will take you past several who have set up shop - some of these are not recognised by the D.O. (Denominación de Origen), which gives you a chance to sample local home-made wines - these may be a little rough round the edges, but they're an authentic flavour of Lanzarote merry-making. Homemade wines can often be bought at the weekly food market in Teguise and elsewhere, too.

OTHER OUTLETS

Lanzarote wines can also be purchased in the airport departures area, meaning you don't have to pack them in your hold luggage. The Monumento del Campesino also has a shop offering a wide range of island wines.

It's always worth asking about

local wines at restaurants, too. Several will offer excellent and interesting wines.

OFF ISLAND

Lanzarote wines are being exported more and more every year. 440,000 bottles left the island last year, most destined for Germany and the USA. Oliver Horton of Wine Tours Lanzarote has also brought Lanzarote wines to the British Isles, setting up Wine Shop Lanzarote, an export business which distributes wines in the UK. Oliver has backed his online shop up with virtual wine tours, creating a complete Lanzarote experience for the customer.

2021 WAS A **"VERY GOOD" YEAR**

Last month, Lanzarote's **Regulating Wine Council** announced that last year's wines reached the standard of "Very Good". This is the second-highest grading possible, and is decided by a group of wine tasters every year.

This is the fourth year running that the wines have received this rating - 2017 was the last time they received the highest grade of Excellent."

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EXHIBITIONS

PRESENTE FUTURIBLE

All month

Pepe Vera's exhibition "Presente Futurible" features work by the students at the Pancho Lasso Art School in Arrecife. Visitors will be able to see the students work from photography, illustrations and audio-visual experiences. Open Monday – Friday from 10am to 6pm and Saturdays from 10am – 2pm. *La Casa Amarilla, Arrecife.*



PRIMUM NON NOCERE (FIRST DO NO HARM)

Until Saturday, August 13

Under the Hippocratic medical maxim "First do no harm", Romina Rivero's installation invites us to reflect on the relationship between caring for the body and the violence exerted on it.

El Aljibe Room - CIC El Almacén

"FROM A STRANGE WORLD" FERNANDO LARRAZ

June 3, 6:00 p.m. Until August 27 House of Culture "Agustín de la Hoz" Arrecife

CULTURE

ARTE ARRECIFE

All month

The Arrecife Ayuntamiento have plenty on offer this month, as part of their Arte Arrecife events programme. *Arrecife, more info at www.arrecife.es/node/1083*

MUSIC

CANARIAS JAZZ Y MAS

22nd July, 8:30pm

As part of the Canary Islands' Jazz y mas festival, the artists Yusan and Avishai Cohen Big Vicious will be coming to Lanzarote. *Plaza de El Almacen, more info at www.canariasjazz.com*

A FEW COLOURS

Check before attending, as neither the venue nor tickets have been confirmed

Tenerife jazz fusion trio promote their album Sound Illusions. *Mirador del Rio, 8pm*

DUO DALEK

Saturday, July 2, 8:00 p.m.

David Duque and Luis Alejandro García from Tenerife are Duo Dalek, a timple and guitar ensemble, deeply inspired and focused on chamber music. *Cueva de los Verdes Auditorium*



TEGUEY FOLK GROUP 23rd July, 8pm

The Teguey folk group will bring pieces of island folklore to Lanzarote this month, performing songs from their first album "Este es mi Pueblo". The concert is a tribute to the island, its municipalities, its people and to the essence of Lanzarote itself. *Teatro El Salinero, Arrecife Tickets €5 at www.ecoentradas.com*

FIESTAS

There are several fiestas in the smaller towns of Lanzarote this month, but the most important is that of the Virgin Of Carmen, patron of fishermen. Teguise, Arrieta, Playa Blanca, La Santa, Valterra in Arrecife and La Graciosa will all be holding fiestas in the days before 16th July (Puerto del Carmen's maritime parade always takes place on the second Sunday of August). Another important fiesta is that of St. Marcial in Femes – the patron saint of the island.

THEATRE



UN PERRO LLAMADO BAUDELAIRE 1st July, 8pm

"A dog called Baudelaire", created by José Carlos Campos, will immerse you in the work of cursed poet Charles Baudelaire. *CIC El Almacen, Arrecife. Tickets €5 at www.ecoentradas.com*

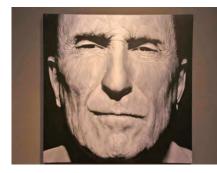
FREESTYLE ZOMBIES

Saturday July 23

Los Molinos Stadium, Teguise Motorbikes, spectacular jumps, choreography, fire, pyrotechnics and heavy metal for all ages as the Freestyle Zombies arrive on their 2022 Canary Islands Tour.

Tickets: Teguise Ayuntamiento, Tomaticket.es





SPORT

LA VEGUETA TRAIL

1st – 2nd July, 5pm A tough race that takes participants through Tinajo. *Tinajo, register at www.traillavegueta.com.*



MILLA POPULAR LA SANTA 22nd July

A tough running competition for only the most brave athletes.

La Santa, more info at www.carreraspopularestinajo.com

WORKSHOPS

PORTRAIT DRAWING WORKSHOP 29th July

Artist Fernando Larraz will teach his skills to budding artists who wish to learn the many tips and tricks to perfect graphite drawing techniques for portraits. The workshop will be free and limited to just 15 people. *Casa de la Cultura, Augustin de la Hoz Find out more: www.culturalanzarote.com.*



WING FOIL WORLD CUP 6th – 9th July

The upcoming Wing Foil World Cup will bring the best windsurfing athletes from around the world to compete in Lanzarote. The event will have two categories, surffreestyle featuring aerial tricks and the surf race which will see athletes compete against one another. *Costa Teguise, info: Instagram @wingfoiltour.* JUNE 11TH SARA car boot sale at SARA animal shelter starts 10am ends 12pm. EVERY TUESDAY & FRIDAY:

Puerto Calero Market (starts 9am ends 1pm).

EVERY SATURDAY Haria Artesanal

(crafts and food), Plaza de Haría. 10am to 2.30pm.

EA MARKI

MARKETS

Arrecife market, Plaza de San Ginés (farmers market). Morning.

EVERY SUNDAY Teguise Market (everything) 9am to 2pm.

Original PALS car boot sale Lanzarote A Caballo. 9am to 12pm.

> Mancha Blanca (food) Mornings.

WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAYS Marina Rubicon Market (Souvenirs and gifts) Playa Blanca. 10am to 2pm.

PLAYA HONDA MARKET Third Saturday of the month Calle Mayor. 10am to 2pm







Julie's Live Music Guide

We have an amazing amount of fantastic musical entertainment on our beautiful island, and there's always a new band, singer or live music act to discover! You might even fall in love with a style of music you've never listened to before.

This guide is divided by area and day. It's growing all the time, so it is a starting point rather than a definitive list. Gigs are subject to change, so please double-check the Facebook page of the bar or artist/group.

To include your event in the next edition (in print and online), please contact Julie Helliwell via Facebook or us at editorial@gazettelife.com.

- REGULAR GIGS -

Monday

COSTA TEGUISE
7.30pm: Julie H Music, The Shamrock
8.30pm: John Alan Pick, Four Seasons Rock Cafe
9.30pm: Carl White, The Shamrock
Band of Gypsies, Decades
10pm: Darren Morgan, The Lighthouse

PUERTO DEL CARMEN

7pm: Collie and Deanne, Lava Bar
9pm: Andy King, Marco's Tapas Cocktail Bar, Los Pocillos
Graham Jacques, Stars Café
10pm: Collie Farrell, Mulligans Bar, Old Town

PLAYA BLANCA 9.30pm: Don Parker, Portobello

Tuesday

COSTA TEGUISE 9.30pm: The Ska Duo, The Venue Gerie B, The Shamrock Brian John, Abbey Road John Alan Pick, Tekkers Bar & Restaurant

PLAYA BLANCA 10pm: Don Parker, The Flagship Bar

Wednesday

COSTA TEGUISE 4pm: Adrian Bambrough, The Boatyard 9.30pm: John Alan Pick, Cactus Jacks Tara C, The Shamrock

PUERTO DEL CARMEN

9pm: Graham Jacques, Stars Café9.30pm: Gary Mac, The Pub10pm: Collie Farrell, Mulligans Bar, Old Town Cabaret & Comedy Drag Show, Betty Boop's

PLAYA BLANCA

8pm: Pete Worthy, Berrugo Tapas Bar **9.30pm:** Don Parker, Portobello The Millsy Brothers, The Harp Bar

Thursday

COSTA TEGUISE
6pm: The Ska Duo, Decades Bar
9pm: John Alan Pick, The Boatyard
9.30pm: Gerie B, The Cavern
10pm: Darren Morgan, The Lighthouse

PUERTO DEL CARMEN

9.30pm: Gary Mac, Brian Boru **10pm:** Collie Farrell, The Irish Viking Andy King & The Gas Tank Dogs, Tequila Bar

Friday

COSTA TEGUISE 4pm: Adrian Bambrough, Abbey Road 9.30pm: The Ska Duo, The Venue John Alan Pick, Cactus Jacks

PUERTO DEL CARMEN

9pm: Graham Jacques, Stars Café **10pm:** Collie and Deanne, Mulligans, Old Town

PLAYA BLANCA

8pm: Pete Worthy, Berrugo Tapas Bar **9.30pm:** Andy King, The Old Mill Gary Mac, Portobello

Saturday

COSTA TEGUISE 9.30pm: Brian John, The Cavern The Ska Duo, Decades Bar

HARIA 8pm: La Noche en Mala, Don Quijote

PUERTO DEL CARMEN

3pm: The Ska Duo, Hankey Panky's (Alternate Saturdays) **9pm:** Graham Jacques, Stars Café Gerie B, The Good Old Days

Sunday

COSTA TEGUISE 8.30pm: Darren Morgan, Four Seasons Rock Cafe 9.30pm: Anthony on Sax, Decades Bar Brian John, The Venue

PUERTO DEL CARMEN

1pm: Sax on the Roof with Anthony, Biosfera Shopping Centre
4pm: Intrinsic, Café La Ola
9pm: Graham Jacques, La Avenida Restaurante
9.30pm: Gary Mac, Scotch Corner
10pm: Collie Farrell, The Irish Viking Comedy Drag & Cabaret Show, Betty Boops

PLAYA BLANCA 9.30pm: Andy King, The Old Mill

The Jam Brothers, Portobello

All information was correct when printed 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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ro back

A DAY IN CORRALEJO



Stepping off the ferry at Corralejo is like letting out a deep breath. There's a chilledout vibe on Fuerteventura that's deeply seductive, but there's also plenty to keep you stimulated in this buzzing resort.

On the ferry from Lanzarote, you can often see flying fish leaping from the waves and you'll also pass the strange, charming Isla de Lobos on the left. If you want to explore Lobos further, you can board one of the ferries that regularly operates from Corralejo – but this is definitely worth planning as a day trip in itself.

Otherwise, just head into the resort along the pretty promenade to the left. What you'll find is Fuerteventura's oldest resort, and the one with most character. Corralejo was a fishing village before it became a resort, and traces of its heritage are still evident. But it's also a cosmopolitan residential zone, with plenty of interesting shops tucked away down its charming side streets.

If you want to eat, don't just grab the first table you see. There's so much on offer in Corralejo that it makes sense to shop around first. The biggest concentration of eateries is just behind the seafront in the pedestrian zone around C/Iglesia, but there is much, much more, and the Plaza de Félix Estévez – known to residents and tourists as Music Square because of its live entertainment – is always buzzing.

Corralejo's main street, the Avenida de Nuestra Señora del



Carmen, is usually busy and full of things to do. It's also worth heading to the Campanario Shopping Centre, where you'll find craft markets on Thursdays and Sundays, and a second hand market on Saturdays. At the end of the Avenida is the Aqua Park – the only waterpark on Fuerteventura.

If you fancy sunbathing, Corralejo has plenty of golden beaches, and the famous dunes and windsurfers paradise of

GETTING THERE

Flag Beach are just a short taxi ride away. In the other direction, you can go west, walking along wild shorelines past perfect surfing beaches to the Instagram phenomenon known as Popcorn Beach.

Take your time in Corralejo – there's no hurry at all - and enjoy the return voyage on the ferry as you leave those mystical volcanoes and golden beaches behind you. Don't worry – they'll be there when you return.

Ferries run between Playa Blanca and Corralejo all day. Foot passengers on the car ferries run by Fred Olsen and Naviera Armas will pay around €60 return (€15 for residents), while the smaller ferry run by Lineas Romero costs around €40 (€10 residents). If you fancy staying a night or two in Corralejo, you'll find plenty of hotels to suit all budgets.

WHO SAID HOT?

This summer, travel by boat and arrive cool!

15:00

16:00

17:00

18:00

*19:00





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SUPER TROUPERS

They can dance, they can jive - and last month Lanzarote Theatre School were having the time of their life.



Tías's Theatre is the real deal, with a stage, wings, curtains, dressing rooms and rows and rows of red seats for the audience. Those seats are empty right now, but there's high excitement behind the scenes as the children from Lanzarote Theatre School prepare for their production of the ABBA stage musical Mamma Mia! They can sing, they can dance, and they're having the time of their life.

The lead roles of Donna and her daughter Sophie are being played by Layla, who's already dressed in the dungarees Meryl Streep made famous in the film, and Tula. Freya and Marley plays Donna's friends Rosie and Tanya, while Diego, Rory and Myles play Sam, Bill and Harry, the three guys who may be Sophie's dad after a rather busy spell of "dot-dot-dot" one summer twenty years ago.

The kids are excited and a little nervous, but looking forward to the experience, and after the theatre fills up, the show gets underway. It's a little creaky at first, with some microphone glitches, and the odd pause, but the cast soon get into their stride with a spirited performance of Money Money Money, and the magic really begins as Billie turns the disco anthem Super Trouper into a beautifullysung piano ballad. The first act finishes with the little ones handjiving furiously to Dancing Queen, and the interlude sees Tías's Mayor and Culture Councillor offering their best wishes to the school.

The second half brings more solo performances from Indy, Marley and Daniella; Layla belts out the Winner Takes It All and the whole cast crowd onto the stage for a rousing finale of Thank You For The Music. Mamma Mia! is a feel-good musical, and this production ticks that box emphatically.

Aimee-Louise, who set up the Lanzarote Theatre School in 2019, directed the whole show and dedicated it to her late mother. But she wasn't alone – plenty of parents and supporters also got behind the show, helping with the set and props, tickets, costumes etc. Plans are already underway for another production, and we're already looking forward to it.



July

- Tuesday 5th 5:30 pm.Screening of the ZEConsciente documentary. Sounds of Nature workshops with elderly people from the municipality. Centro de Mayores, C/Bajamar, Puerto del Carmen.

Paddleboard tours

August

- Saturday 6th, 10.30 am. Playa Chica route.
- Saturday 13th, 10.30 am.El Poril route.
- Saturday 20th, 10.30 am. Playa Grande route.

- Saturday 27th, 10.30 am. Barranco El Quíquere route.

September

- Saturday 3rd, 10.30 am. La Peñita route.
- Saturday 10th, 10.30 am. Playa Chica to El Poril + snorkeling



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MAP - TÍAS









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MAP - PUERTO DEL CARMEN







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PROPERTY BOOMING

First quarter results for house prices in the Canaries were the highest since 2007, when the property bubble that preceded the crash was at its peak, and are the latest evidence of a steady rise in prices that started in 2014.

According to Spain's National Institute of Statistics, house prices in the Canaries rose by 10.9% from January to March this year. The trend has been echoed in Spain as a whole, but not to the extent that the Canaries have experienced.

The house price increase is matched by increased activity in the sector, with the Notaries Association reporting an increase of 45.5% in transactions this April compared to last year.

Other sources seem to confirm that the British market is also continuing to be the strongest foreign buyers' market in Spain, despite Brexit. The first quarter of this year saw property purchases by British buyers reach figures that

had not been seen since before the Brexit referendum in 2016.

Notaries' figures suggest that, while nonresident demand is strong, property purchases by resident Brits are higher than ever, and are one of the main reasons for the surge in British demand. This tendency, however, is not reflected in the Canaries, where non-resident British buyers remain more important.

British buyers tend to spend less on property than other nationalities. The average purchase by a British buyer works out at ϵ 1,940 per square metre, far below the ϵ 2,700 spent by Swedes and Germans, and just under the EU average.

MORTGAGE COSTS FINALLY RISE

The Euribor – the index to which most Spanish mortgages are linked – came out of negative territory for the first time in several years recently, raising the cost of living for many.

Four million Spanish households face average mortgage payment increases of around $\notin 600$ a year after recent increases in the basic rate of the Euribor.

In April, following the decision of the US Federal Reserve to raise interest rates, the Euribor entered positive territory for the first time since 2016, and now stands at 0.287%.

Things are unlikely to improve following the European Central Bank's announcement that it will raise interest rates by 0.25% this month in order to tackle spiralling inflation. This is the first time the ECB has raised interest

rates for over ten years, and marks an end to the historically low borrowing rates that have predominated in recent years.

The ECB has strongly hinted that another, larger interest rate increase is on the way in September, and the results for the Euribor are such that Caixa Bank experts are predicting it will reach 1%.

Consequently, after years of benefitting from variable rate mortgages, consumers are now switching to more reliable fixed rate mortgages, which have accounted for over 70% of new mortgages this year.





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A 1980's postcard of La Vaguada.

El Pilar.



instead of a commercial venture.

There were also fears from local shop owners and other businesses that the new centre would quickly put them out of business. Shopping Centres were a new concept in the Spain of the 1970s, and many regarded them with suspicion and distrust. There were also fears for the visual impact of the centre, given that it would be located in an area overlooked by dozens of apartment of blocks.

Opposition was intense. Protests and demonstrations were held as the area was prepared for construction, and the notorious grises - security police who wore grey uniforms - often cracked down brutally on protesters. "It was like war. Hundreds of people camped out in tents outside the site with posters and placards, doing whatever they could to stop it," says José María Ezquiaga, who went on to become the Dean of Madrid's College of Architects.

As Lanzarote waits for the opening of its new shopping mall in Arrecife, it's a good time to look back at the time when the island's most famous artist was hired to design Spain's first major shopping centre in Madrid.

For people who are used to César Manrique's works on Lanzarote, which are usually located in some of the most beautiful natural areas of the island, it may be difficult to believe that he once designed a shopping centre. However, it's true, and the resulting mall remains one of the most popular in Spain.

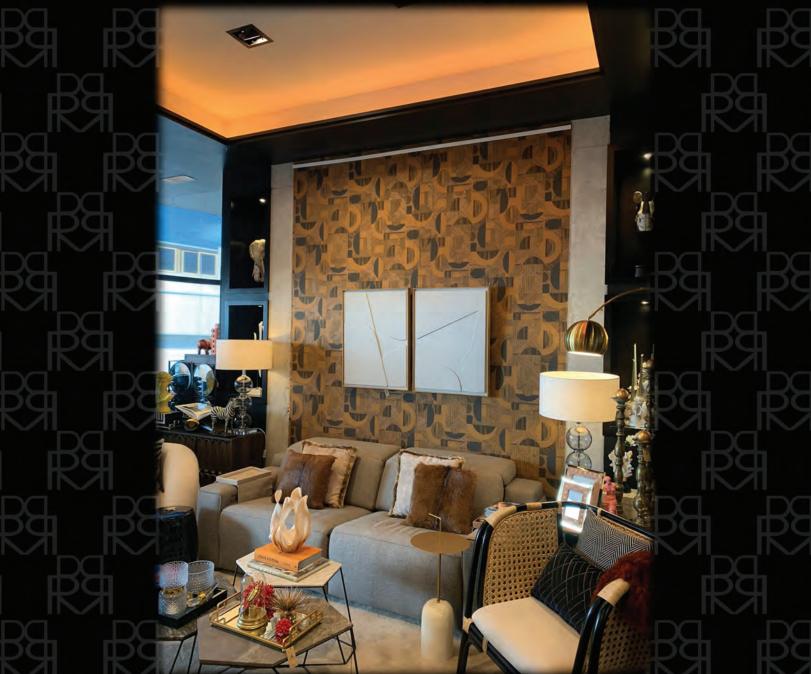
In the 50s and 60s, millions of Spaniards moved from rural areas to the nation's rapidly expanding new cities. They needed homes, and entire neighbourhoods of apartment blocks were constructed to accommodate them.

The barrio of El Pilar, in the north of Madrid, was one of these developments – built by the promoter José Banús, it was composed of block after block of virtually identical apartment buildings occupied by a mainly working-class population. However, planners weren't always sensitive to the requirements of these neighbourhoods, and El Pilar's lack of local facilities such as schools, playgrounds, sport facilities, parks, health centres or public transport was a constant source of complaint.

So when it was announced in 1975 that a massive new shopping centre – the first of its kind to be built in Spain - would be constructed on one of the few unused areas of the zone by the French constructor Jean Louis Solal, locals were furious. La Vaguada, which means "the trough" was the lowest-lying part of the area, and many had expected that the waste land would be used for much-needed facilities,



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THE RIGHT MAN FOR THE JOB

But the project continued, and Solal's company had no doubt who they wished to design it. At that time, in late 70s, César Manrique was at the peak of his fame and creativity. The transformation of his native island over the last 15 years was one of the most exciting projects in Spain, and Manrique's vision of harmony between humans and nature was perfectly in tune with an environmental movement that was just being born.

And it worked. Once Manrique was contracted in 1981, he moved to Madrid and engaged in intense dialogue with locals - quickly winning over many of the critics of the project. He achieved this through a combination of his natural charm and visionary enthusiasm, but also by his insistence that the centre must contain natural elements such as gardens, waterfalls and skylights letting in the sunlight, as well as social facilities for education and cultural purposes. It was Manrique who designed an indoor market for the centre, and this became the new, and much more profitable, premises for many local shop owners whose little shops had previously been dotted around the neighbourhood.

Manrique was not an architect, and the architect he worked with on the La Vaguada project, José Ángel Rodrigo, has since claimed that many of the elements of the shopping centre that are claimed to be Manrique's work were, in fact, his idea. However, Manrique is no longer around to answer back, and the examples Rodrigo gives, such as the ship's sails constructed as sunshades and the distinctive hanging gardens in the centre, can also be seen in earlier Manrique projects at Jameos del Agua and the Hotel Las Salinas.

In fact, it is the Las Salinas Hotel in Costa Teguise, which Manrique created with his old friend, the wildly creative architect Fernando Higueras, that bears the most similarities to La Vaguada. Both projects show that Manrique was not fundamentally opposed to developments such as hotels for mass tourism and commercial shopping



centres, but there's also a similar sense of unleashed creativity and an intoxication with the possibilities of concrete.

The La Vaguada Shopping Centre remains an immense success - known as "The heart of Madrid", it sees more traffic annually than Barcelona Airport. Unfortunately, the Shopping Centre was renovated and remodelled in 2002, and few elements of Manrique's original work survived. The current centre is, without a doubt, duller and less inspiring than the original work, and the renovations have been strongly criticised by both the orignal architect, José Ángel Rodrigo, and the César Manrique Foundation.

NEW PROJECT

It remains to be seen whether the new Open Mall Lanzarote, due to open later this year in Arrecife, will be worthy of Manrique's island.

Artists' impressions of the mall feature elements that clearly reference Manrique, such as the white pool that echoes the one at Jameos Del Agua; the abundant greenery and stone roofs perforated with patterns to let the light in. However, these are details, and there is certainly little of Manrique's flair and creativity to be seen on the exterior of the building.

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Sofa, so good

The sofa is an essential part of most homes – a place where people snuggle up or stretch out to relax at the end of the day; a focus for informal entertaining and a natural centerpiece for any living room, or salon.



epending on your lifestyle, there's a good chance you'll be spending a significant part of your life on the sofa, and that means its an investment you need to take seriously. First of all, work out what you want your sofa for – will it be a fairly formal item, or do you plan to slob out on it for endless binge-watching sessions.

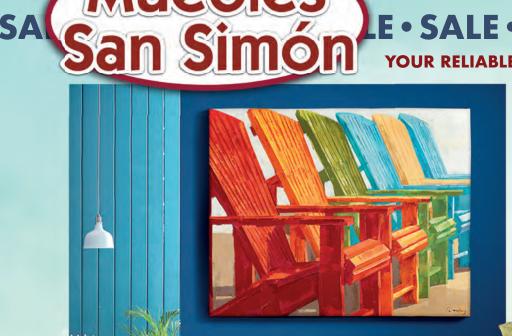
Remember that a soft, comfy sofa may be great for relaxing, but may not be so good for studying or doing paperwork. Be honest about whether you plan to sleep on your sofa, and buy accordingly.

On Lanzarote, there are plenty of extra factors that will dictate your choice of sofa. One of them is the fact that, for some reason, friends and family love to visit people on a gorgeously sunny paradise, and if you're strapped for space, your sofa may have to double up as a bed.

Then there are factors such as wear and tear, the possibility of fading in strong sunlight, damage caused by pets and children. All these are worth bearing in mind before you buy the biggest item of furniture in your living room.

Measure up your available space first, then get hunting. Shopping for the right sofa will require plenty of investigation, note-taking, photos and testing. Be sure to ask about cleaning requirements replacement upholstery and possible accessories.

Sooner or later, you'll find "the one" - the sofa that fulfils all your requirements. And the great feeling you'll get as you sink into that brand new centrepiece is worth all the time and effort. Enjoy, you're in the best place of all! **LE • SALE • SALE • SALE • SALE • SALE** YOUR RELIABLE FURNITURE SHOP SINCE 1985.



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WINDMILL ISLAND



Lanzarote's windmills are one of the most visible parts of the island's heritage – monuments to the days when the island relied on wind power for its livelihood.

That livelihood has been based on *gofio* since long before the Spanish conquest. Gofio is a coarse meal of toasted grains – barley, wheat and, more recently, maize; and grinding it has always been vital.

The Mahos ground it themselves, by hand, between two stones – a brutally tough job and one whose poor results can often be seen in the broken teeth of their preserved skulls. Later, animals were enlisted to power the mills; but the arrival of the windmill was, literally, a game changer.

A visit to the the El Patio farm-museum in Tiagua is recommended to see wellpreserved examples of a molino – a stolid, fixed windmill made of stone; and a lighter, wooden molina, which could be angled towards the wind. Local peasants would come for miles around to grind their corn here and, as they often had to wait for days for wind to get the job done, they'd hold parties.

Other notable mills on the island include the one at the Cactus Garden, and the recently restored one in Teguise. The island is also dotted with ruins of old mills, with examples clearly visible in Tías and Arrecife.

The only mill that still produces gofio on Lanzarote today is in San Bartolomé, and it does so with a modern engine rather than wind power. The gofio that results, sold under the name La Molina, is one of the island's finest home-made products.

Smaller, more recent mills can also be seen at the saltworks in Janubio, Arrecife and Los Cocoteros. These were used to provide power to pump sea water from one area to another, allowing the sun to evaporate water and leaving snow white crystals of salt.

Now, these ancient examples of wind power have been joined by several sleek modern wind turbines whose presence on the island reminds us that power production has been altering the island's landscape for centuries.

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SUNCREAM

Apply your sun cream 30 minutes before jumping into the pool. Freshly applied sun cream is washed off almost immediately in a swimming pool, which will cause a layer of sun cream to sit on the surface of the water and cause marks along the water line.

Allowing your sun cream to soak in before taking a dip can reduce the amount of sun cream that will make its way into the pool's filters.

GLASS BY THE POOL

Drinking from glass bottles, cups or bowls are a no-go for swimming pools. A swimming pool must be drained, allowed to completely dry and vacuumed in the event of glass shards in the swimming pool, as it is a health hazard to keep using the pool.

BE AWARE

If you see a sign that says no diving, or you are unaware of the pool depth, don't dive! Most home swimming pools are not deep enough to dive in and are certainly not deep enough to dive into headfirst.



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> On Lanzarote the most common type of coping you will find are plain white tiles, coarse beige-coloured tiles and the classic Canarian volcanic rock. The type of coping you choose is purely cosmetic, as the tiles are all specifically made for use as coping around a pool.

> However, it is important to test all the coping on offer depending on what you want it to do for you.

> If you aren't going to be using the pool very often and won't be having guests around then you may opt for a smooth tile that sits flush with your patio.

> If you have children, it's important to choose a tile that is coarser and has enough grip to prevent slipping around your swimming pool. You may also want the tiles to sit above your patio tiles creating a lip around the pool.

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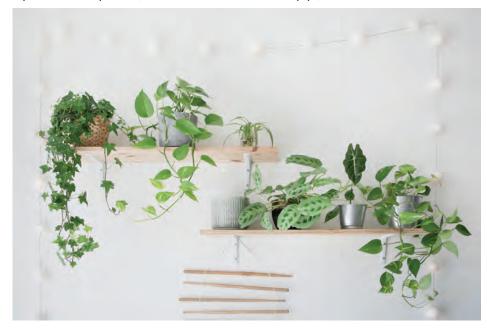
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Summer indoors

Gardeners will know all about the challenges that Lanzarote poses for outdoor plants. But the climate here also means that indoor plants may require special care. Here are a few tips for keeping your co-habitants happy.



HUMIDITY

One of the main problems for indoor plants on Lanzarote is dry air. Many of these plants are originally from humid rainforests, and many of them simply aren't going to get the moisture they need from the air. Air conditioning will make this even worse. To help them on their way there are three simple solutions. Firstly, bunching plants together helps to preserve moisture. Secondly, misting regularly can help

"A PEBBLE TRAY CREATES ITS OWN MICRO-CLIMATE."

plants out – but take care not to mist hairyleaved plants (droplets will not disperse) or mist in direct sunlight "which can cause scorching.

Finally, a pebble tray is a great way to keep moisture levels up. Just fill the dish that your plant sits in with pebbles, or place several plants on a larger pebble-filled tray, and keep the pebbles wet. The evaporation will increase humidity around your plants.

SUNLIGHT

While some indoor plants may enjoy direct sunlight in the winter months, it can be a different question in summer. Lanzarote's subtropical sunshine is intense, glaring and direct, and can soon scorch plants that aren't adapted to it – and that applies to a lot of houseplants.

Variegated plants such as pothos will require careful positioning – too much sunlight can easily scorch those leaves, but not enough will mean that the plant loses





that unique pale patterning.

VENTILATION

Lanzarote's summers can be windy, and as the heat means you're likely to be keeping the windows open, that means a draught. Some plants can handle this, but others will absolutely not thrive in a current of air.

Aim to keep plants out of particularly strong currents of air, and try to diffuse the passage of wind through your house, too. For example, opening a window a few inches means that all the air passing through the house will rush through this small space, causing a strong draught and damaging most plants in its path. Opening the window fully will disperse the air, meaning milder draughts.

DUST

Whether it's house dust or the powdery calima dust, your plants are likely to get dusty over time. Dust on leaves prevents the plant functioning optimally, and you'll need to wash it off every now and again.

Either wipe each leaf with a damp cloth, or put it in the shower and give it a good soaking once every couple of months.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Misting is great for plants, but it's not so good for wood, books, documents, fabrics, electric items or anything else that may be around your plants. If there's nothing that can be damaged, mist away – if there is, then remove plants to somewhere else to mist them and make sure there's no moisture dripping before replacing them.

If you have cats you'll also need to take care about positioning. Many houseplants, such as gardenias, pothos, monsteras, peace lilies, mother-in-law's-tongue, ivies and poinsettias are toxic to cats. Other plants may not damage your cat, but your cat could well



damage them. Cats will not only eat your spider plants or arecas; they'll also look you straight in the eye while they're doing it.

WHAT YOUR PLANTS ARE SAYING

Plants may not be able to talk, but they're pretty good at letting you know they're unhappy. Wilting is one of the main signs, and needs to be addressed quickly.

Brown leaf-edges are another sign most Lanzarote gardeners will recognise. These are caused by dehydration – from underwatering, wind, sunshine or pests – and are irreversible. If you see leaves going brown quickly, you need to act fast.

Leaf drop is another worrying symptom, but one that you'll usually get plenty of warning for, as leaves appear dry or papery.



Beat the heat!

Water is a precious commodity on Lanzarote, and that's truer than ever in the hot summer months. If you're a gardener, it makes sense to conserve water as much as possible and make every drop count.



The easiest way to save water is to choose plants that require small amounts. That's also easy on Lanzarote, where almost every wild plant has had to adapt to arid growing conditions. The science of lowwater gardening is called Xero-gardening, and was developed in desert regions of the USA last century. However, it's also perfectly suited to the Canaries.

Native plants on Lanzarote often go "dormant" over the summer, saving the moisture they've stored over the winter and spring to survive through the scorching heat of summer. These plants, such as palms, euphorbias and succulents, as well as introduced cacti species, need very little water, and if you can't guarantee regular watering for your garden, they're excellent choices.

If you live in a higher-lying area of Lanzarote, you may also be able to count on dew to bring moisture to your plants, too, but even this is scarce in summer. In most cases, if you want to keep an attractive garden through the summer months, you'll need to water it. And to water well and efficiently, you need to plan.

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POSITIONING

Arranging your garden is one of the most important steps to take in order to make the most of available water. Head to the north of Lanzarote and look at the hillsides at Los Valles and you'll see how islanders have been doing this for centuries, in the form of terracing.

Terracing involves the creation of "steps" in a hill side, creating flat areas where plants can be grown, but also taking advantage of that hillside to channel the scarce rainfall to where its needed. Excess water from a higher-lying plants will gradually drain down to lower-lying plants, before it reaches the bottom of the barranco (valley).

The bottom of the barranco itself is one of the most fertile parts of the island, the place where nutrients and water eventually gather. This is also why roadside verges on Lanzarote are often bursting with wildflowers in spring time – the water drains from the cambered roads to gather in the dip at the roadside.

This is why it's important to learn about drainage in your garden – to find out how water travels and where it gathers. It's one of the most important factors landscapers take into account.

Arranging your plants correctly is also important. Placing more delicate ones in the shade of tougher plants will help them conserve moisture.

WATERING TIPS

Water plants in the evening, allowing them the



whole night to soak up the moisture before it evaporates. Early morning is good, too, but watering in full sunlight can "burn" the plants as sunlight is reflected through droplets.

A watering system, composed of plastic tubes that release small amount of water to the bases of plants, is a good labour saving device, and can also save water if used wisely. However, Lanzarote is dusty, and plants benefit from a good soaking once in a while to wash down those leaves and let them do their job.

Use picón or mulch around the base of your plants. Picón conserves moisture naturally and keeps moisture in the soil below from evaporating.

WIND WATCHING

Gardeners should never forget that July and August are not only the hottest months on Lanzarote; they are also the windiest. Anyone who has ever hung their clothes out to dry here will know how quickly the breeze can strip moisture.

Wind is a worse enemy to gardeners than heat, and you'll need to ensure that plants are either tough enough to withstand it, or well-protected. It's time to move containers plants into more sheltered areas, for example.

Gardeners should also keep an old sheet handy for those scarce occasions when a hairdryer heatwave arrives from Africa. This searing wind has ruined entire wine crops on Lanzarote and, when it happens, the only remedy is to cover up your plants.





Best behind the wheel?

On social media, it's common to read posts complaining about the terrible driving here. But how true is it?

One of the standard ways of assessing driving ability at a national level is road safety, and Spain is improving rapidly in this regard. In 2021, the UK saw 1,560 fatalities on the road, while Spain accounted for 1,004. Even allowing for the UK's greater number of drivers, this makes Spain considerably safer than the UK, with one death for every 27,000 registered drivers, compared to the UK's 23,000. Within Spain, the Canaries is one of the regions where fatal road accidents are least likely to occur.

Statistics for serious non-fatal injuries are harder to assess, and the difference between the UK's 2021 total of 27,300 serious road casualties compared to Spain's 4,728 suggests that different criteria are being used.

Of course, road safety is not just about drivers. It also depends on factors such as the state of roads, signage, planning, the overall age and condition of vehicles on the road and the laws in force. For example, the UK's minimum blood alcohol level for drink-driving offences is 0.8 gms per litre for all drivers, compared to Spain's 0.5 grams for standard drivers and 0.3 g for commercial and learner drivers.

What is true is that Spain has become a far safer country to drive in than it was even 20 years ago. The introduction of a pointsbased licence was an important factor in this, but this was just one of several initiatives proposed by the country's traffic department, the DGT, which continues to put road safety at a premium.



Public perception of driving skills is another important factor, and here attitudes seem to change far more slowly than safety figures. For example, Spain now consistently outperforms Germany in terms of road safety, but when asked, most Europeans will rank Germans near the top of the continent's best drivers, while Spaniards rank far lower.

A 2016 survey saw 37% of Europeans rank the Swedish as the most responsible drivers in Europe. They were followed by the Germans (25%), the British (12%) and the Dutch (11%). Spain came seventh with only 2%, although its recent road safety record is better than that of the Netherlands or Germany.

This could be to do with history. Spain's rise as one of the safest countries to drive in Europe is relatively recent, while other, more historically wealthy countries have spent much longer improving road safety. There may also be a touch of national pride involved, too. When 1,000 British drivers with experience on foreign roads were surveyed in 2016, 65% of them did not hesitate to choose themselves as the best drivers on the continent. Second came the Germans and third, the Irish.

Widely shared stereotypes about national characteristics may also play a role, with fixed notions about stolid, socially-conscious Scandinavians; calm, technically-minded Germans and fiery, emotional Mediterranean nationalities seeming to be reflected in surveys of opinions.

But none of this answers the question: who are the best drivers? It may even be the case that drivers in more chaotic, dangerous countries are better than those in safer countries. Anyone who has driven in North Africa or Eastern Europe will not only have been horrified by the chaos but also impressed by the way so many local drivers seem to handle it.

PAPERS PLEASE

Spain's DGT (Traffic Department) has reminded motorists that they should carry three valid and non-expired documents with them at all times.

Driving licence: This is the card issued when you pass your test and renewed regularly thereafter. Not being able to produce it could bring a fine of $\notin 10$, while driving with an expired document, or without one altogether, brings much higher fines.

Permiso de circulación: This is the document that declares that the car is in good enough condition to travel.

ITV document: If your car is over four years old, you'll need to carry a valid ITV document, too.

There is no longer a legal requirement to show proof of insurance, as police can now check this automatically.



PLAYA HONDA POSER

The solution to traffic congestion in Playa Honda took another twist last month after an official survey by the Canarian Government concluded that sinking the LZ-2 main road underground would be the best option technically, economically and environmentally.

This directly contradicts earlier statements by Canarian Works Minister Sebastián Franquis, who claimed that an entirely new road built behind the industrial zone of Playa Hona would be the best option.

The technical report claims that burying the LZ-2 would only take up an extra 1,000 square metres of land and cost &367,000 in requisitioning; while a new road would occupy 400 times more space and cost at least &17 million.

"ELEPHANT EFFECT"

The DGT has reminded motorists that they could be fined for having bags of shopping or other unrestrained items on their back seat.

The reason is that loose items can cause injuries to those in the front seat in the case of an emergency stop. The "elephant effect" means that the force of a loose object multiplies by up to 40 times its



weight in the case of a stop at 50 kph. For an unrestrained passenger weighing 70 kg, this could increase their force to that of an elephant.

Spain's traffic laws also prohibit items that can "fall or slip in a dangerous manner".

WHEELIE STUPID

The driver of a lorry in Gran Canaria who damaged a police car while trying to transport a huge industrial pipe has been arrested and charged.

A video of the driver attempting to climb a hill in Guía, Gran Canaria, with the weight of the tube lifting the front wheels of the lorry off the ground and causing the lorry to roll back down the hill, went viral last month. Amazingly, the driver made it up the hill and proceeded to another town, where he immediately collided with a police car.

He tested positive for alcohol and has been charged.





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Readers are reminded that views and comments expressed within the Ed's Postbag page 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.

COFFEE DRINKERS RESPOND

Last month Sarah Hennighan wrote to us expressing her desire for a bigger coffee company to set up shop on the island. At the time of writing there have been no rumours surrounding the arrival of a Starbucks on the island.

Here's what our readers thought:

- "Starbucks? Local cafes are so much better."

- "I really don't understand. People come to Lanzarote for its uniqueness, not for chain coffee shops. I love the small local coffee shops here."

- "[A Starbucks is] not needed at all when there are so many smaller businesses that do good quality coffee."

- "Great coffee in Lanzarote and doesn't cost nearly as much as overpriced Starbucks. I don't feel the island needs this chain."

BEEN AND GONE

Dear Editor,

Seemingly every week somewhere on the island is hosting an exciting event and by the time I find out about it it's already been and gone... Do they advertise the events before they happen or only after they happen?

I would like to go to more events in Arrecife but I never know what's happening.

Thanks,

Alan Campbell

Ed: Every month we try our best to include events on our What's On pages, however, we agree that it can be quite hard to track down the details of an event. Some are only advertised at very short notice. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for more recent updates.

AIRPORT BOTHER

Hi Ed,

Nearly every time I go to the airport there are cars parked in the bus stop bay. If the authorities installed a CCTV camera, there would be no need to have a person looking out for the problem. They could simply get the vehicle registrations and send out fines.

Word will soon get round.

Regards,

Terry C

WHERE DO WE STAY?

Dear Ed,

We are booking our first holiday in Lanzarote this winter but we don't know where to book. I am on most of the Lanzarote groups and everyone swears by their favourite area.

Are they all the same?? What is the difference.

Thanks,

Judy

Ed: all the resorts on Lanzarote offer great experiences. However, for a quieter holiday I would look at Playa Blanca. If you're looking for a resort with a buzzing nightlife then Puerto del Carmen is a good option, with its many bars and restaurants. Costa Teguise is popular with active types and families.

It's possible to rent places in the less-touristy rural areas of the island, too, but you'll need to hire transport. We'd recommend a resort holiday so you can get your bearings first.

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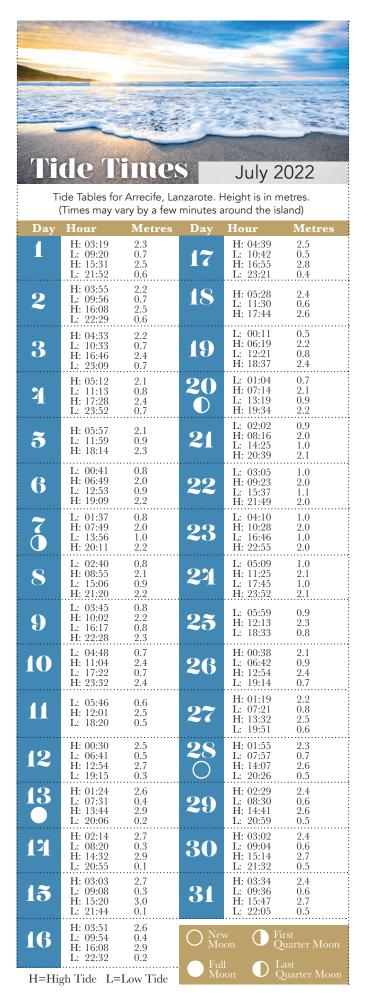
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Weather Watch

Glorious Weather

July in Lanzarote is windy, with non-stop sunshine. Day after day of stunning morning sunrises, scorching hot afternoons and warm evenings. Unlike the unbearable heat that mainland Spain endures, Lanzarote is made bearable by the alisio – the prevailing northern breeze that keeps it fresh and dry.

You should take special care in the sunshine this summer, especially from the hours of 11am until 3pm. Make sure to wear a high SPF sun cream, seek shade and drink plenty of water.

The sea is still warming up and is perfect for any and all water activities. But whatever you choose to do this month, get out there and make the most of this stunning weather.

What to Expect in July



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Flight Information928	846001

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RECYCLING

Correct disposal of waste is an issue that is becoming more and more important on Lanzarote as the island's dump at Zonzamas slowly fills up.

If you're a tourist, recycling is just a matter of using the correct waste containers whenever possible. Hotels have some of the most advanced recycling systems on the island, so take your rubbish back from the beach and dispose of it there.

If you're a resident you'll probably already be aware of the waste system in most places, which consists of a black/grey containers for general waste, yellow for plastics, green for glass, and blue for paper.

In some places you may find extra containers where you can dispose of old clothes and used cooking oil, and the island plans to increase the supply of brown containers for organic waste.

There are strict laws governing the disposal of bulky waste. In the first instance, you can request the local council to pick these items up at a given time. Or you can transport them to your nearest Punto Limpio yourself.

THE PUNTO LIMPIO

These recycling points can be found in every municipality. In Tías and Costa Teguise they're located opposite the golf courses, while the one in Playa Blanca is on the road to Femés.

Puntos Limpios are where you should dispose of building rubble, garden waste, old appliances, batteries, oil and any possibly toxic materials. There is usually a worker on hand to help you.

OTHER RECYCLING OPTIONS

Many local charities will accept old clothes and bedding – especially animal charities. Furniture is also sought, and some charities will arrange to pick it up.



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BY CLAIRVOYANT SHONA LANGHOLM



Aries

(21 MAR - 19 APR)
 You'll get the chance to spread out and enjoy a bit of space this month, Aries. This will happen physically - you'll be on your own for some time - but also mentally, with much less pressure and concentration

on the cards. Enjoy the freedom.

Taurus

(20 APRIL - 20 MAY)

Heavy decisions require heavy thinking, Taurus, and right now there's one that's weighing on your mind a lot. Relax – this time it really isn't that important. Think it through as much you like or just toss a coin – things will work out.





Gemini

(21 MAY TO 20 JUNE)

Everywhere you turn this month there are distractions, Gemini – delightful, exciting, opportunities you can't resist. Enjoy as many of them as you can, but only after you've met your targets and done what you have to do.

Leo

(23 JULY TO 22 AUG)

Getting down to hard, absorbing work can be really satisfying for you, Leo. Other areas of your life are likely to be fairly uneventful this month, with few changes, so take the opportunity to achieve something solid and get those boxes ticked off.



Virgo

(23 AUG TO 22 SEPT)

Your competitive side will be revealed this month, Virgo, as you find someone trying to push in on what's yours. You can defend yourself, but be sure to do it above board and honestly. There's no need to play dirty when you can win clean.

Libra

(23 SEPT TO 22 OCT)

Some say you should live life without ever looking back in the rear-view mirror, but this month that's exactly what you should be doing, as something or someone from your past starts to catch up with you. Strap yourself in and prepare for a surprise.



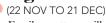
Scorpio

(23 OCT TO 21 NOV)

It's never the right time for some conversations, Scorpio, but this month you need to take a deep breath, pick up the phone and sort things out. Once that weight's off your mind, pick it up again, because this month's going to be an exciting social whirl.

Sagittarius





Family matters will take centre stage this month, Sagittarius. You'll feel welcomed and loved, but be sure to show the feeling's mutual. There's also the chance of new horizons, new landscapes and a real stroke of luck with something you've been searching for.

Cancer (21 JUNE TO 22 JULY) Love comes in many colours, Cancer, and that's something you'll learn through experience this month. There may be pain,

there may be laughter, but there

will definitely be powerful

experiences and emotions

that enrich and define

you.

Capricorn

(22 DEC TO 19 JAN)

Head before heart this month, Capricorn. A few problems will arise, but if you use reason and logic they'll get sorted out much quicker than if you trust your intuition. A cool, calm approach will serve you well in your social life, too.



Aquarius (20 JAN - 18 FEB)

Don't let yourself worry about what others think of you.) The path you're on is yours alone, and you know what you're doing. Be confident and stride ahead. Leave the

critics behind and embrace the people who admire your nerve and originality.

Pisces

(19 FEB - 20 MAR)

You're all of a flutter this month, Pisces, excited and a little confused by a new development in your personal life. So just enjoy this moment when all your options are still open. There's plenty of time left before you decide whether to take things a little more seriously.



Instagram of the month





@yaizaperezhernandrz



@ipedrakos



@dog_walking_vegan_lanzarote



@max_krozza



@gstee



@angelina_64



@iamdashadash



@lanzabubila

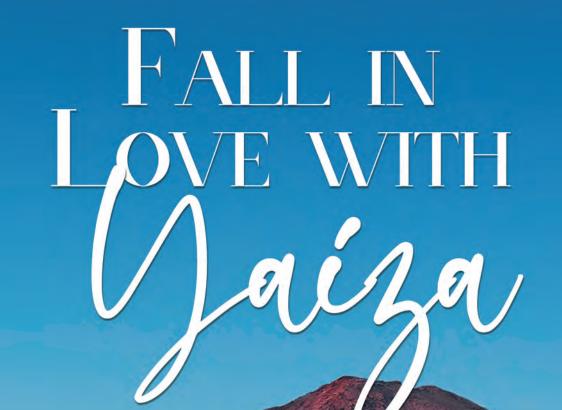
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