



## MATERIAL DAMAGE AND VIOLENCE

# Avocado heists continue

The trade in stolen avocados continues to increase, despite the endless reports of thieves being arrested and charged. In fact, avocados seem to be popular items to steal: They can be sold quickly, fetch good prices and the evidence is quite literally eaten.

In the latest cases in Gran Canaria, the Guardia Civil's Equipo Roca unit in Las Palmas recently arrested two peo-

ple accused of multiple burglaries from farms. Named as 55-year-old A.H.R. and 41-year-old A.R.C., they are said to have stolen and sold avocados, lemons and other fruit. The investigation began after three thefts from a Santa Brígida farm, which resulted in the disappearance of 300 kilos of avocados and damage to the farm's security system, were reported to the Guardia



Civil in San Mateo. At least one other avocado, fruit and lemon theft was reported to the local police of Santa Brígida. Since this species of fruit are generally intended for resale, targeted checks were carried out in fruit and vegetable markets in cooperation with other police forces. In 25 cases a fine procedure was initiated against the owners because they could not prove the origin of their goods or because invoices did not match. A total

of 122 kilos of avocados and 140 kilos of other species of fruit were confiscated. In addition to possible health damage caused by phytosanitary treated varieties of fruit that were removed too early, the buyers of these products are guilty of receiving stolen goods and can be prosecuted. The Guardia Civil therefore expressly warns shop and restaurant owners against purchasing stolen goods or ones whose origin cannot be traced.

## Caught in flagrante in La Orotava

On the last Sunday in August, the owner of a finca in El Rincón in the borough of La Orotava apparently caught a thief in the act. According to reports, the suspect dropped a backpack containing about eight kilos of avocados, then grabbed the owner by jewellery he was wearing around his neck, almost cutting off his air

supply, before pushing him against a wall. The intruder then apparently grabbed the backpack with the avocados and escaped, having also damaged the entrance gate to the farm. The injured party filed a complaint and the investigation ended two days later with the arrest of a 43-year-old man. A 40-year-old woman, related to the suspect, is being investigated for being an accomplice as she apparently drove the getaway car. ■

## FAMILY SUFFERS SUSPICIOUS SYMPTOMS

# Listeria poisoning in the Canary Islands?

The continuing listeria outbreak in Spain may have claimed some victims in the Canary Islands.

At the time of going to press, over 200 people in the Peninsula had been affected by the bacteria, with two deaths

directly attributable to the outbreak, as well as one miscarriage and a further suspected one. The infection is thought to have originated at a Sevillian company called Magrudis, and in particular from three of their products sold under the

brand name La Mechá: Carne mechada (shredded meat), pork loin with sherry and pork loin with paprika. The first possible case of related poisoning abroad was confirmed by the Spanish Health Ministry as being a Briton who had trav-

elled to Andalusia, the centre of the outbreak. The Brit moved on to France and had to spend several days in hospital before being allowed to fly home.

In addition, it became known at the end of August that seven family members in the Canaries had experienced mild symptoms after eating products from the company. However, the illness was so mild that none of them needed medical care. The meat was eaten by the family on August 10, before the health warning over listeria was issued. They had transported the food in their suitcases from Andalusia to the Islands, so it's thought possible that the lack of chilling during the journey was the cause of the intestinal upsets. Further tests will confirm or refute this. The Canarian Health Authority is currently advising consumers to avoid products from the La Mechá brand until further notice. ■

## QUICK RECIPE IDEA

# Yakitori skewers with rocket salad

If you're looking to quickly conjure up a delicious dish with a mixture of meat and vegetables then Yakitori skewers made from beef and celery and a rocket salad are a perfect choice. In less than half an hour, there's a meal on the table that tastes great and is very distinctive.

To make a salad with dressing, take some rocket leaves, three peppermint stems, a tablespoon of oil, two tablespoons each of sesame and rice vinegar, and salt and pepper. This can also be decorated with tomatoes.

For the skewers, use 400 grams of entrecote steak, four sticks of celery, two tablespoons of soy sauce, a portion of fresh ginger, three tablespoons of rice vinegar, a little oil and a teaspoon of brown sugar.



**Preparation:** Peel the ginger, grate finely with the soy sauce, vinegar and sugar and simmer for about one minute. Cut the meat into even pieces. The celery is cleaned and cut into four centimetre long pieces. The celery and meat are put on skewers and rubbed with salt, oil and pepper. In a grill pan they are roasted hot for about eight to ten minutes. Then drizzle with the prepared sauce and serve with the salad. ■

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