



## INCREASE IN ORGANIC PRODUCTION

# Growing eco-market

Luis Planas, Spanish Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA), recently assessed the growing organic market in Spain as a particularly positive future trend.

Compared to the previous year, the area used for organic farming in Spain increased by about eight per cent and now stands at over 2.2 million hectares. The number of organic entrepreneurs rose last year by around six per cent to 44,282. Of these, 39,505 are producers, 4,627 process the products and the rest market, import and export organic goods. The number of organic livestock farms is growing more slowly but steadily, by 1.68 per cent compared with 2018. Growth of almost 15 per cent each was recorded in the meat sector of milk lambs and milk calves in particular, and organic pork production increased by eleven per cent.



↑ More and more consumers want to buy 'eco' products

Goods sold under the 'organic' or 'eco' quality label must comply with strict environmental and production regulations and, of course, the general food guidelines. The MAPA Ministry

has positively assessed the significant growth of the organic sector. Organic production has not stopped growing in the last ten years and almost one million additional hectares of land

have been converted to organic farming during this period. This places Spain as the country in Europe with the largest organic agricultural area and even in a worldwide compari-

son it ranks among the leaders. "Organic production is an economic reality in Spain. It creates jobs and meets the needs of people who, on the one hand, have growing demands but, on the other, want their food to be produced in an environmentally friendly way and in accordance with animal welfare guidelines. This growth area is thus in line with the objectives of our sustainable development strategy 2030," said the Minister.

The Ministry's studies predict a continued growth in eco-demand. Even if the con-

sumption of organic products still only amounts to almost 47 euros per capita per year at present, consumption has more than doubled in the last six years. The ministry is rewarding the great work done in the conversion to organic products with a special category called 'organic production' when it comes to the distribution of Spanish food prizes, Premios Alimentos de España. High-quality food produced in an innovative, environmentally friendly way is a future trend that is growing steadily in Spain. ■

## UNPLEASANT GUEST AT TITO'S

# Robbery with a Samurai sword

At the end of August, Tito's restaurant in Puerto de La Cruz was burgled in a particularly audacious way, in the middle of lunchtime service.



A CCTV recording made in the main room of the restaurant shows how a masked man entered the premises at 1.52pm and surprised the astonished waiter behind the counter, threatening him with a Samurai sword. The waiter left the bar area and cleared the way to the check-out. Another waiter who joined them tried to persuade the thief to stop, but he was unperturbed, calmly helping himself to the contents of the till. Then he reached for his sword, put it into his trouser leg in front of the mirror so that he could leave the restaurant inconspicuously. No one stood in his way to endanger neither their own safety nor that of guests. The brazen thief made off with around €500 during the robbery. Within a few minutes the scare was over and police were informed. ■



↑ The sole northern airport runway was closed by two dogs

It's nothing new that even in the summer, due to fog and poor visibility, air traffic at the northern airport Los Rodeos in La Laguna is disrupted.

The weather was cloudy even on the second Sunday in August and diversions or delays were not ruled out. However, there was a completely differ-

## DISRUPTION AT LOS RODEOS AIRPORT

# Dogs on the runway

ent reason for the complete stop of air traffic for one and a half hours. Two stray dogs ran uncontrolled over the airport's only runway and brought it to a standstill. How they got there and where they came from remains a mystery, but it took about 90 minutes to catch them and ensure flight safety. As a result, four flights

from Caracas, Seville, Barcelona and Madrid had to interrupt their landing approach to the northern airport and were diverted to the Reina Sofa airport in the south. Aircraft which were due to take off during this period had to stay on the ground until firefighters had caught the two four-legged friends. ■

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