

FREE EDITION: Vol. XI

Madrid's only English language newspaper

Jan. - Feb., 2018

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MADRID TREASURE HUNT

"A12 bottle case of finest Castilian wine is to be found at the end of our hunt that explores the many secrets of Madrid's sometime dark and mysterious past. Every month for 12 months we publish a clue or a challenge for those daring readers who wish to discover the hidden side of Madrid.



editor@madridmetropolitan.com

Jan-Feb Challenge

Identify the spire that sits at the end of this famous Madrid Street. Take a selfie underneath together with the answer and email it to us at:

Brought to you by:
Madrid Adventures – team building events with a Castilian twist.



Welcome to the 11th edition of the Madrid Metropolitan – the city's only English language newspaper. This month we have increased distribution and increased circulation. For a full list go to:
<http://www.madridmetropolitan.com/distribution-points/> to see where you can pick up a free copy.

You can also read articles or download the print edition online. In this edition we feature some of the great things happening in town in January and February in our What's On section as well as our crystal ball business section of how the economy will fare in 2018. That and a lot more to enjoy including our ever expanding directory of English language services and groups so you can fully enjoy the great city of Madrid!

Thanks for supporting and we hope you enjoy reading.

The Madrid Metropolitan team

PUBLISHED BY: IBERIAN METROPOLITAN PRESS

CIF:B87075305

Calle Isabel Colbrand 10

Planta 5 - Oficina 151, 28050 Madrid

Tomo: 27.630 Folio: 1 Sección: 8 Hoja: M497912

OLAF CLAYTON | EDITOR: JEFF WISEMAN | DESIGN & LAYOUT : TOM LYONS | PHOTOGRAPHY & FEATURES: JAKE RICHARDSON | CONTRIBUTORS: CHRIS NEIL, BARRY WALKER, MELISSA DURA, ABIGAIL AUSTIN, CHRISTOPHER MILLER, DOMINIQUE WHITE | FOOD & DRINK: JEMIMA BUTLER | ART: BRIAN COLLINS | FILM: ANDREW JAMES BALL | BUSINESS : ROGER PIKE | WEBSITE: TOM LYONS | BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT: ISABEL PUEBLAS AVILÉS

La edición, redacción, impresión, publicación, distribución, venta y explotación publicitaria de periódicos y revistas con el CNAE 5814 EDICIÓN DE REVISTAS.

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LOCOS POR EL ESPAÑOL

The Madrid Metropolitan's selection of the best that can be enjoyed in the capital this yuletide.

Gastrofestival 2018: Jan. 20th - Feb. 4th

The 9th Madrid Gastrofestival is a must for any foodie – featuring some 450 establishments offering some of the finest fayre in town. The 2018 focus is on Madrid's markets with a host of delicious tastings of tapas all washed down with some



of the best wines around. In addition there are talks and presentations covering the enormous variety and richness that Madrid can offer. As well as an incredible learning experience it is also a hugely enjoyable one.

<http://www.esmadrid.com/gastrofestival>

Dead Man Walking: Jan. 26,29,31st Feb. 3,6 & 9th

The operatic tale based on the book of the same name by Sister Helen Prejean tells the story of how Sister



Helen attempts to obtain the absolution and spiritual peace of the condemned man

www.teatro-real.com/es/temporada-17-18/operas/dead-man-walking

Solitudes - Jan. 31st - Feb. 25th



Communicating only by gestures and a reflection on a contemporary family's lack of communication,

the masked performance centres on the old man who feels misunderstood and who struggles with fulfilling his desires & ambitions.

<https://www.teatrofernangomez.es/actividades/solitudes>

Fortuny – The Exhibition: Prado Museum until March 18th

Mariano Fortuny is considered one of the great maestros of 19th century Spanish painting and the exhibition highlights some of his great works as well as objects that inspired him.



www.museodelprado.es/actualidad/exposicion/mariano-fortuny-1838-1874/8216331b-8024-4d46-8a6a-f6ba89095f02

Cai Guo-Qiang - The Spirit of Painting: Prado Museum until March 04th

Only the second solo exhibition by a living artist at the Prado in its entire history. Chinese artist, Cai Guo-Qiang is known worldwide for his use of gunpowder in his work and here presents a selection of work inspired by the Buen Retiro Palace.



www.museodelprado.es/actualidad/exposicion/cai-guo-qiang-en-el-prado-el-espiritu-de-la/50bb73ba-0e60-47da-86b9-e86a46df8a3c

The Art of Shoes - Until March 8th

Although Spain has long been known as a leading centre of shoe manufacture it hasn't been associated with creativity and design in a way that Italian and English shoemakers have. The Spanish



Manolo Blahnik is a clear exception and here we have an exhibition of his creations that have in themselves become to considered works of art. Co-organised by Vogue magazine and Blahnik it consists of over 200 pairs of shoes as well as original

www.mecd.gob.es/mnartesdecorativas/exposiciones/actuales.html

Warhol: The Mechanical Art Feb. 1st – May 6th

Some of the most recognizable works from the father of pop art comes to Spain with an exhibition of around 350 works. Including some of his most iconic creations "Campbell's Soup" cans and of course the portrait of Marilyn.



<http://agenda.obrasocial.lacaixa.es/-/expo-andy-warhol-el-arte-mecanico-mad#itinerancias>

Inverfest: Jan. 12th – Feb. 4th

As its name suggests, the Inverfest is a winter festival – which this year is being held at the Teatro Circo Price featuring a wide variety of music styles – something for everyone.



<http://www.inverfest.com>

Metallica in concert: Feb 3rd, 5th

Legendary group Metallica come to town to present their latest offering "Hardwired...To Self-Destruct" which has already peaked the charts and adding more sales to its already 120 million albums sold.



<https://metallica.com>

The Real (Madrid!) Concert: Feb. 15th



To celebrate The Fundación Real Madrid's 20th anniversary they are holding a gala concert at the Teatro Real featuring such artists as Plácido Domingo, Niña Pastori and

Los Secretos accompanied by the Orquesta Clásica Santa Cecilia. The funds raised will go towards their programmes for homeless children.

www.teatro-real.com/es/temporada-17-18/conciertos-y-recitales/real-el-concierto

Champions League: Feb. 14th

UEFA League: Feb. 22nd

Atough draw for the once mighty Real Madrid who face French giants Paris Saint-Germain. That the draw falls on Valentine's night means a tougher draw for all those fellas to decide who do they truly love – the girl or the club.



www.realmadrid.com

Athletico face Danish champions F C Copenhagen who will battle it out at the new Wanda Metropolitan stadium.



www.atleticodemadrid.com

Liam Gallagher Concert: Feb. 23rd



One of the bad boys of 90s Britpop pops over to Madrid to present his new album "As you were" which has already topped the UK album charts.

<http://liamgallagher.com/index.php>

Chinese New Year: Feb. 9th - 28th

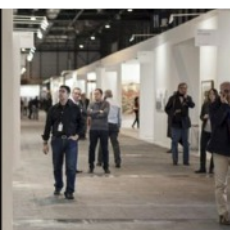


This is the third year that Madrid is officially celebrating the Chinese New Year with a festive programme of concerts, workshops as well of course as the iconic Street parades.

<https://2017chino.madrid.es/>

ARCO Madrid: Feb. 21st – 25th

This year the concept is "The future" and turn this gathering into "a space that allows us to imagine, produce and propose a vision of the complexity that awaits us". It brings some



211 galleries from 29 countries as well as over 250 other collectors as well as the 15th Forum of Experts to debate today's art scene and which makes for an extraordinary artistic event.

<http://www.arco.ifema.es/>

Carnival in Madrid



It may not rival Cadiz but Madrid's once dormant Carnival celebrations become ever more prominent kicking off with the proclamation of the beginning of the festivities from the balcony of the Casa de la Villa and includes fancy dress competitions, musical events as well as the Grand Carnival Parade. Of course for those that want to celebrate in style the Circulo Bellas Artes are again host-

ing their now legendary Carnival Ball – tickets now on sale for the party of the year! well as the Grand Carnival Parade.

Tickets can be purchased directly at:
<https://www.circulobellasartes.com/espectaculos/carnaval-magico/>

For further information on the activities that can be enjoyed:

<https://www.madridcultura.es/carnaval>

Emerging Art: Feb. 20th – Feb. 25th

The 9th JustMad fair celebrating the emerging art scene in Spain and this features three sections: Brand New, about artistic innovation; Solo Project, concerning solo artists and Context, establishing a common dialogue through the international language of art.



<http://justmad.es/>

Japan Weekend: Feb. 10th - 11th

The land of the rising sun! The best of Japan comes to Madrid with activities, concerts, stands and a host of games to enjoy and of course a Karaoke competition!



<http://japanweekend.com/madrid/>

Classic Cars: Feb. 23rd - 25th



Spain's biggest classic car show is in Madrid featuring a range of classic cars & motorbikes from the past including Aston Martin, Porsche,

Hispano Suiza, Mercedes, Packard, BMW, Norton and Royal Enfield. A must for any collector or admirer of craftsmanship.

<http://classicautomadrid.com/>

The Magic of Madrid

Does Madrid work magic on visitors? Without a doubt. Come winter or summer, this city engages its guests in effortlessly believing that what they see is real. How? Because every single madrileño is a magician and their spells envelop Madrid in a cloak of fascination, attracting the uninitiated with the force of collective magnetism. Madrid is a city that works; Madrid is a city that invites; Madrid is a city that welcomes; Madrid leaves an indelible feelgood mark.

To think of magic is to bring to mind charms, rituals, actions, symbols, incantations. Visit or spend time living in Madrid and all these elements will combine to make it a memorable experience. The sense of belonging is bewitching. The welcome extended to a visitor is entitled and genuine.

The charms...

A city of bright blue skies and stunning light, visitors can be forgiven for not managing to visit all of the tourist attractions their first time here, opting instead to spend precious time sitting at local terrace bars mesmerized by the whirl and bustle of locals and guests sweeping about their business. There is an allure to madrileños who are simultaneously provincial and international; who have created a multi-national yet homogeneous community in a city that bursts with common purpose.

Join them in one of the gentrified markets for pre-lunch appetizers on a Saturday afternoon and feel the buzz. Bearing in mind that lunch isn't usually served until 14:30h on a weekend (14h on a weekday), but small tapas are served with drinks from 11:30h onwards, it is those appetizers of chorizo and Serrano ham that help distract visitors' hunger until the main dish arrives. Follow their example and enjoy a dish of cocido madrileño at any of Madrid's renowned Spanish dining restaurants with one of the excellent locally produced table wines.

The rituals...

There are rituals that every visitor and city dweller should follow in order to fully experience the charms of this alluring city. Food-related rituals include eating chocolate con churros at San Ginés and having tapas at a bar in la Cava Baja. Cultural-related rituals include visiting the palace, museums, fountains, plazas and markets that pepper the city and fill the guide books. Consumer-related rituals include visiting the luxury boutiques of the chic "golden mile" of designer shops along Calle Serrano and surrounding streets in the exclusive Salamanca area of the capital. Local rituals include visiting La Pradera and Las Vistillas parks in the month of May coinciding with the festival of San Isidro, going to see a bullfight at the majestic Las Ventas bullring, going to free open air classical con-

certs during the summer "veranos de la villa" season, or taking a tour of the city lights over the Christmas period to see the buildings lit up in all their glory.

The actions...

Put some comfortable footwear on and walk, walk, walk! There is nothing lovelier, nothing more delightful than to take a stroll through old town Madrid on a bright winter's afternoon winding up at the curious Egyptian Debod Temple next to the Parque del Oeste to watch the sun set over the Casa de Campo park from the viewpoint which also captures the last rays reflected on the royal palace to the east of the mirador. In the summer this city's charms offer shade and a breeze in the Retiro Park and nearby botanical gardens, a stone's throw from the museum quarter that houses the Prado, Reina Sofia and Thyssen-Bornemisza.

The symbols ...

Madrid offers many visual symbols to cherish and remember. From the idiosyncratic statue of the bear and the madroño tree in the Puerta de Sol to the spectacular "4 torres" skyscrapers on Paseo de Castellana, Madrid covers all tastes. Apart from stopping off to see Santiago Bernabeu football stadium, Real Madrid fans and tourists alike marvel at the monumental Cibeles Fountain, arguably one of the most recognizable of Madrid's icons, only one block from the Puerta de Alcalá gate into the city. Bullfighting fans flock to the Las Ventas Plaza de Toros, the most famous bullfighting ring in

the world built in a beautiful Neo-Mudéjar style. Those visitors and city dwellers wishing to be captivated by this picturesque city can do no wrong by taking a ride on the cable car to see a sweep of Madrid's spectacular symbols, including the Torrespaña "El Pirulí" communications tower, the cathedral and the palace.

The incantations ...

Ask a madrileño for a saying that sums up the best of their city and about half of them would immediately answer ¡Hala Madrid! ("Come on Madrid!" or "Up with Madrid!") referring to the commemorative hymn written for Real Madrid football club. Those who follow Madrid's other team, Atlético, would probably not be so keen to use that phrase and instead would say "del Madrid al Cielo" – which literally means from Madrid to Heaven, claiming that there is no better place on Earth than Madrid.

To say that you have been hypnotized by Madrid is to pay a madrileño their biggest compliment. Yet there are no conjuring tricks or illusions; there is no special angle or slant to this city. Isn't it time you visited and discovered for yourself that Madrid quite simply is magical?

By Dominique White

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BBC World Questions comes to Madrid

On January 17th, BBC World Questions came to Madrid, where veteran journalist and presenter Jonathan Dimbleby chaired a debate at the Circulo Bellas Artes on aspects of Spanish current affairs. Featured strongly was the ongoing stand-off in Catalonia as well the less polemic issue of including onions – or not – in the national dish of Tortilla. The panelists included Francisco Martínez from the PP, Alfred Bosch, leader of the ERC in Barcelona, Begoña Villacís from Ciudadanos, and the writer and commentator Ana Romero.

Mary Hockaday, Controller BBC World Service English said: "Debate is at the heart of the BBC World Service, and we're bringing BBC World Questions to Madrid at a pivotal time in Spanish politics". The audience which mainly consisted of expat residents seemed to have enjoyed the experience. "It

was interesting to see how it all works" said Chris Neil who originally came from Bristol and now lives in Madrid. Others were equally impressed with the format of wine reception beforehand "very posh" said David Muñoz whose only disappointment was not having his question chosen for discussion by the panel "imagine that 18 million people would be listening to me" wondered David.

The Madrid Metropolitan had earlier met up with Jonathan Dimbleby and the BBC team at their hotel to ask a few questions. Was this your first visit? "No I have been here several times – the first in the 70's and also just after the attempted coup in 81". Three adjectives to describe Madrid? "Magnificent, Easy Going and Proud" noted Jonathan. Where is next for the BBC World Questions team? Katmandu! Bon Voyage team!

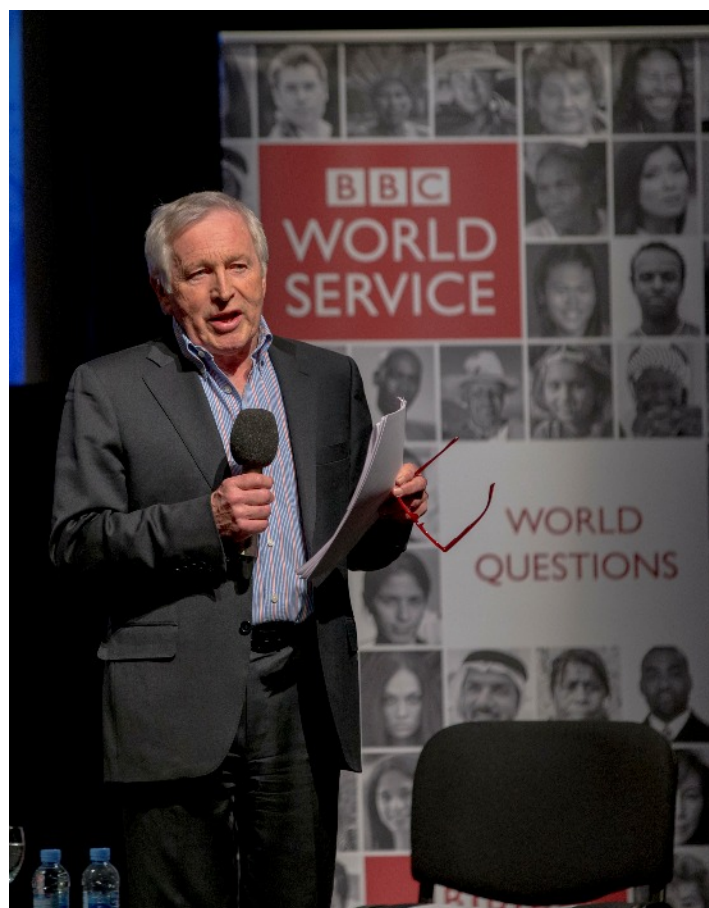
By Olaf Clayton



Jonathan Dimbleby in regal mode



Lets Education team enjoying the BBC Reception



Jonathan Dimbleby warming up the audience

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Government's Work Is Not Done Yet

Good headline economic figures don't mean that the Government's work is done.

For the ruling People's Party, weighed down by corruption charges and battered from all sides for its handling of the Catalan question, the economy has been one of the few bright spots. Rajoy came to power with it in virtual free-fall. Things do look much better now - GDP has grown at over 3% for the last three years, unemployment has fallen by nearly 1.5 million, and the deficit has been slowly pared back from around 10% to 3%.

So all good then? Not really. Opinion polls show that voters aren't convinced by the PP's narrative of economic competence. While non-economic issues such as graft or Catalonia also come into play, the Government's problem is that any feel-good factor is far from evenly spread. Many young Spaniards face a struggle to find work, and when they do, can probably expect years of meagre pay rises. With high property prices in many cities, most can't even imagine the day when they can buy their own house.

Creating jobs should be the overriding priority. Nine years on, the economy is now bigger than it was when the crisis struck, yet unemployment is still far higher. Rajoy should start by making it easier for companies to take on workers. High national insurance costs, together with an excess of red tape, dissuades them from recruiting. That's partly why Spain has so

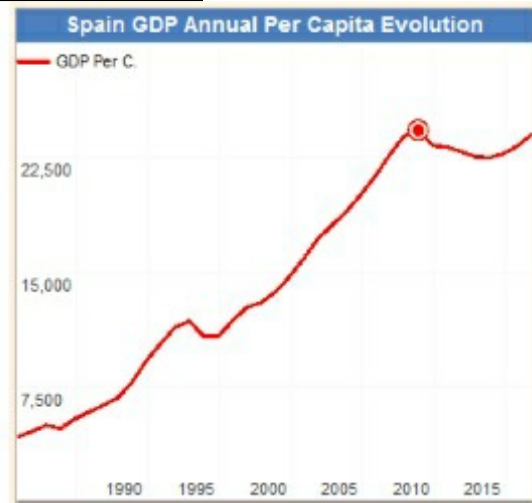
many small companies that don't grow into bigger ones, which are usually more productive and pay better. Self-employed business owners have little incentive to take on staff. So unemployment remains higher than it should, putting downward pressure on wages which in turn means less spending, and lower growth.

Politicians of all colours are too sanguine about the public debt. During the crisis it ballooned from 35% of GDP to over 100%. Even after several years of belt-tightening, it still stands at 98.7%. That's not a good starting position for the next downturn. And one day interest rates will rise, as will the costs of servicing the debt, diverting funds away from worthier causes.

There's relatively little debate about cutting spending. No party seriously questions the costs of maintaining seventeen regional parliaments, with the salaries and pensions of 2,500 regional MPs and the supporting infrastructures, often duplicating existing state departments.

Taking the axe to the regional Televisions would help. At their worst they are a scandalous propaganda tool and a way of giving jobs to friends; at their best they are simply a waste of time. Costing close to €1bn, most of which is paid for by taxes, they hardly produce any content worth watching. Two of them managed an official audience share of zero for their respective New Year Specials.

But it's much easier to raise taxes; hearing Finance Minister



Montoro speak one suspects that given half a chance he would keep all of what we earn. Lottery winners don't arouse special sympathy among the general public, but his decision a couple of years ago to tax the prizes is illustrative. The lottery is already a levy, with the Government keeping between 30% and 45% of proceeds, and tickets are bought with post-tax income. But now, should you get lucky, there's Montoro again with his hand out to ensure the triple-whammy.

Worryingly, other parties also see raising taxes as a cost-free policy. The Socialist leader Pedro Sánchez recently announced a plan to plug the pension deficit with a special tax on banks. No prizes for guessing who will end up paying that one. Podemos criticized Sánchez, not for the idea in itself but for allegedly stealing theirs.

So it's time for politicians to fight against their natural instincts to put their hands in our pockets,

and think about what needs to be done to get more people working and earning decent money. That means helping private sector companies to create jobs and make the profits that directly or indirectly not only pay their own employees' salaries, but also those of our esteemed elected representatives.

By Roger Pike

WH Advisers – Market Entry into Spain.

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Let It Grow?

In today's culture of relentless positivity, the word "growth" is often bandied about, along with its slightly posher synonym "development." Both tend to be thought of as good things, unless the growth in question refers to a proliferation of thick matted back hair or equally unsightly nasal protrusions. Actually, in these days of the ubiquitous shaven pubis, hair is one of the few exceptions to the growth is good mantra. Hair is generally bad, except on the head, or on the male face, as a generation of misguided fools opt for an 1880s American woodcutter/Taliban crossover to go with their overpriced shit milky coffee. Cancerous growths have obviously never been fashionable.

As a child, I never thought of "growth" as being a particularly good thing. Being small was mostly fun. I quite liked running around the park all weekend and pissing about in class from Monday to Friday. The word "grown-up" was pretty much a synonym for "wanker" in pre-punk 1970s Britain for the simple reason that most parents, teachers, and authority figures were actually wankers. I suppose I enjoyed the attention of cooing adults who wittered on at regular intervals about how much I'd grown but I also knew that it would have been weird if I hadn't grown, and that it was in any case no particular merit of mine. These days of course one grows mainly in girth and in width and rarely receives compliments for it.

Economies must always grow. The electorate demands it. In the staggeringly dull Brexit conflict, aside from a bit of obtuse mudslinging about racism, most of the debate has centred on growth. Will the UK economy grow less, or more, or even, horror of all horrors, shrink, outside the EU? Political structures, representation, constitutions...booooooring. The key question, even for left wing idealists, is will there or will there not be more dosh? I'm no economist but surely this can't go on forever. Infinity is a long time. If economic growth does go on forever, and an infinite number of monkeys have eventually typed out the complete works of Shakespeare an infinite number of times for an infinitely diverse cast of infinitely represented identity groups, surely we will get to the stage where everyone on the planet has become a multi-billionaire. Which begs the question who is going to do all the work at places like Asda and Burger King? Who's going to serve the crap coffee, and do the plumbing? I suppose I am underestimating the current trend for neo liberalism to concentrate more and more wealth in fewer and fewer hands, so that in all like-

lihood, in the near future, about 20 individuals will be multi-billionaires while the rest of us service them by working in yacht and tiara factories, or in designer clothing sweatshops. Given the current state of progressive politics, this will probably not even be an issue as long as the 20 chosen ones represent the full spectrum of appropriate identity groups. The inalienable right to shit on or be shat upon regardless of gender, ethnicity, or sexual orientation will lead to a new era of social peace, and the self-righteous will simply wither away, just as Marx foresaw that the state would gradually wither away. Meanwhile, growth will continue to be insatiably self-defeating as the planet wobbles and buckles beneath the weight of human aspiration.

And then there's personal growth, or personal development as it's usually called, which to my mind implies that people, like countries, are in different phases of development. There are thus fully developed individuals, probably yoga teachers, artists, and billionaire philanthropists who might be the USAs or Germanys of personal development, the former maybe feeling a little bloated by their own personal progress and given to the odd panic attack, the latter quietly and soullessly contented, yet somehow not quite feeling the love. Behind them the not really there yet developing individuals who have signed up for Pilates classes, and try to take the occasional self-help book seriously, but who still have the odd Big Mac, and ultimately prefer Netflix to Dostoevsky, and Benidorm to Bangalore. At the bottom of the pit, are those who Trump might lovingly describe as "shitholes", feckless individuals despised by left and right alike, the lazy and the shiftless, who show no signs of developing anything beyond a beer gut, and who seem shamelessly unaware that they should be undertaking a voyage of personal discovery, not just going to the pub.

We are all persecuted by progress. It's no use just staying alive anymore, which for millennia has been the core aspiration of the humanoid. Instead one must be endlessly moving forward (or onwards and upwards), in a shark-like perpetual motion, harangued by society's pathological need for self-improvement. Middle class parents increasingly demand that their children speak several languages, and have black belts in karate, and diplomas in piano playing thus driving an entire generation, desperate to experience the joys of the present, into the warm embrace of addictive gaming, or online porn. Underlying all this is the ludicrous idea that everyone is special (in some way), a



vacuous assertion easily disavowed by anyone with a passing acquaintance with education, or indeed with people.

The truth is that personal development is overrated. Like everything else, it is an industry designed to bully us into a state of permanent dissatisfaction, and possibly to blank out the unpalatable truth that no matter how much stretching and running and jumping we do, our bodies will eventually go into freefall, a process that accelerates until we reach terminal velocity. At a certain age, it's all about staving off decay, and slowing down the rate of decline. The same goes for our minds. It may be true that it's never too late to learn, but it is also true that after a certain point it becomes pointless. I will never learn another language because I simply do not have enough years ahead of me to justify the effort. No return, on the investment. I read a lot, but to entertain myself, not to find answers to the great existential truths, because there are none. This much I have learned.

The great and indifferent universe would probably be a much better place without all this striving and striding forth. Infinity will put a stop to it anyway. Surely world records cannot be broken eternally? Will someone one day run 100 metres in 3.5 seconds, or swim the Atlantic non-stop without support craft? Will we eventually send a manned spacecraft right into the heart of the sun? Will England, one bright sunny new day somehow get beyond the quarter finals in a World Cup? Ecological meltdown will probably intervene before we find out. In the meantime Dear Reader, by all means amuse yourself by playing the guitar, learning Arabic, or developing your own fusion cuisine. The need to impress our peers lurks below the surface of every human exterior. Just don't expect it to get you anywhere. And above all, have a laugh. We're not here long so enjoy it.

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Why Álvaro De Bazán?

Does Madrid work magic on visitors? Without a doubt. Come winter or summer, this city engages its guests in effortlessly believing that what they see is real. How? Because every single madrileño is a magician and their spells envelop Madrid in a cloak of fascination, attracting the uninitiated with the force of collective magnetism. Madrid is a city that works; Madrid is a city that invites; Madrid is a city that welcomes; Madrid leaves an indelible feelgood mark.

Visit the Plaza de la Villa just off the Calle Mayor and you will see a statue of a Spanish noble. But who was he and why this tribute to him? Well, in short, he was undoubtedly the finest Admiral in the Spanish annals of naval history.

According to Spanish sources, he was never defeated, a remarkable achievement in a fifty-year long career. His personal galley, La Loba (the She-Wolf), thus called by her golden figurehead, was feared by Spanish enemies and regarded with hope amongst Spanish sailors and allies.

He was credited with perfecting the convoy system for protecting the treasure ships bringing back to

Spain the gold and silver from the New World and tried, unsuccessfully, in bringing the English Privateer, Francis Drake to battle.

Born into a naval family, his first major naval battle was when he was only eighteen years old, in which he took part in the Battle of Muros Bay on the 25th July 1543 during the Italian War of 1542–1546. The battle was between the French and Spanish fleets, the latter under the command of his father Don Álvaro de Bazán, 1st Marquis of Viso. This battle is considered to be the first big Atlantic naval battle.

Another major event was The Battle of Lepanto, a naval engagement which took place on 7th October 1571, in which Don Álvaro de Bazán led a Spanish squadron within the Holy League.

The Holy League was a coalition of European Catholic maritime states arranged by Pope Pius V to counter the rapid expansion of the Ottoman Empire spreading westwards. The fleet was led by Admiral John of Austria (illegitimate half-brother to Philip II), as agreed between Philip II of Spain, who largely financed the League, and the Venetian Republic who were the main contributor of ships.

Whilst outnumbered in ships and manpower, the Holy League fleet had a mix of heavy galleasses and galleys and carried greater fire power in guns and cannons, unlike the Ottoman fleet which relied solely on galleys rowed by chained slaves. The result was a major defeat for the Ottoman Empire.

A later famous Spanish writer, Don Miguel Cervantes participated in the Battle of Lepanto fighting alongside Don Álvaro de Bazán. During this battle he lost his left hand and became known as 'El Manco de Lepanto'. Fortunately, he wrote with his right hand.

Several years later, in 1583, The Spanish Conquest of the Azores was held between forces loyal to the claimant Don Antonio, Prior of Crato, supported by the French and English troops, and the Spanish and Portuguese forces loyal to King Philip II of Spain under the command of Admiral Don Álvaro de Bazán, during the War of the Portuguese Succession.

The victory by Don Álvaro resulted in the rapid Spanish conquest of the Azores, facilitating the integration of the Kingdom of Portugal and its colonial possessions into the Spanish Empire.

Don Álvaro, who recognised that England presented a grave threat to Spain's empire, became a zealous advocate of war. A letter written by him to King Philip II, on 9th



August 1583, contains the first definite suggestion of the Spanish Armada.

Don Álvaro himself was to have commanded the Armada. His plans, schemes and estimates occupy a conspicuous place in the documents concerning this venture. The hesitating character of Philip II however and his many embarrassments, political and financial, caused many delays, and left Don Álvaro unable to act with effect.

He was at Lisbon without the means of fitting out his fleet, when Francis Drake burnt the Spanish ships at Cádiz during his 1587 expedition. The independence of judgment shown by Don Álvaro ended by offending the King, and he was held responsible for the failures and delays which were the result of the bad management of his master.

His death, which occurred on 9th February 1588 at Lisbon, was said to have been hastened by the unjustified reproaches of the King.

The Spanish Armada sailed from La Coruña in August 1588 and was commanded by the Duke of Medina Sidonia, a highly respected and titled member of the nobility but without any experience whatsoever of the sea.

Had not Don Álvaro lost the faith and confidence of the King and his untimely death, the outcome of the Spanish Armada against the English fleet could have taken an entirely different course.

The statue of Admiral Álvaro de Bazán, 1st Marquis de Santa Cruz de Mudela was finally erected in 1891.

The Plaza in which he stands is itself well worth a visit. Construction started in 1644 by Juan Gómez de Mora, the Architect of the Plaza Mayor, and represents some of the finest building of the Baroque period and its style.

The largest building was at one time the Ayuntamiento (Town Hall) of Madrid and the square thankfully remains unspoiled by tourist shops, bars and restaurants.

By Barry Haslam-Walker
FRICS

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The Art Of Yoshihiro Suda : A Man Touched By The Hand Of A Divine

The Japanese are the masters of delicacy and are capable of transforming any cramped space into a sleek corner or even able to add a harmonious atmosphere to a tiny room.

The singular exhibit at La Galería Elvira González is a shining example of success and will be recalled for many years to come. When we made the scene at the posh snow-white gallery a desperate search for the paintings turned out to be fruitless. Were we being sent on a wild goose chase?

After patiently combing the walls everywhere, we caught sight of a flower at the top corner of the enormous room. Some questions invaded our minds. Were the petals stuck in the wall or growing out of it? Could they have been sculptured?

Yoshiro Suda graduated cum laude from Tama University in the early Nineties. From the very outset he had a penchant for

experimenting with Innumerable forms of art and stumbled upon Conception painting geared mainly to assisting artists in the promotion and development of their creations commonplace at that time when it was considered to be aesthetic or decorative. His works create harmony and a balance in nature. He rightfully uses his peculiar sculptural technics blending them luminously with the traditional methods. With this in view he attains the contemporary artistic concept of embodying diurnal life into art. He successfully manages to convey the message across via merely seven.

Messages: A soft-spoken white-haired oriental comes to greet us. We introduce ourselves and after the usual formalities I put some questions to him.

"Where does your inspiration come from?"

In impeccable English he explains that he mainly draws inspi-

ration from Buddhist figures, architecture and decoration.

"How long do you take to complete a work of art?"

He remarks that he takes about a month.

"What material do you use in your work?"

He studies one of his creations carefully and responds with a smile.

"Pigments, cow hide, rose wood and rabbits' tails."

"Does your art have something to do with Ikebana?"

Yoshihiro explains that he is not really into the five hundred year old art that calls for a lot of discipline harmonizing nature and humanity. Nevertheless he admits having a fondness for it.

Does he tend to work the whole day?

Yoshihiro points out that he has a tendency of taking short breaks. In between the long laborious day.

His works spell perfection with a capital P and chiefly tends to be precise akin to an infallible Swiss clock. Like his miniature creations he is a man of a few words.

"I think art can change our perspective and ways of thinking. It encourages us to see things that we might otherwise miss."

Yoshihiro Suda is indeed touched by the hand of a divine.

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Put A Spring Into Your Step - By Jemima Butler



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The winter continues, and as I normally write you something seasonal, I ask myself if 'seasonal' could be really just something we enjoy eating throughout the year, not necessarily grown in the season in question.

Fortunately or unfortunately, depending on how you see it, with the abundance of all foods at all times of the year in our modern world we eat terribly unseasonably. We now know that this causes all sorts of disturbances; to climate change through growing produce out of season, using more water than needed or

the footprint it causes if it is flown in from afar...or just waste in vast quantities through greed and the increasingly on-demand style of living that modern supply chains encourage.

Living in Spain, however, we are lucky enough to have enough sun and land to have all sorts of fruits and vegetables throughout the year. But there is also a fantastic preserving and canning industry that is unparalleled elsewhere, where the cans and jars you can buy are of top quality. In fact, this is becoming quite a trend with bars opening up in its centres of-



fering tapas out of a can and just a hunk of bread to go with it, or even a packet of crisps...this is supposed to be the 'in thing' (although unlike the food, it may not last that long).

The preservation or canning of foodstuffs started in the early 18th century with the aim to feed the armies of Napoleonic wars. Even earlier than that, the regular salting and drying of fish started at least 500 years ago, as discoveries were made that drying preserves kept the nutrients best and for the longest time possible. The various colonial Europeans mainly started doing this so that the fish would last the long journeys by ship while at sea, moving across oceans to conquer new lands across the Atlantic. It has now become one of the most prepared dishes linking the New World and the Old. It became a traded commodity, and spread around the Atlantic, becoming a traditional ingredient between Atlantic and Mediterranean countries as well as African, West Indian and South American countries.

Even though, allegedly, the French invented the tin can, the Spanish preserve all foods beautifully avoiding waste and being able to eat so many foods typical from some seasons and eating them all year round. Tomatoes are the typical one from the summer, bottled to be used for ragus, stews and sauces throughout the winter. All sorts of seafood is canned for eat-

ing, as well as pulses mostly seen in jars. Pork products are also cleverly preserved in pork fat (Lomo de Orza) and served as typical tapas from La Mancha, and served throughout the winter and into the spring.

Something which is particular to Spanish cuisine are the pickles that they preserve, whether it be olives in brine or vinegar or stuffed with anchovies, Spicy thin green chillies in vinegar, onions in vinegar, all known as 'encurtidos'...pickles.

These are often offered as an accompaniment with a rather fatty dish, baby pickled gherkins with a sort of dried sausage called 'fuet', or a meaty paté, the green spicy chili peppers in vinegar served with the famous Madrilenian Cocido or baby aubergines in pickling vinegar with juicy large prawns.

I think it can lighten dishes and add a pep or splash of vitality to certain dishes which would otherwise be a bit heavy.

I have chosen one for you to have a go at, it will liven up even just a simple roast chicken and steamed potatoes, or put some on the table with your traditional roast meat or fish.

It'll put a spring into your step! Or make you feel like spring is only around the corner...

Enjoy!

Recipe: Pickled Cauliflower

Ingredients

- 1 teaspoon coriander seeds
- 1 teaspoon mustard seeds
- 1/2 teaspoon cumin seeds
- 500 mls cider vinegar
- 5 garlic cloves, peeled and lightly squeezed with the back of a knife
- Three 1/4-inch thick slices peeled fresh ginger
- One half spanish sweet onion, peeled and sliced
- 2 tablespoons white sugar
- 2 tablespoons salt
- 1 teaspoon black peppercorns
- 1/2 teaspoon ground turmeric
- 1/4 teaspoon red chili flakes
- One small head cauliflower, cut into small florets
- 4 carrots, peeled and sliced into lengthwise 4-inch pieces
- 1 medium red bell pepper, cored & seeded & cut into strips



the vinegar, garlic, ginger, onion, sugar, salt, peppercorns, turmeric, red pepper flakes and 1 cup water to the toasted spices. Bring to a boil.

Pack the cauliflower, carrots and bell pepper in a 2 litre bowl. Pour the hot liquid over the vegetables. Let cool to room temperature, and then put into jars, cover and refrigerate for at least 2 days before tasting. These pickled vegetables will keep for up to two weeks in the fridge.

Directions:

Add the coriander, mustard and cumin seeds to a medium saucepan. Toast the seeds over medium heat, swirling the pan around until the seeds are fragrant and slightly browned, about 2 minutes. Add



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