

The party season begins

The Olive Press sent Yzabelle Bostyn and her mum to celebrate her 60th birthday at Ibiza's opening weekend

ISLAND FIXTURES: Idris Elba, Rita Ora and Maya Jama.



IBIZA is back - and the island is louder, prouder and ready to out-party everywhere on the planet.

By Yzabelle Bostyn in San Antonio

The world's most iconic clubbing Mecca has flicked the switch on summer 2025 with a raucous 'soft opening' weekend that felt anything but soft. While the official opening parties kick off later this month,

the Olive Press hit the White Isle early - and let's just say, if this is the warm up, the main event is going to be biblical. Landing in San Antonio, my mum and I (and friends) joined the early-bird faithful dancing

through April's warm nights at reopened legends like Es Paradis (home of the famous water parties) and Eden, which hosted tech-house royalty **Deeperfect** on April 23. Big names are lining up to take over the decks this season. **Calvin Harris** is back at Ushuaia twice a week, **David Guetta's** got Mondays, **Martin Garrix** owns Thursdays, and the mighty Hi Ibiza next door is bringing back **Black Coffee**, **Hugel** and the **Martinez Brothers**. And let's not forget Ibiza Rocks, where **Craig David** will *Re-rewind* once more by the pool. Even the super sleek Chinois is getting in on the act, bagging masked maestro **Claptone** for its summer run. But it's not just for 20-somethings chasing TikTok clout. We came for my mum's 60th, with a group of family and friends of all ages and ended up dancing

till 4am at the legendary Pacha's 'Purple Disco Machine' night - with Grammy-winning **DJ Mousse T** spinning feel-good bangers and not a sticky floor in sight. From age 19 to 61, we all agreed: Ibiza is magic. Sure, the drinks dented the wallet, but the vibes? Priceless. And with celebs like **Maya Jama**, **Idris Elba**, and **Rita Ora** spotted partying on the island last year, we've no doubt Ibiza 2025 will be its most star-studded, beat-thumping, jaw-dropping season yet. Now pass us the Berocca - we're booking flights for the real opening weekend!



PARTY TIME: Yzzy (in black) and her mum (far right) at Pacha

FOODIE AFFAIR

HOLLYWOOD bombshell Charlize Theron has declared her undying love... for croquetas.

The Oscar-winning actress, 49, couldn't stop gushing about Spanish food in a recent interview on US TV's *The Late Show* even joking she'd be happy to tie the knot with the deep-fried delicacy. "Is it legal to marry food in Spain?" David Letterman asked. "I think you could probably marry a croquette if you wanted to," Theron quipped, barely holding back the laughter. The South African star revealed she fell head over heels in love with Spain during a getaway with mates across the country, praising the local cuisine as 'next level'. Theron didn't stop there. She praised Spain's tapas from tortillas and paellas to fresh seafood and 'dirty but brilliant' train rides.



IN LOVE: Charlize fell for croquetas and trains

MULLINS IT OVER

DON'T LEAVE YOUR BRAINS AT THE AIRPORT, SAYS CHARLIE MULLINS



The Costa Nostra

Sun, scams and a shooting near my front gate - welcome to the Costa del Crime, but leave my name out of it!

MIGHT have only just unpacked the boxes and put the kettle on in my new life as a full-timer on the Costa del Sol, but make no mistake - I've had a second home out here for the better part of two decades. Long enough to notice that the sunshine dream is being slowly soured by a rising tide of crime. Think less 'mañana vibes' and more raw sewage bubbling into the Thames - only with palm trees. Like many other weary Brits, I came to Spain chasing cleaner air, fewer muggers, and politics that didn't feel like an episode of *Black Mirror*. But lately? The Costa's gone a bit Costa Nostra. Don't believe me? Take a stroll through the crime pages of the *Daily Mail* - assuming you can still stomach the whiny UK rag. Imagine my delight when my lovely Spanish villa - my little patch of escape - was name-checked in *the Mail*, no less... as a location marker for a gangland execution! Yes, a poor bloke was gunned down in Mijas - and the journalist helpfully let readers know it happened 'just 20 minutes from the villa of Charlie Mullins, Britain's richest plumber'. How thoughtful! Honestly, it sounded like they were about to chalk a crime scene outline outside my front gate. Next time something kicks off, maybe give Lord Sugar or Simon Cowell's gaff a mention instead, eh lads? Only kidding. Love the coverage. Sort of. All that said, I'm not hanging up the 'For Sale' sign just yet. Spain's still a step up from the dystopian mess the UK has become in 2025 - where being mugged is practically a commuter sport.



AT HOME: In Spain, but watch out for scammers like John Palmer (below) CWM and Iberian Funeral Plan (bottom)



But here's the bit that really baffles me: Brits scamming other Brits. It's like we bring our own villains with us. Maybe it's the warm weather, or the sangria-induced sense of security - but too many expats leave their street smarts at Malaga Airport and fall straight into the hands of a coach-load of charming con artists with British accents. We've seen it before. John Palmer's dodgy timeshare empire in the '90s, and now the disgraceful Continental Wealth Management (CWM) scam - €35 million swindled from mostly retired Brits who thought their money was safe in sunny Spain. Is the Iberian Funeral Plan case another one about to shock us? *The Olive Press*, I should add, has been all over these scams from day one - hats off to them. And just last month, one of the main players in CWM, Jody Smart (aka Jody Pearson), got banged up for three-and-a-half years. Justice, of sorts. What's my point in all this? Honestly, I'm not entirely sure - except to say: there are bad apples everywhere, even in paradise. So keep your wits about you. And if a deal sounds too good in sterling or euros.... it probably is.

THE LYNX EFFECT

THERE'S a furry frenzy in Doñana National Park as two more Iberian lynx cubs have pounced into the world. First-time mum Tamesis shocked staff at El Acebuche breeding centre after giving birth to a stillborn - then two days later, she popped out two healthy cubs. It's the fifth litter of the 2025 season, bringing this year's total to 14 cubs and counting.

Veteran mum Madroña kicked off the season with triplets in March, followed by Parra, Narsil, and Sardina. Kolia and Oleander are due to give birth next. Back in 2002 there were just 94 Iberian Lynx left. There are now over 2,000 wild lynxes roaming thanks to conservation efforts.



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