

The Advertiser Magazine

December 2023 - January 2024

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Est. 2001

The Advertiser Magazine

Welcome to December & January's issue of the Advertiser Magazine

We are delighted to bring you 2023's final issue of The Advertiser magazine! As we turn the page on another remarkable year, we can't help but reflect on what a wonderful year we've shared with you, our loyal readers, contributors, and valued advertisers.

Throughout 2023, our magazine has continued to evolve, thanks to your unwavering support and the dedication of our talented contributors. From thought-provoking stories to stunning visual journeys, we've strived to bring you the very best, and we're excited to deliver yet another captivating issue this December.

As the holiday season approaches, we extend our warmest wishes to all of you. May your Christmas be filled with joy, laughter, and cherished moments with loved ones. And as we step into the New Year, we hope it brings you prosperity, success, and endless opportunities for growth.

As usual, we shall be taking a break in December so there will not be a January issue of The Advertiser Magazine. This allows our wonderful staff and, of course, ourselves to have a well-deserved break over Christmas and New Year. We are profoundly grateful for your trust and partnership in making our magazine a success, and we look forward to the exciting chapters we'll write together in the coming year. The Advertiser Magazine will be back in February!

Thank you for being a part of our extraordinary journey, and here's to a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year for all of us.



Andrew & Cheryl

THE Advertiser Magazine is published every month, except for January. It is bursting with useful adverts for a broad range of businesses located in Mojacar, Garrucha, Vera Playa, Antas, Los Gallardos, Bedar, Turre, Albox, Alfoquia and Zurgena.

Hugely popular with readers, the magazine is known for its photographic reporting of local events. It also contains articles written by the local community, for the local community.

A minimum of 5,000 copies of the advertiser are printed each and every month and delivered to over 200 local distribution points as well as to all of our advertisers.

The Advertiser magazine is also available to download from our website

www.advertisermojacar.com and approximately 2,500 downloads are recorded each month.

This means that you can always get a copy.

To advertise please get in touch using the details below.

Editor: Andrew Goth & Cheryl Woods

Artworker/Production : Jodie Escott

Advertiser Sales: 604 956 705 (Karen)

General Enquiries : 675 608 716 🇪🇸 🇬🇧

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Local Market Days

MONDAY

- * Antas
- * Huerca Overa
- * Vera Playa

TUESDAY

- * Albox
- * Cuevas de Almanzora
- * Los Gallardos

WEDNESDAY

- * Cantoria
- * Lubrin
- * Mojacar
- * Palomares
- * Velez Blanco

THURSDAY

- * Carboneras
- * Cuevas del Almanzora
- * Huerca Overa
- * Lorca
- * Olula del Rio
- * Purchena
- * Sorbas

FRIDAY

- * Chirivel
- * Garrucha
- * Taberno
- * Turre
- * Uleila del Campo
- * Zurgena

SATURDAY

- * Aguilas
- * Albox
- * Arboleas
- * Tijola
- * Velez Rubio
- * Vera

SUNDAY

- * Fines
- * La Alfoquia
- * Oria
- * San Juan de los Terreros
- * Villaricos





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Thu 7	-	6pm
Fri 8	-	6pm
Fri 8	-	8pm
Sat 9	-	8pm
Sun 10	-	5pm
Wed 13	-	5pm
Thu 14	-	6pm
Fri 15	-	8pm
Sat 16	-	8pm
Sun 17	-	5pm
Tue 19	-	7:30pm
Tue 19	-	9pm
Wed 20	-	5pm
Thu 21	-	6pm
Fri 22	-	8pm
Sat 23	-	8pm
Sun 24	-	3 & 6pm
Mon 25	-	8pm
Tue 26	-	6pm
Wed 27	-	5pm
Wed 27	-	8pm
Thu 28	-	CLOSED
Fri 29	-	8pm
Sat 30	-	CLOSED
Sun 31	-	7pm
Mon 1	-	5pm

XMAS OPENING PARTY WITH ASHLEY

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SUE MORETTA

THE ALL SKAS

XMAS PARTY WITH JOSE BOLERO

HARMONY DUO

MAD ON BLONDE

XMAS EVE PARTY WITH ASHLEY

XMAS DAY DISCO KARAOKE PARTY

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PASEO DEL MEDITERRANEO 213, PLAYA MOJACAR



Here are a few Christmas favourites that always get made in our house every year. The cheese stars and the gingerbread are served with our Christmas teas and I make the wreaths for gifts and a special teatime treat for ourselves. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

CRANBERRY & PISTACHIO WREATH COOKIES

These cookies are easy to make and make a lovely gift. Just pop in a cellophane bag and tie with a ribbon.

INGREDIENTS:

Basic shortbread recipe

60g Caster sugar.

125g butter.

185g plain flour.

To decorate:

Large bar of white chocolate.

Dried cranberries chopped.

Pistachios chopped.



METHOD:

To make the shortbread, rub the butter into the flour until it resembles breadcrumbs then mix in the sugar. Continue to work the mixture with your hands bringing it together to form a soft dough. Wrap in cling film and chill for 30 minutes. On a floured surface, roll out your dough to 1/4 inch thick. Then using a large cookie cutter cut out your discs then using a small cutter cut out the middle to form your wreath shape. Transfer to a lined baking sheet and bake for 15 minutes at 170 until just lightly golden in colour. Leave to cool completely. Carefully melt the white chocolate in a heatproof bowl over a pan of simmering water. (White chocolate needs to be melted gently as it can burn very easily).

One at a time, dip the tops of the cookies into the melted chocolate and place on a wire rack. Before the chocolate sets, sprinkle the cookies with a mixture of the cranberries and pistachios.

CHEESE STARS

This is your standard cheese straw recipe but cut into star shapes for Christmas. They are the perfect accompaniment with drinks, served alongside soup, or straight out of the oven while they are still warm!

INGREDIENTS:

280g self-raising flour.

280g mature cheddar grated.

6 oz. butter.

2 eggs.

Large teaspoon of mustard, English, Dijon or wholegrain.

Good grind of black pepper.



METHOD:

In a large bowl, rub the butter into the flour then thoroughly mix in the cheese. Whisk the eggs together with the mustard and black pepper then add to the dry mix and work in with your hands to form a soft dough. The mixture will be fairly sticky so dust your hands with extra flour for easier handling. Wrap in cling film and chill for 30 minutes.

On a floured surface roll out the dough to 1/4 inch thick and either cut out star shapes or cut into 1cm by 6 cm strips to make a classic cheese straw. Place on a lined baking tray and brush with beaten egg.

Bake for 20 minutes at 190 until well risen and golden

STICKY GINGERBREAD

This is a good one to make in advance as it freezes very well.

INGREDIENTS:

150g butter.

200g golden syrup.

200g black treacle or molasses.

125g dark muscovado sugar.

3 teaspoons ground ginger.

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon.

250ml milk.

2 eggs, beaten.

300g plain flour.

1/4 teaspoon of ground cloves.

1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda, dissolved in 2 x 15ml tablespoons warm water.

METHOD:

Preheat the oven to 170°C/gas mark 3 and line a roasting tin or ovenproof dish (approx. 30cm x 20cm x 5cm) baking parchment. In a saucepan, melt the butter over a lowish heat along with the sugar, syrup, treacle, ginger, cinnamon and cloves.

Take off the heat, and add the milk, eggs and dissolved bicarbonate of soda in its water.

Measure the flour into a bowl and pour in the liquid ingredients, beating until well mixed. It will be a very liquid batter, so don't worry. This is part of what makes it sticky later.

Pour it into the prepared tin and bake for 45-60 minutes until risen and firm on top. Try not to overcook, as it is nicer a little stickier. Transfer the tin to a wire rack and let the gingerbread cool in the tin before cutting into 20 squares, or however you wish to slice it.

Either serve as it is or add a little icing and a piece of stem ginger to decorate.



No. 1

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2024

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Monday 4th, 11th, 18th

Wednesday 27th

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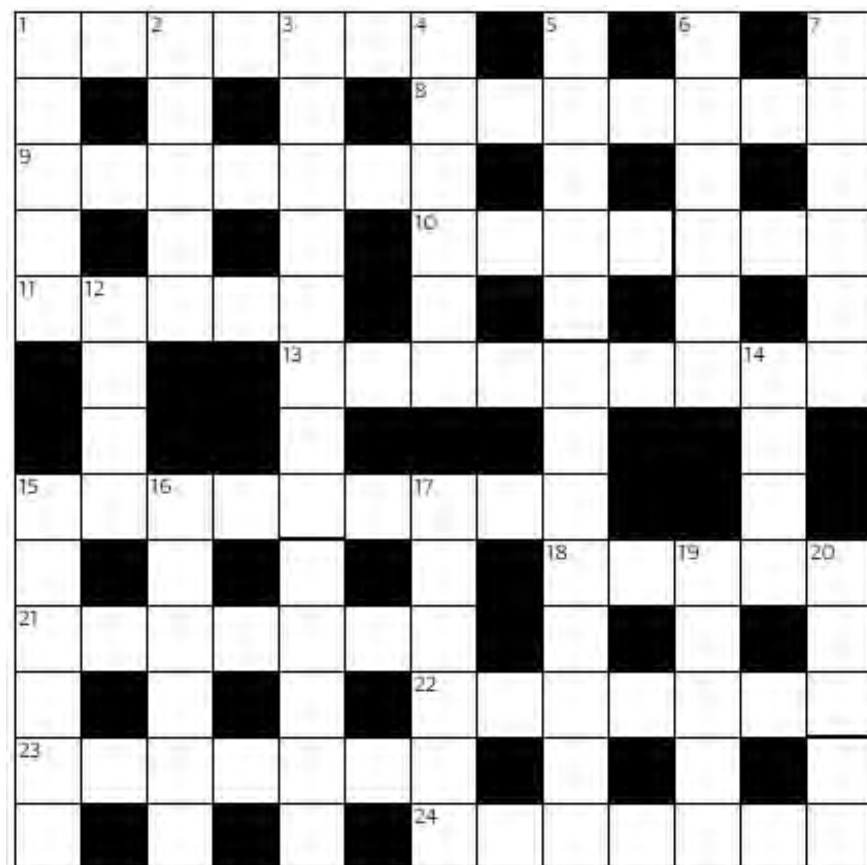


Sudokus

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

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

Cross Word



ACROSS

- 1 Person working with coffee beans? (7)
- 8 1975 film starring Warren Beatty as a promiscuous LA hairdresser (7)
- 9 Soothing balm (7)
- 10 Leave (informal) (4,3)
- 11 Wild (5)
- 13 Impossible to hear properly (9)
- 15 Zoo (9)
- 18 Operation to catch a person committing a crime (informal) (5)
- 21 Blockhead (7)
- 22 Highly-regarded (7)
- 23 Cut down (7)
- 24 Grow tense (7)

DOWN

- 1 High steep bank caused by river erosion (5)
- 2 Moore or McGough? (5)
- 3 They should bring you round (8,5)
- 4 Respiratory condition (6)
- 5 Vinaigrette, for example (5,8)
- 6 Poise shown under strain (6)
- 7 Something sweet to chew on (6)
- 12 Slacken (4)
- 14 Croquet or tennis venue (4)
- 15 Self-deprecating (6)
- 16 London columnist (6)
- 17 Rat or squirrel, say (6)
- 19 Awkward (5)
- 20 Grow old (3,2)

Find the solutions to these puzzles on our website: www.advertiseremojacar.com

just for laughs

Two young salmon are swimming along one day. As they do, they are passed by a wiser, older fish coming the other way. The wiser fish greets the two as he passes, saying, "Morning, boys! How's the water?" The other two continue to swim in silence for a little while, until the first one turns to the other and asks, "What the hell is water?"

A man and his wife are at a restaurant, and the husband keeps staring at an old drunken lady swigging her gin at a nearby table.

His wife asks, "Do you know her?"

"Yes," sighs the husband. "She's my ex-wife. She took to drinking right after we divorced seven years ago, and I hear she hasn't been sober since."

"My God!" says the wife. "Who would think a person could go on celebrating that long?"

I was in the library once when a man walked in asking for some ham and cheese. The librarian politely told him that he was in a library. The man first apologized and then whispered to the librarian, "Can I please have some ham and cheese?"

As a group of robbers entered the bank, their leader went to the manager and asked him to open the vault. He threatened the manager by saying, "If you try to do anything smart, you're fiction." The manager was confused and asked him, "Don't you mean 'You are history'?" The robber angrily replied back, "Do not change the subject, okay?"

In my neighborhood, there was a couple who had given their twin sons very weird names. One was named Trouble, while the other boy's name was Mind Your Own Business. So, one day they were playing hide and seek. Mind Your Own Business counted to a hundred and then started looking for his brother. But, somehow he couldn't find him anywhere. He saw a police car passing the neighborhood, so he stopped it to ask for help. When the police officer asked him for his name, he replied, "Mind Your Own Business!" Feeling insulted, the police officer still asked politely who he was looking for. Mind Your Own Business replied, "I am looking for Trouble!"

I was in a barbershop when a man and his young son walked in to get a haircut. The man asked the barber to give his son a haircut while he shopped for groceries nearby. The barber finished giving the haircut but there was no sign of the father. An hour passed, two hours passed. We finally asked the son where his father was. The boy shocked us by saying, "That man was not my father. He just told me that if I wanted to get a free haircut at the barbershop, I should come with him."

So, the wife and I were in town shopping... And as we came out of a store, three girls aged between 18 and 20 walked by, wearing tiny cropped tops and short short skirts. One of them, a tall blonde, had really fantastic, long, toned and tanned legs. I gently nudged my wife and said, "I bet you wish you still had legs like that!" She got really upset with me... In fact I could still hear her sobbing as I wheeled her up the ramp into the next store.

It's the World Cup Final, and a man makes his way to his seat right next to the pitch. He sits down, noticing that the seat next to him is empty. He leans over and asks his neighbour if someone will be sitting there. "No", says the neighbour. "The seat is empty." "This is incredible", said the man. "Who in their right mind would have a seat like this for the Final and not use it?" The neighbour says, "Well actually the seat belongs to me. I was supposed to come with my wife, but she passed away. This is the first World Cup Final we haven't been to together since we got married." "Oh, I'm so sorry to hear that. That's terrible... But couldn't you find someone else, a friend, relative or even a neighbour to take her seat?" The man shakes his head. "No", he says. "They're all at the funeral."

A family was having dinner once when the youngest boy asked his father whether worms tasted nice when we eat them. Both the parents reprimanded the little boy and told him that these things shouldn't be discussed over the dinner table. When the father asked the boy after dinner why he had asked such a question, he replied, "Papa, I think worms taste okay because there was one in your noodles."

The historians had gathered for a party in Cairo after they had discovered a new mummy. The discovered mummy, on display at the party hall, suddenly woke up. Seeing the historians alarmed, the mummy said that he just wanted to listen to some music. The mummy said, "Please don't play jazz because my trom-bones are in a very bad shape. Could someone please put on some wrap music?"

Britain's oldest woman turned 114 today. When asked the secret of her longevity, she attributed it to taking a walk at midnight every night. When quizzed on whether she was concerned about the increase in muggings in recent years, she said that she was not, and would continue mugging people as long as her health holds out.

LifeStyle

Drinks to Keep you Warm this Winter

by Brad H

On rare occasions, I've been known to savour a chilled beer. Though, as the mercury steadily plummets and winter's icy grip takes hold, the prospect of venturing out into the frigid night air with a frosty glass in hand loses some of its allure. And, just to be clear, my reluctance has nothing to do with any of my perceived softness or weakness—or because I'm Australian!

It's during these chilly months that we should relish the opportunity to indulge in beverages thoughtfully crafted to complement the cold embrace of winter. From diverse corners of the globe, I present to you a curated selection of seven exceptional winter concoctions:

MULLED WINE: A spiced and heated red wine, typically infused with cloves, cinnamon, and orange zest. It's a popular choice for holiday gatherings and adds a cozy, aromatic touch to winter celebrations. It's changed a little bit since the Augustus days, but it's for the best!

HOT TODDY: A classic winter warmer made with whiskey, honey, lemon juice, and hot water, often garnished with a cinnamon stick



or a slice of lemon. It's perfect for sipping when your *cough* sick *cough*, at least that's what you can tell your better half.

IRISH COFFEE: I'm certain that many of our readers are already familiar with this one. A delightful blend of hot coffee, Irish whiskey, sugar, and a dollop of whipped cream on top. It's a great choice for warming up on a chilly day.

SPIKED HOT CHOCOLATE: Upgrade your hot chocolate with a shot of your favourite liqueur, such as Bailey's Irish Cream, Peppermint Schnapps, or Kahlúa. Top it with marshmallows or whipped cream for extra indulgence. For those of us not big on coffee.

WINTER SANGRIA: While sangria is often associated with summer, you can create a winter version by using red wine, brandy, pomegranate juice, and seasonal fruits like apples, pears, and cranberries. The result is a festive and flavourful drink for the season. We are in Spain after all, it would be rude not to!

SPICED RUM EGGNOG: Eggnog is a classic holiday drink made with eggs, milk, sugar, and nutmeg. Add spiced rum to the mix for a warming and spirited twist on this traditional beverage. I can feel my insides getting warm already!

CIDER-BASED COCKTAILS: Hard cider can be a versatile base for winter cocktails. Create concoctions like "Hot Apple Cider with Bourbon" or "Cranberry Cider Punch" to enjoy the crisp and seasonal flavours of winter.

(Government mandated reminder) Remember to drink responsibly and in moderation, and never drink and drive.

These winter cocktails can add a festive and comforting touch to your holiday gatherings and cozy evenings. You'll no longer have to suffer from cold hands and your insides will be glowing too!

If you have any feedback for me, to dispute, argue, agree, support, harass or to pinch, flick me an email to: bradh_os@hotmail.com



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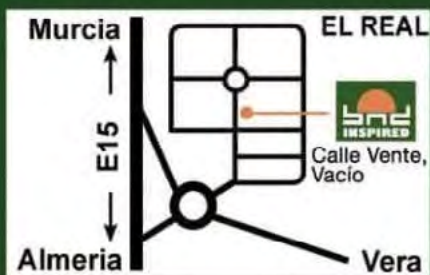
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MOJACAR BOWLS CLUB



MOJACAR BOWLS CLUB is the only bowls club based in the resort of Mojacar Playa. Situated behind the ServiGroup Marina Mar Hotel, it offers an outdoor six rink carpet green, with stunning views of the picturesque Mojacar Pueblo, as well as the rolling hills and sea views.

This small club welcomes all levels of bowlers, with coaching and mentoring provided for beginners. Open all year round, roll-ups take place on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturday mornings, from 9:30am, with a 10:00am start.

Known as "The Friendly Club", the members seek to balance the game of bowling with the social side, providing opportunities to meet new people and become part of the Mojacar Bowls Club community. A few hours gentle exercise, followed by a drink and chat with your fellow bowlers in the clubhouse and bar is an idyllic way to spend a morning.

The club has approximately 50 members, some of whom live in Spain, and others who visit the club regularly, usually over the winter months. All members and day visitors are welcome to attend roll-ups as often as they choose. The club also attracts visitors from other bowling clubs, whether on an ad-hoc basis or as part of an organised trip.

As well as the bowling, the club arranges regular social and charity events, lunches, quizzes and occasional days out to visit and play other clubs within the region.




The club is located at Avenida del Mar, 7 Urb Marina de la Torre, Mojacar, 04638 (behind Hotel Servigroup Marina Mar). Any interested bowlers are always welcome to visit the club during a roll up to meet the members and get a flavour of the bowling.


For more information about Mojacar Bowls Club, contact Janet Lawrence email: janlawspain@yahoo.co.uk or call her on Tel: 627 204 422. Alternatively visit www.mojacarbcb.com




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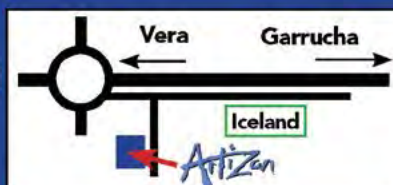
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GARDENING TIPS IN SOUTHERN SPAIN

Cultivating a Thriving Herb Garden in a Mediterranean Climate: Tips and Tricks By Alan



Mediterranean climates are renowned for their mild, sunny days and warm, dry summers.

These conditions create an ideal environment for growing a wide variety of herbs. Whether you're an experienced gardener or just starting your green-thumb journey, a Mediterranean herb garden can be a rewarding and aromatic addition to your outdoor space. In this article, we'll provide you with valuable tips on how to nurture a thriving herb garden in this unique climate.

1. Choose the Right Herbs: Not all herbs thrive in Mediterranean climates, so it's essential to select those that are well-suited to the region. Some fantastic choices include rosemary, thyme, oregano, sage, basil, and lavender. These herbs are not only resilient but also integral to Mediterranean cuisine.

2. Sunlight is Essential: Mediterranean climates are known for abundant sunshine. Herbs love sunbathing too! Ensure your garden receives at least 6-8 hours of direct sunlight per day. Place your herb pots or beds in a sunny spot, and they'll reward you with robust growth and flavour.

3. Proper Soil Preparation: Mediterranean soils can be relatively well-draining, which is excellent for herb gardening. However, it's still crucial to amend the soil with organic matter to enhance its water retention and nutrient levels. Well-drained, slightly alkaline soil is ideal for most herbs.

4. Watering Wisely: Mediterranean climates are often characterized by dry summers. Therefore, you need to be cautious about watering. Herbs generally prefer to dry out between waterings. Water deeply and less frequently to promote root development. Adding a layer of mulch can help conserve moisture and regulate soil temperature.

5. Prune Regularly: Pruning your herbs not only encourages new growth but also maintains their shape and flavour.

Most Mediterranean herbs respond well to pruning, and you can use the clippings in your culinary endeavours.

6. Fertilize Sparingly: Herbs don't require heavy fertilization. Instead, use a balanced, slow-release fertilizer sparingly to avoid overly lush growth, which can dilute the flavour of the herbs.

7. Pest and Disease Management: Mediterranean herbs are generally hardy, but they can still fall prey to common garden pests and diseases. Keep an eye out for signs of trouble, and address them promptly. Natural remedies or organic insecticides can be effective and safe choices.

8. Companion Planting: Planting certain herbs together can enhance growth and protect against pests. For instance, basil can deter aphids when planted near tomatoes. Research companion planting options for your chosen herbs to maximize their potential.

9. Container Gardening: If you have limited outdoor space, consider container gardening. Herbs like rosemary, thyme, and basil thrive in pots or containers. This method also allows you to control the soil and sun exposure, creating a microclimate suitable for each herb.

10. Harvest at the Right Time: Timing is crucial for harvesting herbs. The morning is usually the best time to collect them when their essential oils are most concentrated. Use sharp scissors or pruning shears to make clean cuts and avoid damaging the plants.

With these tips, you'll be well on your way to cultivating a flourishing herb garden in a Mediterranean climate. Not only will your garden be a visual delight, but it will also provide you with an array of fresh, flavourful herbs for culinary adventures and holistic well-being. So, get your hands in the soil and let the aromatic journey begin!



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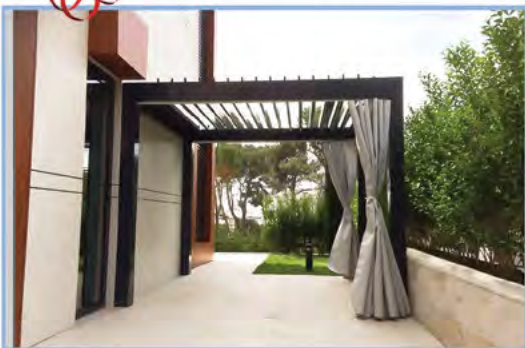


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The Pulpí Geode Guide

As the cooler winter months arrive, many of our local outdoor activities are now closed, making it the perfect time to step off the beaten path and explore some of the region's lesser-known wonders.

As the founder of the newly launched Mojácar Life, I'm committed to uncovering and sharing these lesser-known treasures. MojacarLife.com is a new online website dedicated to showcasing the unique attractions and experiences across the region so be sure to check it out!

Today, I'm excited to guide you beyond the typical beach destinations and introduce you to a remarkable geological marvel – the Pulpí Geode.

DISCOVERING THE PULPÍ GEODE

This now world-famous & record-breaking geode was discovered in 1990 and has only been open to the public since 2019. Located in Pulpí, near San Juan de los Terreros it is considered the largest visible single-crystal geode in the world.

The geode, composed of Gypsum – a mineral abundant in the area and used in everything from plasterboard to fertilizer – really is a sight to behold. Did you know Almería produces 20% of Europe's gypsum!?

BOOKING YOUR VISIT

To book, head over to geodapulpi.es or just Google it. The online booking process is reasonably user-friendly and partially in English. Adult tickets are currently at €22 and children's tickets (ages 8-16) at €10. Advance booking is REQUIRED.

Consider renting the headphones at reception when you arrive for an English-guided tour as it provides a much deeper insight into the history of the mine.

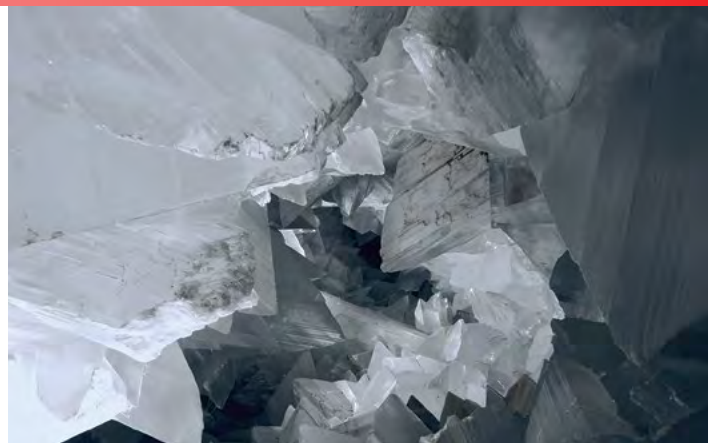
THE JOURNEY, WHAT TO BRING & WEAR

Since there's no direct public transport to the geode, driving is your best option. The scenic coastal route between Villaricos & San Juan offers breath-taking ocean views. Dress for comfort: sturdy shoes and clothes suitable for walking and some stair climbing are ideal. The mine's temperature is cool in summer and typically warmer than outside in winter. A small bottle of water is also recommended.

THE GEODE EXPERIENCE

Your fascinating 90-minute geode tour begins at the main entrance of the mine where you'll be given a hard hat and a quick briefing.

The mine is all well-maintained, well-lit, and extremely safe, but, be aware that the ceiling beams can be quite low and the corridors are reasonably narrow (don't worry, there aren't any



'tight spaces' you have to squeeze through).

As your small tour group (normally 6-8 people) follows the guide through the mine tunnels, you'll be taken around all the various passages that fully showcase the history of the mine, known locally as 'La Mina Rica', which translates to 'The Rich Mine'.

You'll bear witness to old relics left behind by the miners whilst your guide regularly stops to discuss how they lived, the types of minerals they extracted, and their methods (this is where renting the English headset at the reception comes in handy).

In your final descent, you will reach an extremely large spiral staircase. This is the most challenging part of the tour but there is a small 1-person (very slow) lift that can be used by anyone not up for the walk.

Reaching the geode, here, you can lean into the geode as the guide illuminates it, revealing a breathtaking display of light through clear crystals.

When the lights come on, it really is a sight to behold that will leave your mouth wide open as you stare in awe!

Finally, once your group has all had their turn, it's time to return to the surface (yep, via the stairs!).

CONCLUSION

As a major highlight of visiting the area (it's one of few year-round activities here), it's an experience I highly recommend to everyone who's physically able to do it :) and hopefully this guide has inspired you to get out there and explore it!

Have you already been? Leave a review of your experience on MojacarLife.com to help others! Just search 'geode'.

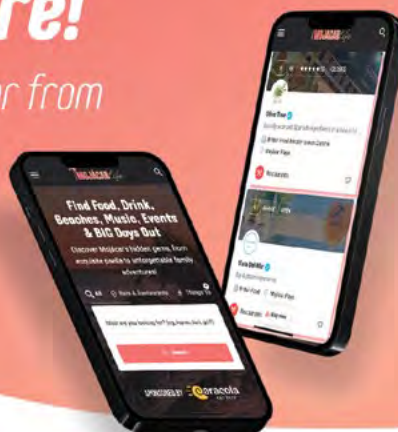
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A Merry Mashup of Santa Claus and Global Christmas Traditions

Picture this: it's Christmas Eve, and you're sitting by the fireplace with a plate of cookies, eagerly awaiting a visit from Santa Claus. But hold on a minute, which Santa are you waiting for? You see, Santa is a world traveller, and he has a knack for blending into the local culture wherever he goes. So, let's embark on a humorous holiday journey as we explore some wacky and wonderful versions of Santa Claus from around the world.

1. SANTA'S WINTER WONDERLAND IN FINLAND

Let's kick off our global Santa tour in Finland, the alleged homeland of the man himself. Known as Joulupukki, Santa's Finnish cousin may look like your average bearded gift-giver, but here's the twist: he hangs out in the village of Rovaniemi, right on the Arctic Circle. In this magical place, Santa has a postal office where he receives letters from kids worldwide. And yes, even the U.S. Postal Service forwards letters to him. So, in Finland, Santa's busy season is all year round!



2. KRAMPUS IN AUSTRIA - SANTA'S NAUGHTY SIDEKICK

While most Santas are all sugar, spice, and everything nice, Austria offers a darker twist on the holiday season with Krampus. This horned, furry beast is Santa's not-so-friendly sidekick. Instead of rewarding good children, Krampus punishes the naughty ones. If you've been more devilish than angelic this year, be prepared for a Krampus visit on December 6th. Brace yourselves, kids; it's coal and switches for you!



3. THE YULE LADS OF ICELAND

In Iceland, the Christmas cheer comes in a rather peculiar package: The Yule Lads. These thirteen mischievous troll-like characters take turns visiting children for thirteen nights leading up to Christmas. They have peculiar names like Spoon Licker, Pot Scraper, and even Sausage Swiper! Rather than leaving gifts, they're known to pull pranks and cause minor chaos. Icelanders, do you have any secrets for taming these unruly Yule Lads?



4. FATHER CHRISTMAS IN THE UK - SANTA'S SOPHISTICATED COUSIN

The UK's version of Santa Claus goes by the elegant moniker "Father Christmas." He's not one to squeeze down chimneys or slide on snow, but instead, he enters homes through the front door, often carrying a holly wreath. Father Christmas embodies a more refined spirit of the holiday season and enjoys a good old-fashioned mince pie and a glass of sherry left out for him. Just be sure to leave a carrot for his trusty reindeer too!



5. DED MOROZ IN RUSSIA - GRANDFATHER FROST WITH AN ICE QUEEN

Russia's Ded Moroz, or Grandfather Frost, is Santa's cool, or should I say, cold relative. Dressed in frosty blue and silver attire, Ded Moroz brings gifts with his beautiful granddaughter, the Snow Maiden.

Their delivery mode? A horse-drawn sleigh gliding through the snow-covered landscape. In Russia, New Year's Eve is the big holiday, and Ded Moroz is the star of the show, granting wishes and keeping the holiday spirit alive.



6. SINTERKLAAS IN THE NETHERLANDS - SANTA'S ARRIVAL BY STEAMBOAT

In the Netherlands, Santa Claus goes by the name Sinterklaas, and he arrives in style. Forget the reindeer-drawn sleigh; Sinterklaas makes a grand entrance on a steamboat from Spain. He's accompanied by his loyal assistants, the Zwarte Pieten (Black Petes), who help distribute presents and sweets to children. While Sinterklaas might seem a tad less adventurous than his North Pole counterpart, his arrival is nothing short of a spectacle.



7. JAPAN'S KFC CHRISTMAS FEAST - SANTA'S FINGER-LICKIN' GOOD TRADITION

In Japan, Christmas is a time for romantic dinners and...KFC? Yep, you read that right. Thanks to a successful KFC marketing campaign in the '70s, it's become a beloved tradition to enjoy a finger-lickin' good KFC meal on Christmas Eve. Forget about turkey; in Japan, Santa might be feasting on a bucket of Original Recipe while delivering presents!



8. LA BEFANA IN ITALY - THE WITCHY SANTA

Santa's Italian counterpart, La Befana, isn't your typical jolly old man. She's a haggard old witch with a broomstick. On the night of Epiphany (January 5th), La Befana delivers gifts to well-behaved children and leaves coal for the naughty ones. Maybe her broomstick is her secret weapon for a speedy delivery, but she's anything but ordinary.



9. THE GNOMES OF SWEDEN - SANTA'S WORKSHOP HELPERS

In Sweden, Santa's workshop is abuzz with the help of the Tomten, small gnome-like creatures who assist with preparations for Christmas. These little helpers are believed to live under the floorboards of Swedish homes, ensuring that all is ready for the festive season. Just be sure to leave a bowl of porridge out for them to keep the holiday magic flowing!



10. SANTA'S SUN SOAKED VACATION IN AUSTRALIA

Finally, let's hop down under to Australia. Christmas in the land of kangaroos and koalas takes place during the height of summer. So what's Santa to do when his traditional fur-lined suit becomes unbearable? Well, he swaps it for a pair of boardshorts and hits the waves on a surfboard! In Australia, Santa's more likely to be greeted with a cold beer than a mug of hot cocoa.



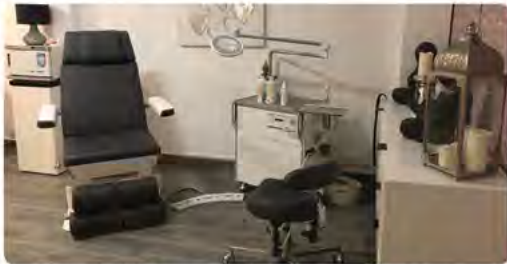
So there you have it, a quirky world tour of Santa's many faces. From Finnish postal Santa to Austrian Krampus, Icelandic Yule Lads, and Italy's Befana, the magic of Christmas comes in all shapes and sizes. No matter which Santa pays you a visit, one thing's for sure: the holiday season is a time of joy, laughter, and the shared love of family and friends.

So, get ready to embrace the holiday season in all its international glory and let the merriment begin!



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A guide on how to *sleigh* your Christmas party looks.

"Tis the season to be merry!"

With December just around the corner this can only mean one thing: parties, parties and more parties!!!

If you enjoy lots of partying it means you need a lot of party outfits!

If ever there's a time to have fun with your aesthetics then the Christmas season is the season to do that and to stand out...wear bold red lipstick, rock those reindeer earrings but most of all SPARKLE!

Christmas is the time of the year you want to look festive and elegant but also be comfortable. Comfort is key, staying both stylish and comfortable is important.

In true Christmas style the most common colours worn are RED, GREEN, BLACK, GOLD OR SILVER. However if blue is your colour then wear that with some sparkle. If red or black isn't your colour then choose to wear a sparkling red or black necklace with your Christmas outfit! The spirit of the season comes from the gorgeous colors of the holidays, so why not embrace that somewhere in your outfit?

When choosing what to wear analysis your entire wardrobe, focus on bold style-driven pieces first and build your look around that. A sparkly top or wrap, a bold statement glimmering necklace you have been shying away from all year. A gold skirt, sequinned jacket or even rhinestone jeans!!!

Sparkle, sequins, and glitter are very appropriate this time of year.

If you are hesitant about a bold red lip or a colourful smoky eye, don't be!

This is the perfect time of year to be as bold and glamorous as you want, remember you're not limited.

If you are having trouble wrapping your head around the idea, Pinterest is a great source for inspiration and tips on how to style Christmas outfits.

This is a fun and festive time, and it is important to stay true to what makes you happy.

I'm going to save all my "keep it simple" anecdotes for the Spring season. The air feels crisper, and I know that in order to stay warm, you will have to layer up.

Ways to amplify your outfit... experiment with faux fur, leather, and even velvet all great textures and materials that won't just look great with your outfit, but you'll feel great wearing them too.

If in doubt, an easy way out and the most basic style tip for every event: reach for your LBD.

Little black dresses are an integral part of every wardrobe because they are both flattering and extremely adaptable.

If you style it up with the right accessories and invest a little more time into your makeup, this might just be your most chic look of the season.

So, it's more than OK to choose black faux leather leggings and a comfy red sweater. Plus some ankle boots or just classy heels would be perfect.

A Merry Christmas & a Happy Healthy New Year from Team Oasis



Welcome to your monthly hair dot com



Each month I am looking forward to sharing my knowledge of hair care with you. As a Vocational Trainer and Assessor for the examiners SCOTVEC and a salon owner for over 30 years, my passion is the science of hair and how to respect it using salon chemicals.

I will be giving you some useful tips and advice on how you can protect and care for your hair and how to make the most of your crowning glory.

Perms are making a big comeback. Each month the number of clients asking for a light perm are increasing. Christmas is around the corner and clients are wanting fine, flyaway, lifeless hair to have some body, bounce and movement. A perm can last up to approximately twelve weeks, however the looser the perm the less time it will last.

Using larger rollers and the correct perming lotion, hair can be transformed. One of my clients asked a few questions regarding her perm. I hope this article helps anyone who is thinking of having a perm but is still undecided.

WHY DOES PERM LOTION SMELL SO BAD?

A) Perm lotion has a chemical called ammonia thioglycolate, it is the ammonia that you can smell. This chemical breaks bonds within the hair and allows us to reshape them.

Providing the perm lotion is rinsed thoroughly from the hair once the curl is achieved it can be less smelly. Perm lotions are not as smelly as they once were as perfumes have been added to hide the smell.



If the smell absolutely gets to you and you cannot stand it anymore, you can rinse your hair thoroughly at home with water, only for a couple of minutes in the shower.

Q) HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO WAIT BEFORE I CAN WASH MY HAIR AFTER MY PERM?

A) Perm lotion breaks down important bonds within the hair, the neutraliser is used after the perming process to rebuild these bonds, however, only approximately 75% of the bonds are knitted back together by the neutraliser. The remaining bonds in your hair will naturally start to knit back over the next few days, so it's important not to wash your hair for the first 3 days after your perm.

Q) CAN I PERM MY HAIR IF IT IS ARTIFICIALLY COLOURED? AND HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO WAIT BEFORE I PERM MY HAIR AFTER A COLOUR?

A) Yes, you can perm over artificially coloured hair, however, hair that has been bleached can become dry and brittle. Your colour will lighten slightly as the neutraliser used in the perming process contains a chemical called hydrogen peroxide which can take out some of the colour molecules within the hair. It is best to have your hair permed before a colour treatment, if you decide you would like a perm after a colour, I would recommend waiting approximately 3 days. Your hairdresser can do an assessment on your hair to ensure they use the correct perming lotion for colour treated hair.

Merry Christmas to you all, and a very Happy New Year.



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What's the problem

At the Advertiser magazine, we recognise that everyone needs to reach out for advice now and then. Seeking the help of someone who can not only offer a completely objective point of view but, is also qualified to advise you, may not always be possible.

We are delighted to be able to offer the services of a qualified counsellor and psychotherapist, Theresa Wood, to answer any of our readers issues or problems.

Hi Theresa

I read the problem last month from the lady who was being 'duped' by the younger man, and in some ways I was a bit relieved as I'm afraid I too have been scammed and it's all my own fault. I am a man in my late 50's and I'm divorced. A young woman contacted me by messenger through Facebook and was very nice to me and chatty by text. She then asked me if I'd like to visit her at home and said she lived about 20 minutes away. I agreed and when I was setting off she said would I mind stopping at the shop on the way and buying an Apple Card so that she could load up a game for her son. She said that would keep him busy while we enjoyed some privacy. I know you can probably see what's coming but the stupid old fool that I am I didn't. I bought the card and sent her a photo of the code and number off the back, she said to send it on ahead so his game would be loaded by the time I got there. When I arrived at the address it was not her house but a warehouse. I know I've been stupid but it has really knocked my confidence in myself, I've hardly been out since.

Bill

Hi Bill

Please don't be so hard on yourself. You must remember that your intentions were good and you haven't done anything wrong or illegal. You are the same man you were the day before this happened to you. We all have to be so aware of all the new scams that are out there now and it's possible for us all to get caught in the right circumstances. What it may show is that you obviously would like to meet someone nice but we also have to be realistic. A young good looking woman can walk into a bar and meet any man fairly easily, she doesn't have to target an older man through Facebook to meet someone. You are so brave to talk about this because silence is the reason that so many people have been duped. So thank you for responding to last month's letter, I'm sure that lady will appreciate your honesty too. Take care of your heart and your wallet.

Best wishes

Theresa

This is a very clever scam that can catch anyone out!

I had one last week from a friend in Spain, I am in the UK at the moment. My friend couldn't ring as she had laryngitis and couldn't talk, asked if I could do her a favour, of course I said. The emails went back and forth with me totally thinking it was my friend. She had a friend whose daughter had cancer and wanted to send her an Apple voucher (£200) It was only when I asked the address to send it to, that I was told to send the code and she would pass it on. Still thinking that I was helping and about to go and buy one. The next message said it was urgent that I did it TODAY, that is when I thought it wasn't quite right and phoned her husband in Spain, yes, it was a scam that I very nearly fell for!!

That is a sad story. Well, you just need to chalk it down to experience. A lesson learned and move on.

Suzu

There really is some scum out there these days! Don't you worry Bill, you'll be a stronger, wiser man for it!

Kimberley

You know that expression "if something seems too good to be true, then it is", I think we should all keep that expression in mind when having any online dealings. Be it interactions with a stranger online or a business. Just think twice and ask yourself what might potentially go wrong.

Alex

I have seen some very clever scams and the more we "tell on them" the more others can be aware. I recently received an email telling me that they had, a few weeks previously sent me an image which contained spyware. The spyware apparently had been tracking all of my internet usage and keystrokes for the past few weeks. They had images of me "through my computers camera" watching "adult explicit" websites. The email instructed me to transform 5,000€ to a bitcoin account within 3 days or the proof they had would be forwarded to my wife and all the contacts on my computer.

Luckily, I knew immediately that it was a scam as I have never visited such websites, the only computer I have is in my (very busy and visible from the street) office. It doesn't have a camera and I am a woman married to a man, therefore no wife. However, I can see how somebody could very easily be tricked into parting with a lot of money. I spoke to a friend who is in the police about it. They told me it is a very common scam and usually people only approach them after they have already parted with all the money they have.

You didn't do anything wrong Bill. Maybe try to meet someone in real life rather than online.

Carol

This happens all the time. Lonely vulnerable people. Mine was an advert on face book for shoes. The shoes never arrived but a parcel of face masks did. There are con artists everywhere unfortunately. Chalk it down to experience. You did nothing wrong.

Lesley

Theresa Wood M.I.A.C.P. - M.Phil. Psychoanalysis - Bsc. Counselling & Psychotherapy
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Vitamin C is known for its power to strengthen the immune system and fight stress, while vitamin B12 promotes cellular repair and contributes to healthy blood and nervous system function.

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What is the procedure?

The patient makes themselves comfortable, and the specialist connects the vitamin drip.

The procedure usually takes between 30 and 50 minutes.

What is the difference between IV therapy (vitamins cocktails) and normal vitamins?

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Complex Vitamin B, B1, B2, B3, B5, B6 is a whole set of vitamins that dissolve well in water, are removed with sweat or urine and participate in the processes of matrix metabolism.

They help in the absorption of carbohydrates, support the functioning of the nervous system and necessary for a functioning circulatory system.

Infusions have an immediate effect as they bypass the digestive system, so the losses are minimal.

Glutathione improves the body's degreasing process, supports the immune system, helps maintain proper body weight, takes part in regeneration and thus reduces inflammation and protects against stress.

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BOOK REVIEW

The Nanny at Number 43

BY NICOLA CASSIDY

"The Nanny at Number 43" is an absolute gem of a novel that captivated me from the very first page and held me spellbound until the very end. What makes this book even more special is that it is set in my hometown, making it an even more enchanting and relatable experience.

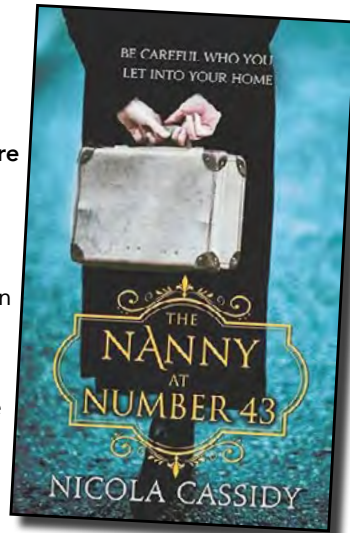
Author, Nicola Cassidy, has woven a rich tapestry of emotions and stories in a backdrop that is so familiar to me, which adds a unique layer of connection to the narrative. The vivid descriptions of our hometown breathe life into the story, making it feel like a character in itself. Every street, every corner, and every local hangout is brilliantly detailed, creating an atmosphere that transports you to the heart of the town.

The protagonist, a nanny, takes center stage and her journey is one of poverty, fear and revenge. But who is she and where did she come from? The depth of character development is astounding, and I found myself genuinely caring about her and her struggles whilst hating her at the same time.

The plot is masterfully crafted, filled with unexpected twists and turns that kept me eagerly turning the pages. The emotional rollercoaster that I experienced while reading this book is a testament to the author's storytelling prowess. I laughed, I cried, and I felt a profound sense of connection with the characters and their lives.

"The Nanny at Number 43" is not just a book; it's a heartfelt tribute to our hometown, a stunning mystery and a testament to the power of storytelling. I can't recommend this book enough to anyone who wants to lose themselves in a captivating, emotional and beautifully written story. It's a true masterpiece, and I will treasure it as a reminder of the magic that can be written by an author in our own backyard.

By Cheryl Goth



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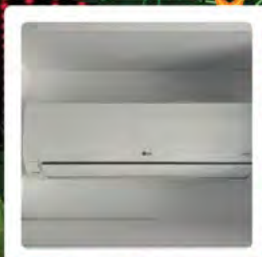
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