

Tennis great wins 2025 Princess of Asturias Award for Sports Excellence

SERENA Williams has been announced as the 2025 Princess of Asturias Award winner in the sports category, in recognition of her outstanding tennis career. The 43-year-old American



Serena's latest win

By Alex Trelinski

won 73 singles titles including 23 Grand Slams. She said in 2022 that she was

stepping away from the sport to focus on her family and business interests. Williams was chosen after two days of deliberations by a jury in Oviedo that sifted through 30 candidates from 13 countries. They described her sporting records as 'unquestionable'. Last year's winner was Spain's badminton star, Carolina Marin, who won Olympic gold in Rio back in 2016.

Prizes

The €50,000 Princess of Asturias Award is one of eight annual prizes covering different spheres, including arts, literature, film, and science.

The awards ceremony takes place in Oviedo this October at the city's Cam-poor The-atre.

RAFA'S FINAL FAREWELL

SPAIN'S greatest-ever tennis player, Rafa Nadal, has been given a special farewell at the French Open - a Grand Slam event he won a record 14 times. The Mallorcan star retired last November after a sensational career.

He took his bow on Court Philippe-Chatrier in front of a packed 15,000 crowd including Murcia's Carlos Alcaraz who wore a 'Merci Rafa' shirt. A video montage was played across the court screens featuring all of his successes at Roland Garros. Towards the end of the emotional ceremony,



Nadal was joined on court by his great rivals Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer, and Sir Andy Murray.

MULLINS IT OVER

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



No regrets, no illusions

From Spanish property madness to Brexit hangovers and bureaucratic blind spots, life abroad isn't all sunshine and sangria

I'VE no regrets about relocating to Spain a year ago, but there are times when it really hits home that you're squatting in someone else's country where you don't get to make the rules. It's a bit like post-Brexit Britain, except - whatever the politics of it - the UK can't just up sticks and move. We still need to trade with the EU, but now we don't get a say on the rules. Genius!

Where I'm going with this is the bonkers idea from Spanish PM Pedro Sanchez to slap a whopping 100% tax on non-Spanish, non-EU citizens buying property.

Utter madness if you ask me, and I'm told it's got a snowball's chance in hell of becoming law.

Clearly, Señor Sanchez is trying to calm the anti-tourist, anti-second-home crowd by showing he's on their side.

The good news is that, unlike Brits in 2016, Spanish voters won't rise up against foreigners... they know which side of their *pan rebanado* the olive oil is drizzled on!

Speaking of housing problems, I couldn't believe what happened to one Scandinavian expat woman recently - some crafty scammers managed to swipe her flat out from under her. The



TURNED AWAY?: If migrants fail test

first she heard of it was when she started getting threatening letters ordering her to leave. Talk about bad news in the post.

What I don't get is how a forged Colombian legal document can allow gangsters to flog your place from under you! If you buy a stolen car you don't get to keep it, so why is it different when it's a flat?

It does sometimes feel like expats get second-rate service from the local authorities; meanwhile, back in the UK, it seems the government bends over backwards to help immigrants - the more illegal, the more help, or so it often appears.

I suppose some of us might do better out here if we made more effort to learn the language, but *Spanglish* does the job well enough for me. Strangely, I hear that back in the UK, Labour are trying to bring in a new law making immigrants take an English test before they can get any sort of visa to stay.

Who knows how that's going to work. Will the Royal Navy start handing out test papers to illegals on the small boats - and if they fail, it's a one-way ticket back to France? Next thing you know, Keir Starmer's Labour lot will be paying to send private English tutors into asylum hotels, just to make sure the illegal immigrants living on the taxpayer's pound are up to snuff - so they can apply for more benefits!

● See our letters section on page 16

A right royal sendoff

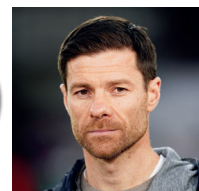


IT was caps off and tissues out as King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia of Spain watched youngest daughter Infanta Sofia graduate from UWC Atlantic College - aka the 'Hogwarts for hippies' - in Wales.

The £63k-a-year school, set in a 12th-century castle, is a royal favourite Sofia's big sister Princess Leonor graduated in 2023.

Leonor couldn't make the ceremony - she's off doing military training - but sent a sweet video message from a Spanish Navy ship. Sofia's tutor called her a 'true friend in difficult times'.

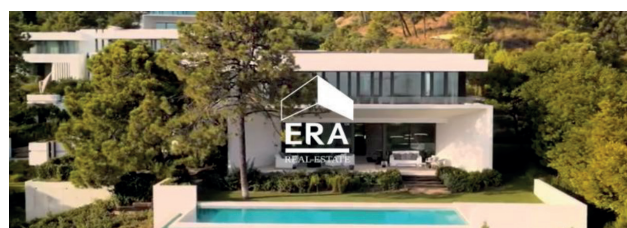
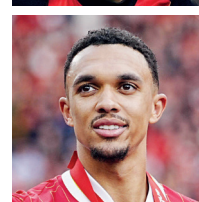
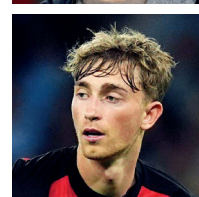
XABI STARTS



REAL Madrid have appointed Xabi Alonso (top right) as their new manager on a three-year deal starting June 1. The 43-year-old returns after making 236 appearances for the club from 2009 to 2014, winning six major trophies.

Alonso arrives from Bayer Leverkusen, where he won a historic domestic double last season. He replaces Carlo Ancelotti, who departs to coach Brazil. Real face Al-Hilal in their first match under Alonso at the revamped Club World Cup on June 18 in Miami.

Ahead of his arrival, Real have signed Dean Huijsen (middle) for €60 million and are targeting Liverpool's Trent Alexander-Arnold (bottom) on a free transfer.



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