

# NEWS HOUNDS

***Delve into the expat stories that matter in Spain with the eye-opening new Olive Press podcast***

KEEN to discover how investigative journalism works in Spain? *The Rest is Spain* podcast offers an insider's look at the major stories impacting expats and tourists each week. Hosted by Costa del Sol resident Caroline Lips, with *Olive Press* editor Jon Clarke and digital editor Walter Finch, the 30-minute show breaks down Spain's most compelling headlines.

## Shock

This week's episode dives into the shock imprisonment of expat fashion designer Jody Smart and uncovers the growing scandal around Iberian Funeral Plans SL, which could leave thousands out of pocket. From natural disasters like the Valencia floods to national crises such as the

By Jon Clarke

power blackout, no subject is off-limits. The team also investigates the strange and scandalous behavior of Estepona's popular mayor, including allegations of employing a woman for €3,300 a month to 'inspect lampposts'. *The Rest is Spain* doesn't just report the news - it explores how journalists uncover it. Listeners get a rare glimpse into the challenges investigative reporters face, including sourcing stories, verifying facts, and making tough ethical decisions. Whether you're an expat, a frequent visitor, or just curious about life behind the headlines in Spain, this podcast offers something for everyone.



**LISTEN: To our new podcast**

Available now on YouTube, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and via the Olive Press website. Just search for the Olive Press Podcast and tune in.

## Dua's Spanish duo

POP queen Dua Lipa thrilled fans in Madrid by belting out Spanish songs on stage. Kicking off her Radical Optimism tour with two sold-out shows, Dua stunned crowds with a sultry cover of Enrique Iglesias' *Hero*, fully en Español. "I'm nervous," she giggled, "but sing along if you know it!" The crowd roared "¡Reina!" as she followed up the next night with Manu Chao's *Me Gustas Tu*. Between shows, she hit the Prado Museum (pictured) and fan-girled over Bosch's *Garden of Earthly Delights*. Even film icon Pedro Almodóvar showed up - no wonder, she's his latest muse!



# MULLINS IT OVER

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE IN THE UK AND LIFE IN SPAIN, WRITES CHARLIE MULLINS



## Hurry up and wait!

***From delayed footpaths to Brexit border queues, life in the sun runs on its own clock***

SPAIN as a nation, is famously inefficient - where getting anything done feels like a miracle, and when it does happen, it takes 10 times longer than it should. There's definitely a north-south cultural divide in Europe, and in this regard, it couldn't be more obvious. But I don't think it's because the locals don't care or lack the will to make things happen. It's more like an evolutionary coping mechanism - a built-in safety valve to manage expectations.

If something's promised in a year, just assume five. That way, you're never too disappointed.

Einstein and Stephen Hawking said time isn't a fixed thing, and honestly, life in Spain might just be the best real-world proof of that theory.

What's prompted this little rant, you ask?

Well, down in my neck of the woods, it's taken three years just to award a contract for a pedestrian path between La Cala and Fuengirola. At this rate, we might see it finished by 2030 - if we're lucky.

Speaking of things finally getting done, I see common sense has at last prevailed: Brits will soon be allowed to use the automatic immigration gates at Spanish (and other EU) airports. I won't dig up the whole Brexit mess, but it's taken nearly a decade of posturing for a bit of practicality to shine through.

I'm sure EU citizens had a bit of a chuckle watching the long queues of Brits winding their way through Malaga airport, waiting for a passport stamp - all after we told them exactly where they could shove their club membership. Personally, I won't miss being treated like a second-class citizen by puffed-up border officials.

Meanwhile, over in the Canaries, the locals are kicking off - again - about there being too many tourists. Which, frankly, seems a bit rich.

Most of what makes those islands such great places to live is thanks to the vast amount of tourist money flowing in every year.

And as for the original inhabitants of the Canaries? We'll never know what they'd think, since the Spanish wiped them out 500 years ago when they showed up and took the islands for themselves.

Sure, Spain has its own issues with illegal immigration. But honestly, people booking hotels, eating out, employing



**AGREEMENT: Brits passport holders will be able to use automatic passport gates - at last!**

locals - that seems a far cry from what's happening back in the UK, where we're apparently under siege from asylum seekers chasing a free ride.

Maybe Keir Starmer could install e-gates on the south coast that issue work visas, spending money, and a hotel address all in one go?

And finally - though I'm no massive football fan - I expected at least one Spanish side to make it into one of the two big European finals.

But no such luck. My first year living in what was once the epicentre of world football, and we've got a French team playing an Italian one for the Champions League, and two of the worst Premier League sides in Manchester United and Spurs scrapping it out for the Europa League.

OSCAR-winning actor Jeremy Irons got the red carpet treatment at Sevilla's famous Feria de Abril.

*The Lion King* star, 76, was all smiles as Mayor Jose Luis Sanz pinned a badge on him at the city's official marquee (pictured). "It's an honour," beamed Irons, rocking a spotty scarf, red flower, and sipping local tipple *rebujito*.

This marks his fourth visit to the city - but first at the fair. The Brit mingled with celebs, took in horse parades, and posed for thrilled fans.

"Sevilla always opens its arms to culture," said the mayor. "This time, it hugged a legend."



## IRONS TREATMENT

## PART-TIME GARDENER WANTED - GAUCÍN

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