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The Advertiser Magazine

Est. 2001

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.

The Advertiser Magazine is delivered to over 200 local distribution points including our advertisers. The Advertiser Magazine is also available to download from our website www.advertisermojacar.com and approximately 2,200 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

Advertiser Sales: 604 956 705 (Karen)

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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Welcome

to the May issue of the Advertiser Magazine

We're so happy to see you arrive, our favourite month of the year, especially when it comes to the weather. The days are longer, the sun feels warmer (but not too hot), and everything seems just that little bit brighter and more alive.

A quick heads-up to start the month: Friday the 1st of May is a Bank Holiday across Spain, as it is in many European countries, in celebration of Labour Day. It's the perfect excuse to slow down, enjoy a long weekend and make the most of this beautiful time of year.

And as we step into this lovely month, we'd also like to say a heartfelt thank you to all of our loyal customers and readers. We truly appreciate your continued support.

Here's to a month of sunshine, fresh air and all the little joys that May brings.

Andrew & Cheryl

Local Markets

MONDAY

- * Antas
- * Huerca Overa
- * Vera Playa

TUESDAY

- * Albox
- * Cuevas de Alanzora
- * Los Gallardos

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

- * Carboneras
- * Cuevas del Alanzora
- * 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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Bon Appétit!

SUMMER PASTA DISH with no-cook salsa sauce

Prep time: 15 mins - Cook time: 15 mins

Skill level: Low - Serves: 4-6

This fresh and tangy pasta salad captures the breezy simplicity of summer eating. Salsa is a perfect dip for corn chips but, done right, it can also be an excellent sauce for pasta.

Powered by sweet and juicy summer tomatoes, homemade salsa is a far cry from the jarred variety, and comes together effortlessly.

Ingredients:

500g (4 medium) tomatoes
120g (1 medium) courgettes, trimmed and finely diced
1 small onion (any colour), finely diced
1 jalapeno, serrano or long green chilli, finely chopped
2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
30g (1 cup) coriander (leaves and stalks), finely chopped, plus more for topping
Sea salt and black pepper
2 tablespoons lime juice (from 1 large lime), divided
500g short pasta such as rigatoni or penne
1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil

Method:

1. Place a big pot of salted water on medium high heat and bring to the boil.
2. Meanwhile, finely chop the tomato and scrape the flesh and the juice into a large bowl. Add the courgette, onion, chilli, garlic and coriander to the tomatoes. Season with 1 teaspoon of salt and 1 tablespoon of the lime juice and toss to combine. Leave to marinate while the pasta cooks.
3. When the water comes to the boil, add the pasta and cook, according to packet instructions, until al dente. Drain in a colander and allow to cool for 1 to 2 minutes.
4. While the pasta is still warm, add it to the salsa, along with the remaining 1 tablespoon of lime juice and the olive oil. Season generously with salt and pepper and toss to combine. Top with remaining coriander leaves and serve.

(ABC News: Hetty Lui McKinnon)

Hetty Lui McKinnon is a food writer and cookbook author with a passion for vegetables. She's the author of six vegetarian cookbooks, and won the James Beard Award for Vegetable-Focused cooking in 2024.



Tips:

- This pasta salad can be prepared 4 to 6 hours in advance, and left at room temperature until ready to eat. Leftovers can be kept in an airtight container in the fridge for up to three days.
- This recipe is vegan but it is possible to add some crumbled feta or a creamy option such as buffalo mozzarella.
- Bulk it up with sweetcorn or add heft with the addition of canned beans such as black beans or chickpeas.



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- Tue 5 - 20h
- Wed 6 - 20:30h
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- Fri 8 - 20h
- Sat 9 - 20h
- Sun 10 - 17h
- Sun 10 - 20:30h
- Tue 12 - 20h
- Wed 13 - 20:30h
- Thu 14 - 20h
- Fri 15 - 20h
- Sat 16 - 21:30h
- Sun 17 - 17h
- Sun 17 - 20:30h
- Tue 19 - 20h
- Wed 20 - 20:30h
- Thu 21 - 20h
- Fri 22 - 20h
- Sat 23 - 20h
- Sun 24 - 17h
- Sun 24 - 20:30h
- Tue 26 - 20h
- Wed 27 - 20:30h
- Thu 28 - 20h
- Fri 29 - 20h
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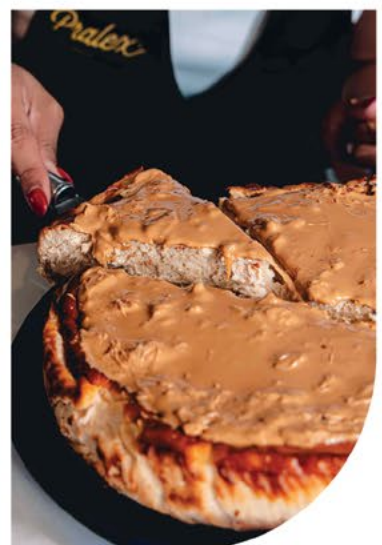
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LifeStyle

THE GREAT CONVENIENCE SWIZZLE

There comes a point in every Gen X life when you find yourself standing in the kitchen, clutching a cup of tea, staring into the middle distance and muttering, "This is all getting worse, isn't it?"

Not in a dramatic, horsemen-of-the-apocalypse sort of way. No, modern decline now arrives gift-wrapped in cheerful branding and accompanied by a jaunty email assuring you that exciting improvements are on the way.

We, the generation raised on latchkeys, smoky pubs, sensible packaging and telephones that existed purely to make phone calls, have been subjected to a peculiar con trick. Everything is being made ostensibly easier, faster and more convenient. In reality, however, it is becoming more cumbersome, more irritating and more likely to end with us bellowing at an inanimate object.

Take, for instance, the modern customer service experience. Once upon a time, if one had a problem with one's bank, insurance company or gas supplier, one rang them. A human being answered. Granted, this human being might have been called Brenda and might have been eating a yoghurt while discussing your direct debit, but she existed. She could think. She could listen. She could occasionally say, "Oh yes, that's clearly gone wrong," and then rectify it.

Now? Now we are greeted with this masterpiece of corporate optimism: "For your convenience, you can now chat to our AI assistant." For my convenience? Convenient for whom exactly? Certainly not for me, now trapped in an endless textual purgatory with a digital simpleton named Finn, Ava or perhaps something particularly enraging like ZEN.

You type: "I have been charged twice."

The bot replies: "I'm sorry you're having trouble logging in."

You type: "No, I have been charged twice."

The bot replies: "Great news! I can help you reset your password."

Forty-five minutes later you are no closer to solving the problem, but you have learned that the AI assistant is "always here to help", which is rather like saying that a garden gnome is always there to assist with keyhole surgery.

This phrase "for your convenience" has become the great lie of modern civilisation. It is the verbal equivalent of putting a sprig of parsley next to a prison meal.

Consider self-checkouts. We were told they would revolutionise shopping. No more queues! No more waiting! You would glide through the supermarket with the efficiency of a Formula One pit

crew. Instead, you stand there waving a bunch of bananas over a scanner like an amateur magician while the machine shrieks: "Unexpected item in the bagging area!" The unexpected item is the shopping. The shopping that I have just scanned. The shopping that this infernal contraption specifically invited me to place in the bagging area.

Within moments, a teenager in a fluorescent lanyard must come and rescue you with the weary expression of a man who has spent his formative years overriding machines because a courgette has offended them.

Meanwhile, the shop has quietly eliminated six jobs and convinced us this is progress.

Then there are apps. Everything is now an app. You cannot park, order a coffee, turn on your heating or purchase a moderately festive cushion without first downloading an app, creating an account, inventing a password containing one rune, one haiku and the blood of a virgin badger, then verifying your identity via an email that arrives three hours later. In the old days, if you wanted to park the car, you placed coins in a meter. That was it. The entire transaction took seven seconds and involved no software updates.

Now you stand in the rain, peering at a sign that says: "Download ParklyGoEZ." You dutifully download it, only to discover you already have a password from 2021 which you cannot remember. You request a reset link. The reset link goes to an email account you no longer use. By the time you have finally managed to pay for parking, the car park attendant has ticketed you and the council has sold your details to three companies offering luxury conservatories.

Even things that were perfectly adequate have been "improved" into uselessness. Televisions are no better. Once, a television had four buttons and perhaps, if one was feeling continental, a remote control the size of a brick. Today, you need three remotes, two subscriptions and the patience of a saint merely to watch the news. By the time you have navigated through seven menus, agreed to sixteen privacy settings and accidentally opened a documentary about artisanal turnips, you have entirely forgotten what you meant to watch.

And don't get me started on airline websites. We are assured they are "streamlined". This is true in the same sense that the Minotaur's labyrinth was streamlined. You begin by trying to book a seat and somehow, twenty minutes later, you are being asked whether you would like to pay an additional 3€ to board the plane emotionally.

The truth is that many of these improvements are not designed to make life better for us. They are designed to make life cheaper, faster and more profitable for someone else. We are being persuaded to do the work once done by paid employees, then thanked for our cooperation as though we have volunteered for a village fête.

Gen X notices this because we remember the before times. We remember when "user friendly" did not mean "you will require a tutorial video and a QR code to boil an egg." We remember products that lasted, instructions written in English and devices that did not demand a software update before they would make toast.

Of course, every generation believes the world was better when they were young. We are probably guilty of a little nostalgic exaggeration. School dinners were appalling, wallpaper was frequently brown and everyone smelt faintly of damp corduroy. But even so, one cannot escape the suspicion that somewhere along the line, convenience stopped being convenient.

Cheryl Goth



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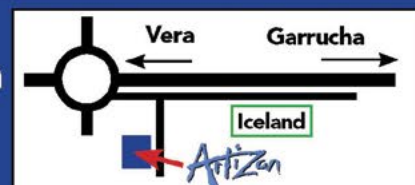
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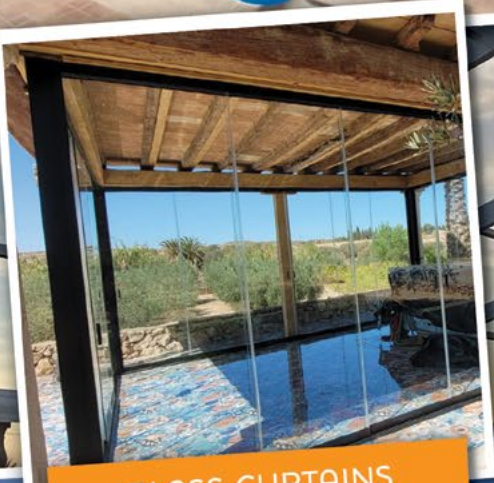
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ACROSS

- 1 State of extreme poverty (4)
- 3 Aniston, Lopez or Saunders (8)
- 9 A creative movement breaking with tradition (3,4)
- 10 Evil spell (5)
- 11 Left-leaning (informal) (5)
- 12 Beefeater — one may (anag) (6)
- 14 Member of a group formed in 1848 to oppose the dominant conventions of the Victorian art world (3-10)
- 17 Sour (6)
- 19 Toughen — acclimatise (5)
- 22 Pulsating pain (5)
- 23 Dog cross-bred from a greyhound for racing (7)
- 24 They have an answer for everything (4,4)
- 25 Small-headed nail (4)

DOWN

- 1 Tube that takes air from the throat to the lungs (8)
- 2 Certain to end in failure (2-3)
- 4 In all possible directions (5,5,3)
- 5 (Mexican) chip (5)
- 6 Oldest and most successful Formula One motor racing team (7)
- 7 Three-toed South American flightless bird (4)
- 8 Tall eastern temple building (6)
- 13 Devoid of people (8)
- 15 Companions (7)
- 16 Supposed cure for all ills (6)
- 18 Locate and correct computer program code errors (5)
- 20 Amphetamine (informal) (5)
- 21 Cook slowly in liquid (4)

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THE DOWNFALLS OF A CASHLESS SOCIETY

Once upon a time, losing your wallet was a minor inconvenience. You'd cancel a card or two, mourn the crumpled €10 note you swore you'd use responsibly and move on. In today's increasingly cashless society, however, losing your wallet is less of a tragedy because there's nothing in it, but also more of one because somehow you're still broke.

Welcome to the brave new world of digital payments, where money isn't real, tips are "optional," and every transaction comes with a tiny, almost polite nibble taken out of your bank account.

Let's start with the obvious perk: convenience. Paying with your phone feels futuristic. You can tap, beep and walk away like a tech-savvy wizard. But lurking behind that satisfying boop is a parade of invisible middlemen such as banks, payment processors and apps, each taking a microscopic slice of your purchase. One slice is harmless. A thousand slices means you have funded someone's yacht.

In a cashless society, every euro you spend goes on a little journey. It does not just move from you to the café. It takes a scenic route through a maze of transaction fees. Businesses pay a percentage for each card payment and, while they try to absorb the cost, it eventually sneaks back to you in the form of higher prices. So that €3 coffee becomes something closer to €3.12, but the extra €0.12 is shy and prefers not to be acknowledged.

Then there is the tragedy of tipping. In the old days, you could dramatically toss a coin into a jar and feel like a benevolent monarch. Now you are confronted with a touchscreen asking if you would like to tip 10%, 15%, 20%, or "Other," which really means prepare for guilt. Not only does this put you on the spot, but that tip may also be subject to processing fees. Yes, even your generosity gets taxed by the digital gods. Somewhere, a coin jar weeps.

Let's not forget the gig economy. Delivery drivers, freelancers and small creators often rely on digital platforms for income. These platforms are incredibly efficient at taking their cut. Every payment comes with a fee, sometimes multiple fees stacked like a bureaucratic lasagna. By the time the money reaches the worker, it is slightly thinner, as if it skipped lunch.

"But it's only a small percentage," you might say. True. But imagine if every time you bought groceries, someone quietly removed one grape from your bunch. You would survive, sure, but eventually you would start asking questions. In a cashless system, those missing grapes add up

across millions of transactions, creating a steady stream of income, just not for you.

There is also the issue of financial visibility. Cash had a wonderful way of disappearing dramatically because you felt it leaving your hands. Digital money, on the other hand, vanishes silently. Tap here, click there and suddenly your bank app looks like it has been on a diet. The frictionless nature of digital payments makes spending easier and noticing fees harder.

And what about those moments when technology fails? The internet goes down, there is a power cut, the card reader freezes or your phone battery dies at the worst possible moment. In a fully cashless society, that is not just inconvenient. It is existential. You are standing there, perfectly willing to pay, but unable to prove it. It is like being rich in a dream where shops only accept interpretive dance.

Of course, a cashless society is not all doom and gloom. It reduces theft, simplifies accounting and makes life easier in countless ways. But it also introduces a subtle shift. Money becomes less tangible and the cost of moving it around becomes more pervasive.

So the next time you tap your card for a sandwich, take a moment to appreciate the invisible ecosystem making it possible and quietly taking its share. It is the modern version of tossing coins into a fountain, except instead of wishes, you are funding transaction fees.

And no, you still cannot pay your rent with good intentions and a charming smile. Some things never change.

The grumpy old git



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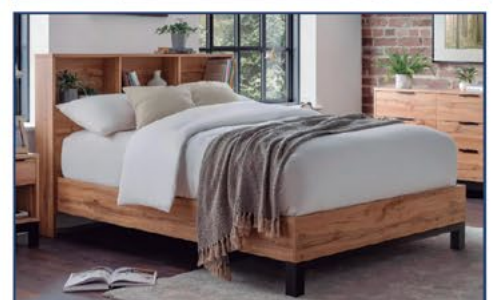
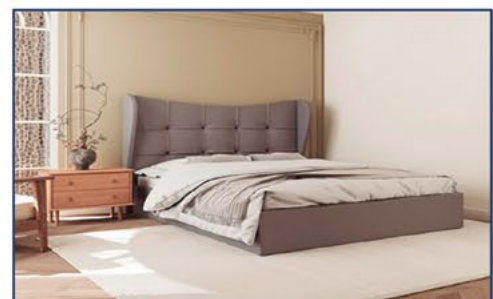
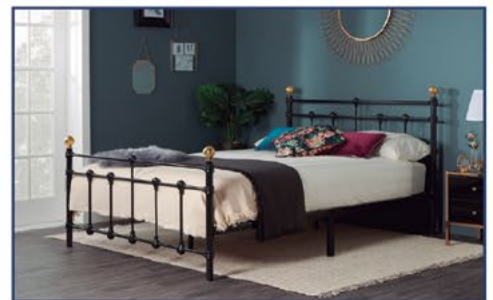
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What's the problem

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

This isn't what most people would call a problem but it's causing real trouble between my wife and myself. We haven't had a holiday since our two children were born, they are now two and a half and eight months. I suggested that we go on holidays this year just for a week as we wouldn't want to leave the children any longer and we can just about afford a week away. My wife has got very angry that I would even suggest leaving the children, it's her mother that offered to look after them. I think a week with just the two of us would be really good for us, but she said she couldn't bear to leave them, now we're not talking.

David

Hi David

I totally understand how both of you are feeling right now. While you can see the benefits of some alone time with your wife, I suspect she feels like she would be abandoning her children and feel terrible. I think taking a mother away from her children for a week might be too much for her. If you could maybe start by a night away together, then maybe a weekend so that she can see how well the children do while she's away, this might help in eventually getting a longer break.

Best wishes
Theresa

It's healthy in a marriage to have a few days alone. Her mother will enjoy time with her grandchildren. It's a win-win situation for all involved. We are married 45 years and we are very close to our sons. We left them from a very young age with my parents, for a few days.

Delia

Readers Answers

I've never quite understood why some parents are so reluctant to spend time away from their children. A short break could be genuinely beneficial for everyone involved. It's almost as though they believe their children are so uniquely dependent that no one else could possibly care for them, even for a week.

In reality, a change of scenery would likely do you both good and the children as well. Time with their granny could feel like a special treat for them, full of attention and a bit of indulgence. It's important for your wife to remember that becoming a parent doesn't mean losing her entire sense of self; she is still her own person beyond that role.

Becky

Listen to your wife. It's a physical as well as an emotional pain for a woman to be separated from her small children even for a night. Go on your own if you must.

Barbara

Perhaps your wife's mother can go on the holiday to and help with childcare and then give you some time together.

Suzy

Maybe say you love her and want her all to yourself and to have her rest ?

Netty

I left our son with my Mother when he was 7 months old. I really didn't enjoy the holiday. If she says she can't think of leaving them, you're on to a non-starter. Just do as someone else here suggests and take her somewhere not too far away for a weekend. That way she'll be able to tell how it feels to be without them.

Bea

Your wife's Mum would probably really love to help you look after the children on holiday and be a part of it all, she might even be able to contribute so you wouldn't have to pay for her.

Jacqui

She is obviously very nervous about leaving the children. It has to be done though, for everyone's sake. How about starting by booking a night away but not very far away, so that she knows she can easily go home if she needs to? Gradually build up from there. You may not get your whole week away this year, but hopefully it will happen.

Debbie

Take them all on a family holiday, Grandma too. It's where memories are made.

Janice

Theresa Wood M.I.A.C.P. - M.Phil. Psychoanalysis - Bsc. Counselling & Psychotherapy

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5th Annual "Alternative Miss Mojácar"

The 5th Annual "Alternative Miss Mojácar" took place on Saturday, April 4th, at The Irish Rover, drawing an enthusiastic crowd and continuing its reputation as one of the most entertaining and heartfelt events in Mojácar's social calendar. With a full house of 150 attendees, the venue was filled to capacity, creating a lively and supportive atmosphere from start to finish.

This much-anticipated event brought together a group of spirited participants, each representing a chosen charity close to their hearts. Danny Hitchen and Gavin Edwards took to the stage in support of Trex Andalucía, while David O'Neill and David Scott performed on behalf of Paws-Patas. Shaun Fallon and John Wood represented Teama Autismo, and Steve Buckley proudly stood for MACS (Mojácar Area Cancer Support). Dez Redding championed Vera & District Lions, and Fred Edwards brought his energy in aid of Podfather. Each contestant embraced the evening with enthusiasm, determination, and a willingness to entertain, all in the name of fundraising.

The night itself was a resounding success, filled with laughter, creativity and unforgettable performances. Contestants delivered a wide variety of acts, showcasing not only their sense of humour but also their courage in stepping outside their comfort zones. Their efforts were met with warm applause and encouragement from the audience, who played a vital role in making the evening so special. The combination of humor, community spirit, and charitable purpose created an event that was as meaningful as it was entertaining.

Equally deserving of recognition were the judges, who

faced the difficult task of evaluating such a diverse and spirited lineup. Their contributions helped ensure the evening ran smoothly while adding an extra layer of fun and engagement to the proceedings. Together with the contestants, they helped create an inclusive and uplifting environment that celebrated both individuality and community generosity.

One of the most impressive outcomes of the evening was the total amount raised for charity. Over €3,000 was collected, a remarkable achievement that will undoubtedly make a tangible difference to the organizations involved. These funds will go directly toward supporting vital services and initiatives, reinforcing the importance of community-driven events like this one.

Events such as "Alternative Miss Mojácar" highlight the power of coming together for a common cause. They demonstrate how creativity, humour and goodwill can combine to produce something truly impactful. Beyond the entertainment, the evening served as a reminder of the generosity and spirit that define the local community.

A special note of appreciation must go to Carol Newton and Ron, whose dedication and hard work made the event possible. Organising an occasion of this scale is no small undertaking, yet they once again delivered a seamless and thoroughly enjoyable experience. Their commitment ensures that this cherished event continues to thrive year after year.

In every sense, this year's "Alternative Miss Mojácar" was a triumph, an evening of laughter, bravery and generosity that will be remembered fondly by all who attended.



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by
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RONALDO

THE GOAL MACHINE



Last year Cristiano Ronaldo became the first footballer in history to score 100 goals for four different clubs in four different countries, and he's also netted over 160 times for his country at various levels including more than 140 in 225 full internationals.

Born in Funchal, Madeira on 5 February 1985, the Portuguese striker started his career as a youngster with Andorinha FC in 1992 and after spells with Nacional CF and Sporting Lisbon 'B', he became a professional for the latter club in 2002. Going from strength to strength, he went on to score 15 goals in 33 games for Sporting's 1st and 2nd XIs in season 2002-03 before doing the business big-time with Manchester United for whom he struck 118 goals in 292 competitive games under Sir Alex Ferguson before transferring to Real Madrid in 2009.

His goalscoring exploits increased rapidly with the Spanish giants and in nine seasons, up to the summer of 2018, he bagged a staggering 450 goals in 438 senior games, including 292 in 311 La Liga matches alone. He then bulged nets consistently for Juventus, especially in Serie 'A', smashing in goals galore for the Turin club. Amassing 101 in 134 outings before transferring to back to Manchester United in 2022. During his second spell at Old Trafford the brilliant Ronaldo bagged another 27 goals in 54 outings... and right now he has scored over 100 goals for Al-Nassr in Saudi Arabia. He's also netted regularly for his country and has now notched 121 goals in 207 internationals at all levels - 18 in 34 U15,

U17, U20, U21, U23 matches and 101 in 170 senior games.

Right now, for club his various clubs (all levels) and for his country combined, Ronaldo has scored a staggering 968 goals in a little over 1,300 matches. That's some record... and he's still playing as we speak.

TOP GOALSCORERS OF ALL-TIME

Over 80 footballers have scored 500 or more goals in their respective careers. Here is a shortened list of some of the game's well-known superstars worldwide with their personal goal tallies.

Cristiano Ronaldo	968*
Lionel Messi	903*
Ferenc Puskas	802
Romario	785
Pele	778
Tommy Lawton	749*
Robert Lewandowski	680
Eusebio	634
Gerd Muller	634
Luis Suarez	598
Zlatan Ibrahimovic	582
Alfredo Di Stefano	537
Jimmy Greaves	591
Uwe Seeler	552
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** Ronaldo & Messi is still adding to his total while Lawton's tally includes 152 goals scored during WW2 football.*



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BOOK REVIEW

THE STARS ARE FIRE

by Anita Shreve

This book stands as a luminous testament to the author's enduring fascination with the quiet heroism of ordinary lives. As a long-term admirer of Shreve's work, I approached this novel with both anticipation and reverence, and I found within its pages the very qualities that have long distinguished her fiction: emotional acuity, moral complexity, and an unwavering attention to the interior lives of women navigating profound upheaval. Set against the harrowing backdrop of the 1947 Maine wildfires, the novel follows Grace Holland, a young mother whose circumscribed domestic existence is irrevocably altered by catastrophe. Shreve renders the encroaching fire with visceral immediacy. The natural world becomes both antagonist and catalyst, its ferocity exposing not only physical vulnerabilities but also the fault lines within Grace's marriage and community. The conflagration is described with such clarity and restraint that the terror feels intimate rather than sensational. What elevates this narrative beyond historical drama is Shreve's exquisite exploration of transformation. Grace begins the novel as a woman constrained by expectation and habit, dutiful yet inwardly restless. In the aftermath of disaster, she is compelled to reassess her identity and capacity for independence. Shreve charts this evolution with patience and nuance. Each decision Grace makes carries the weight of social convention, maternal responsibility, and personal longing. The reader witnesses not merely survival but a gradual awakening. Shreve's prose is characteristically elegant, imbued with a quiet lyricism that never overwhelms the story's emotional truth. Her descriptions of coastal Maine evoke both stark beauty and latent menace. Domestic scenes are imbued with tension, revealing how societal norms can function as invisible boundaries. The dialogue is spare yet resonant, allowing unspoken sentiments to reverberate with power. As someone who has followed Anita Shreve's literary career for many years, I was particularly struck by how *The Stars Are Fire* distills the thematic preoccupations that have defined her oeuvre. There is an abiding concern with resilience, with the delicate interplay between love and autonomy, and with the subtle revolutions that occur within private lives.



In its closing chapters, the novel offers not facile resolution but hard-earned hope. It affirms the possibility of self-determination even within the strictures of mid twentieth century expectations. *The Stars Are Fire* is both intimate and expansive, a quietly stirring portrait of endurance that lingers long after the final page is turned.

Cheryl Goth

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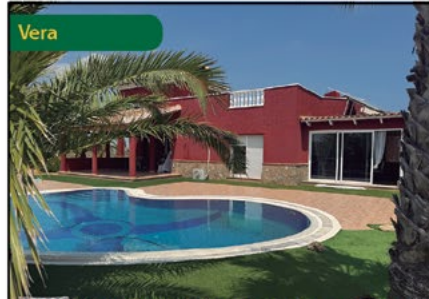
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