



TOURISM

Hotel occupancy exceeds 90% during the long weekend

Despite the economic crisis, there has been very high employment during the long weekend

Tourists, who stay more than two nights, come to the country for skiing and shopping

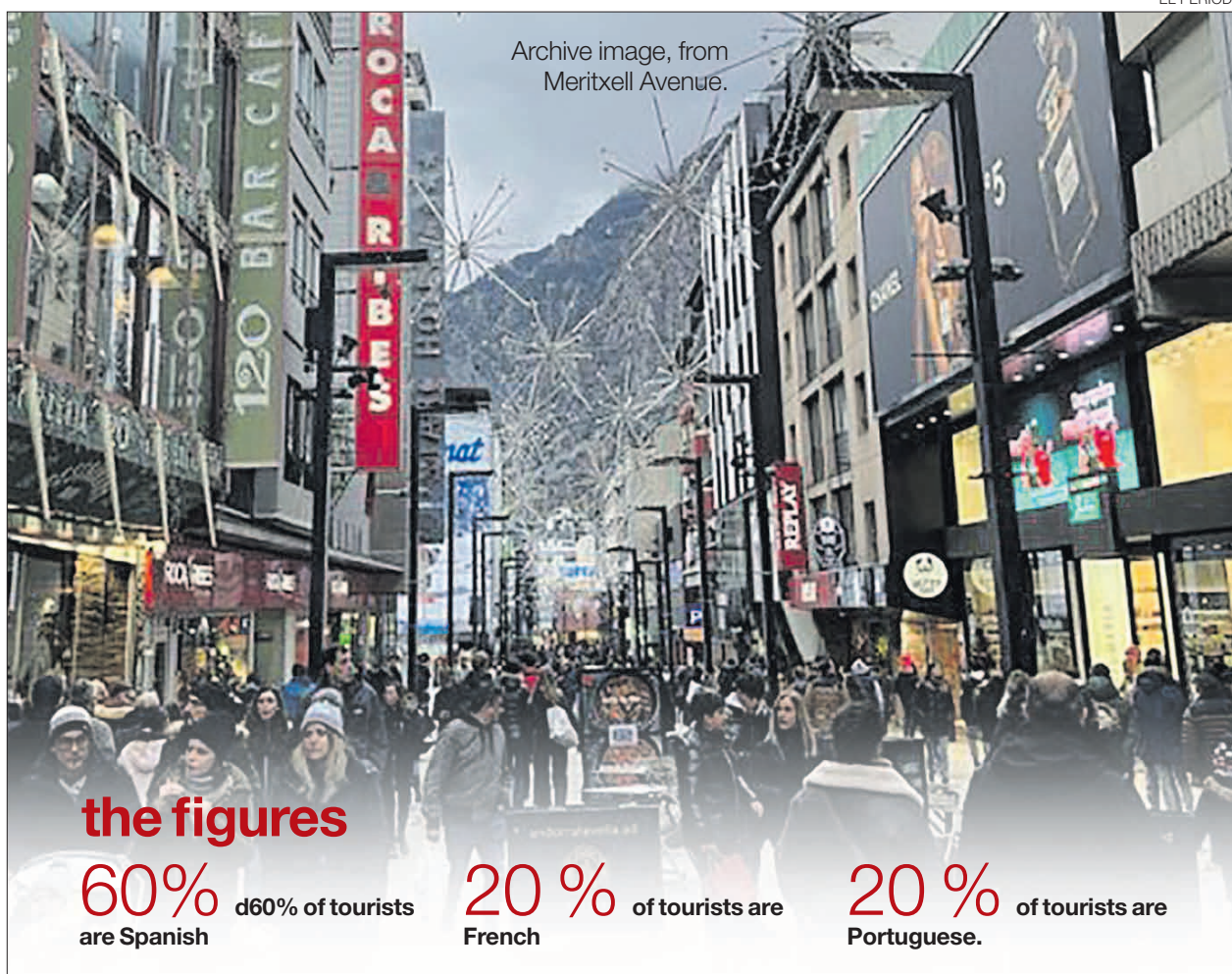
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After two years with a Carnival with restrictions due to the pandemic caused by the Covid-19, this 2023 the festival was able to be celebrated in total normality, and the country has once again been filled with thousands of foreign tourists who have come this long weekend to the Principality and enjoy the Carnival.

Therefore, occupancy in hotels has been more than 90% during Saturday, Sunday and Monday. In fact, Imma Garcia, receptionist at the NH hotel in Andorra la Vella, has assured that «all of last week we had 100% occupancy, and this week we are going the same way». In addition, she has declared that this season is going better than last and that they are recovering after the whole time of the pandemic. In fact she reported that «until the beginning of March we are full». In addition, Garcia explained that «all tourists stay long-term, that is to say, more than two nights».

Felipe Caetano, receptionist at Acta Hotel, explained that during this long weekend the occupation was 95%, and explains that «taking into account the economic crisis we are suffering, we cannot complain». Even so, he assured that «the season could go much better, since during the weekend we are usually full but not during the week. The other years we had meetings every day of the week.» Therefore, Caetano has stated that they have 20% less employment than last year.

The two hotel receptionists also reported that most of the tourists who come are Spanish, specifically 60%, Caetano said, followed by 20% French and 20% Portuguese, and that the season ends in March, with



the exception of Easter.

On the one hand, the tourists who have come to spend a few days have two clear destinations: the ski slopes on the one hand, and the commercial area on the other. Most of them explained that it is not the first time they have come to the country, and that «the main purpose of the trip is to go skiing on the slopes, although we take advantage and go through the shopping area to look at shops and buy».

Andorra has been celebrating Carnival since Friday and the joy is palpable in the streets of the Principality. The starting shot was given

by the little ones from each parish, who paraded in costume through the streets, and on Saturday adults and children could enjoy the parade

through the capital.

Even so, it was not the only event that took place for Carnival. After the parade there was a sausage party



IMMA GARCIA
NH HOTEL RECEPTIONIST

«This season is going better than last; we are recovering well from the covid era»

FELIPE CAETANO
HOTEL RECEPTIONIST

«Considering the economic crisis we are suffering, we are having a good season»

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WEATHER

Snow forecast for Thursday

The meteorological service of Andorra warned yesterday that, although the week has started sunny and calm and the temperatures have been high throughout the Carnival long weekend, there will be a change in the weather in the middle of the week that will bring cloudiness and precipitation. The approach of a new disturbance will leave a cloudy Wednesday morning and some light rain in the north end of the Principality. Although in principle it would only be rain, these precipitations will be in the form of snow from 1,800 meters. And by Thursday, the snow level will drop and snowfall will be widespread from 1,200 meters. The forecast is for temperatures to drop from Wednesday, leaving 3 degrees in the capital and -4 degrees in Pas de la Casa.

and for three nights Encamp was the protagonist with parties for adults, where the best costume of each night won a prize of 250 euros.

The carnival events will continue until tomorrow, which is when Carnival King will be judged and punished for his misdeeds, after organizing a whole week of revelry, dancing, music and costumes. This one will not return until next year, when we will again have a week to enjoy the party of costumes in the country from the youngest to the oldest. ≡

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POLITICS

Democrats double Liberals in number of militants

The new party, Concordia, is in third place in terms of number of affiliates, ahead of Acció

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►► Xavier Esport and DA militants during the presentation of the lists for the 2A elections

the figures

300 members of Democrats for Andorra (DA) make Xavier Esport's formation the political entity with the most militants.

150 members, approximately, belong to Liberals, half that DA.

61 the new political group of Cerni Escalé has 61 affiliates, being the third in number of affiliates.

43 militants in Acció, which they expect to increase exponentially in the coming weeks.

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Of all the political formations that have presented a national candidacy for the upcoming 2A elections (and with the exception of PS, SDP and Andorra Endavant, which have not made their figures public), Democrats for Andorra is the

political formation with a higher number of affiliates. Its superiority in this ranking is quite strong, since it would double the approximate number of affiliates that the Liberals would have, the second party with the most militants in the next elections. Far behind, we find the new formation of Concordia, which has a very valuable figure, taking into account its pre-

city, of 61 active militants. In last position is also the new political movement Acció, which has specified that in the coming weeks they expect to significantly expand their current 43 affiliates.

All four have membership methods for similar quotas, but at the same time, with certain distinctions. DA is the only training that only has one form of membership fee;

a single payment of 60 euros per year regardless of the individual's profile.

Liberals opens the range of options to become a member of the formation of Josep Maria Cabanes. If you are under 35, the youth fee is 40 euros per year. If you are over 35, you pay the senior fee of 80 euros. In addition, the liberal executive is considering whether to add a

new reduced fee of 40 euros for retired people.

The formation that will be led by Cerni Escalé and Nuria Segués, despite being a recently created party, already has more than fifty members. From the very beginning, the assembly movement pretended that money was not a problem for the ability to become a militant. Being consistent with this mentality, Concordia has a catalog of fees of different amounts and let the affiliate choose the fee that best suits his desire to be involved. These fees start from 80 euros to just one euro.

Finally, the new training of the acting minister, Judith Pallarès, has three payment methods. The ordinary annual fee is 80 euros, but the youth fee for those under 35 and the senior fee for those over 65 only pay 40 euros per year. ≡

SOCIETY

About 200 people mobilize against Grifols in Ordino

The demonstrators went from the Main Square to the land where the laboratory will be located

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ORDINO

About 200 people gathered this past Saturday in Ordino to protest against the installation of a P3 laboratory by the Grifols company. The protests are focused on the environmental danger of having a project like this and more so in Ordino, the only parish declared a biosphere reserve by UNESCO.

These reserves are territories whose aim is to harmonize the conservation of biological and cultural diversity and economic and social development through people's relationship with nature. It would be the first P3 laboratory located in a biosphere reserve.

The attendees took part in a silent march from the center of Ordino to the land where the facilities will be located. Enric Dolsa, municipal councilor of X'Ordino, also participated, although he assured that he was doing it as a citizen and that he had



►► March against Grifols in Ordino

not participated in the organization. The citizen platform that organized it dissociates itself from any political movement and questions the project because of the security and the negative repercussion it would have for Andorra.

They claim that the problem these laboratories have is that they can work with pathogenic microorganisms such as the AIDS virus or hepatitis B, and therefore have many risks for public health. ≡

TRADITIONS

The Contrabandistes (smugglers) satirize Ordino reality one more year

The Grifols P3 laboratory, the parking situation and the 2A elections, at the center of the stage

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For the sixth edition, the Smugglers judge of Ordino satirized and parodied yesterday, in the Main Square of Ordino, the reality of the citizens of Ordino and the affairs that are having the most impact on the everyday life of the parish. This year, the Grifols P3 laboratory, the lack of punctuality of the Ordino priest, the increase in parking controls and the members of the Municipality have been the topics that have been referenced the most.

The president of the Popular Culture association, Albert Roig, was satisfied with the increase in volunteers and the large number of participants in the theatrical performance, reaching around twenty actors. Roig emphasized that the realization of the work has been quite a challenge in terms of organization, but he has recognized the final result as a suc-

cess.

One of the most outstanding aspects of the work has been the upcoming construction of the P3 laboratory of the Grifols company in the parish, together with all kinds of events and actors that have manifested in relation to this affair. The silent demonstration against the laboratory last Saturday, the municipal refusal to hold a popular consultation to find out the will of the Ordino people in relation to this project, the opposition minority of Dolsa and Armengol with respect to Grifols and the position in favor of the Mortés and Choy consuls, were represented by the cultural association.

In the same way, the priest and the situation of Ordino's parking lots, where they emphasized that there is no point in the parish where you can park for free, also had their echo in the scene, which made entertain the public with a satirical tone. ≡