







Ali, Rob, Keith,Tara Monica, Lulu, Aydan, Ed & Alex



We've been expecting you...

We can just picture it... you're sat, relaxed in the sun, feet up with a nice cold drink of your choice in your hand (for me a Mojito and Ali a Sambuca, in case you are wondering!). You could even be on the beach, and you're looking to just switch off for a bit, zone out and catch up with what's happening around us in our piece of paradise.

Allow us to whet your appetite a little and give a taster of what's inside this edition!

Faces of Fuerte gets us sat down chatting to Debbie Edgington MBE. We have our **Stronger Together** update where we introduce the new joint initiative between them and the Ayuntamiento, plus there is a great update on projects happening in La Oliva.

Through My Lens' subject, Tija Mikeli, provides this issues' photos and cover. Tija delights in capturing your special moments, a passion that's ignited further by using the dramatic backdrop that is Fuerte. Pop over and give her a follow on @haveyourmoments

We catch up Denise from Perpetual Kindness to hear about her upcoming wellness retreats. Poor **Alex** is put through her paces with 'Boxfit', whilst **Ed** learns to Salsa (I think we may have mixed up the assignments here!) Either way, both made it back and seem to be talking to us still, so all is good. **Lulu** gets let off lightly by finding out all about the Inter Fuerte Football Club.

Aydan, in his quest to promote the island, its history and culture, talks to us about the statues of the kings near Betancuria. We are amazed by the LOVE being shown to Aydan's social media: 22,000 followers on Instagram. Check him out *@historyaydan*

We also have an interview about buying locally produced goods and the importance of doing so. Finally, we reward ourselves by sitting down and sampling the amazing food at **Me Gustas Tu**, which, if you haven't yet tried, you're missing out on!

Cheers for picking us up, clicking online, and for visiting our sponsors who make this all possible! Thank you to everyone for all the suggestions relating to who and what we should feature. Please keep them coming on the channels below!

Right, pass me a Mojito, the sun is calling...



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BreezeFuerteventura



Breeze Magazine Fuerteventura

LIVING IN FUERTEVENTURA



Tuesdavs at 4pm in Cordon Blue. Corraleio

Badminton Fridays at 10am, Sports Hall.

So here we are again...

In the blink of an eve. another summer is upon us, and a brand spanking new issue of Breeze is out. We've our fingers crossed that you'll find it as informative, entertaining and useful as you've told us previous issues have been.

But what news of Stronger Together?

As an association in its infancy. our trajectory was steep as regarded adding new services to those provided. Members' needs dictated the direction in which we moved as we put in the hard graft to learn how best to develop into the comprehensive safety net we set out to be for you.

Now, with the passage of time and the benefits that only experience can bring, we can consider ourselves more polished: we've learned both what works well, and what perhaps doesn't pan out quite how we'd hope. And that means we've tightened our focus.

Without giving too much away, some of this focus has been directed at the roles Josan and Monica play. No spoilers here. but as a little teaser, Monica's now doing (no. that's in her article), and Josan has an office in the avuntamiento building where he (nope, that's covered later in the mag, too)! I guess you'll just have to read on...

One area in which we have expanded is in caring for members who for whatever reason need varying levels of assistance at home. Sadly, we have recently lost association members who had become extensions of our own families. We have very much shared in their own families' grief, but being part of making those last weeks and months as comfortable as possible has reinforced our belief in the



importance of being there to help when things will not get better. We will do whatever we can for whomever we can

However, as is the nature of things, we strive to be there in the better times too. And that includes organising our special get-togethers. In case you're in any doubt, our most talked about, most attended and most enjoyed events have been those 'friendly' pádel tournaments. The next one is pencilled in for November, so keep your eyes peeled and your ears to the ground for details on that one.

So what we're really trying to say is that if there's anything you need help with, be that in the more serious, challenging moments of life or in those times when we look to kick back and enjoy ourselves, please get in touch.

Remember, there's no such thing as a silly question



¡Vuelve el español! Spanish classes restart this September

We're excited to announce that Spanish classes will be back this September, and we'd love to welcome new students!

Thanks to the support of the team at Campanario, we now have a great classroom space to continue our lessons.

Our wonderful teacher, Mari, will once again be leading fun, practical sessions every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon between 4pm and 8pm.

Whether you're a total beginner or have some Spanish under your belt, there's a class for you!

Mari will help you find the right level so you feel comfortable and confident from day one. She may even send you a short test. Don't worry though, it's just to help match you with the right group.

And don't give in to those nagging doubts. You're not too old, you're not one of those people who can't learn, and you can make the time.

Don't let any more time pass before taking the plunge.

We're pretty sure you'll be glad you took that very first step!



Interested in joining in September?

Email us at: strongertogetherfuerteve ntura@gmail.com

Spaces are limited, so get in touch now and secure your place.

Let's learn Spanish together - see you in class!



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Living in the Canary Islands has many perks: sunshine, nature, and a relaxed lifestyle. But one often overlooked benefit is regional tax deductions (IRPF) specifically for residents. Whether you're working, retired, or running a business, these 2024 deductions can help lower your tax bill:

1. Education Deductions

University Students: Deduct up to €1,800 per child studying outside your island (more if you earn less).

School Costs: Claim up to €133 for books and materials (first child), and €66 per additional child.

Tip: Save receipts and ensure your income is below the limits.

2. Rental Relief

Tenants: Deduct up to €720 annually if you rent your main home and meet income criteria.

Landlords: Claim a 50% reduction in taxable income plus deductions for property maintenance.



3. Energy-Efficient Renovations

Deduct 20%-40% of costs for improvements that cut energy use.

Applies to works completed by the end of 2024, capped at €5,000–€7,500 per

Tip: Energy certificates (before and after) are required.

4. Job-Related Island Relocation

Claim moving expenses if you moved to another island for work or business.

5. Home Adaptations for Disabilities

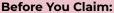
Deduct up to 18% of costs related to accessibility improvements for residents with certified disabilities.

Includes ramps, adapted bathrooms, lifts, and smart systems.

Note: Proper documentation is essential.

6. Unemployment Deduction

A small deduction is available if you or your partner were unemployed for over six months and meet income criteria.



Keep all documentation (receipts, contracts, permits).

Income thresholds apply.

Public aid may reduce deductible amounts.

Need help? We're happy to guide you through it - just get in touch!





Debbie Edgington MBE

Always on the lookout to feature fascinating people that make up our Island, this edition we sat down with Debbie, a long-standing member of the community in Caleta de Fuste.

Even after a couple of hours, I felt that I'd only just scratched the surface of her time here in Fuerte.

She's originally from Broughty Ferry near Dundee in Scotland, and we asked her when and how her Fuerteventura adventure began?

I came to the island in 1995 as a Thomson Holiday Representative. Before that I had worked initially as a children's rep and then as as a mainline rep, working in Benidorm and Gran Canaria, and then as a Ski Chalet Host in the winters in Switzerland. The company finally posted me to Fuerteventura, which was to be my last destination for them.



What were your first impressions of Fuerteventura?

I have to say, it wasn't love at first sight. I would maybe go as far as saying I hated it! I started in Caleta for my first year, then moved up to Corralejo for the second. The island was so different to the other places I had worked. Remember, this was still when we had the old airport, so it was a bit of an eye-

opener for me.



When I first went to Caleta, the resort was very popular with Germans, and not like it is today. Luckily though, I had learned German in school and went to live in Germany for a year as an Au Pair, where I also met my husband, and having the language helped me out immensely.

After about 10 years with Thomson, what made you change direction?

I absolutely loved my time as a rep, but it had changed a lot. We had great travel concessions back then that we could use. That meant we could travel all over the world for a fraction of the price, and I loved using them!

As the company got bigger, the perks and concessions weren't as attractive, and it felt like the right time to try something new, whilst staying on the island, which I have to say had grown on me a lot by now.

Can you believe I have recently celebrated my 30th 'Friendaversary' with 2 of my closest pals I met through repping; Louise who is also here on the Island and Gayle who is back in Scotland.

So you decided to stay in Caleta. What came next for you?

I took a totally different turn and ended up working in some bars for a couple of years. It was through the bar work that I got to know some of the hotel entertainment staff from the hotel that is now the Barcelo Hotel (called Inver Canary back then).

The hotel wanted me to work for them as a receptionist as I could speak English and German, and the Spanish was coming along nicely by then too. And so that started the next chapter in my work life, which was to last until the year 2000.

What was the best part about the receptionist's job?

Meeting people and how varied it was. That and speaking German, English and, of course, Spanish. I enjoyed dealing with all sorts of problems and thriving on helping people. I am also extremely grateful for the friendships that working in the hotel brought me. A lifelong friend Marimar, now lives in Madrid, but we still travel to see each other. Christina, from Barcelona, went on to work for my mum and dad in their hotel in Broughty Ferry, as she wanted to improve her English. I love that I still have the friendships after all these years!

Around about this time, you became a mum for the first time too.

I am a very proud mum to my two boys! Jack, who came along in 2001, and Harry, who arrived three years later in 2004. The first few years, when the boys were young, life was very much about being a wife and full time mum.

My husband was a builder at the time, and I helped with the administration side of our business. During my time in the hotel, I decided to buy some holiday apartments in Caleta, which I could manage alongside being a busy full-time mum and everything that comes along with that role!

How long was it before you ventured into local politics? Tell me more about that, Debbie?

the boys ...

I was initially approached by 'Partido Progresista Majorero' as they were looking for someone that could get the 'ex-pat' vote in for the party in Antiqua. As I was well known locally, they knew they could rely on me to rally the troops and encourage everyone who was eligible to vote.

Although a little daunted by the thought of this, I loved the idea of the challenge.

We won the election, along with 'Coalición Canaria', but due to our inexperience (which was understandable seeing as we were all relatively new to politics), they wouldn't form a coalition with us, and instead made an agreement with 'Partido Popular'. This lasted only six months, after which they asked us to form a new coalition with them. And so my life in politics began.

Louise, Me & Gayle

And what was your role Debbie?

I was the Councillor for Tourism, which stayed my role throughout my three different terms. Over and above this, I also had in my remit the Cultural Department in my first year, along with Citizens Participation Department and Beaches as well as the Commercial Department.

My role was to drive tourism initiatives throughout Antiqua, working with the different departments of the council to improve the tourism experience.

I loved working in this role as I have always been so passionate about helping people and finding solutions to the problems we faced as a council, as well as developing new ideas and concepts to drive the tourism, which of course we are reliant on.

A great example of an initiative was the first halloween party in Antigua, and although it was initially controversial locally, it was a great commercial success and still continues to this day!

You have also assisted the British Consul here on the island for the past 15 years. How did that come about?

Through my work on the council there were many situations where I would be in contact with the British Consulate in Las Palmas. It just snowballed from there. They contact me when there is someone in need of assistance in the Antigua area, and I do everything I can, liaising with local authorities to make the situation as easy as possible for the affected party.

This is something I continue to do voluntarily, and continue to love doing even after finishing in the local council.

This also gave you the opportunity to be involved in some of the Brexit focus groups a few years back. How was that?

It was a privilege for me to be able to collect not just feedback, but genuine concerns and fears from the people in my area on how Brexit was going to affect them, their living conditions, their working rights, everything... Being able to be the voice for my wee part of the world was rewarding.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, you also supported British citizens on the island.

I am always happy to assist others, especially when sometimes it's in the most difficult moments. During the pandemic, this was about keeping everyone informed of the latest updates, and of course the restrictions that were not only in place, but changing often. I also assisted those nationals that chose to return to the UK in what was very challenging circumstances.

This for me was always easier with the help and assistance I received from the fantastic team of consulate staff in Las Palmas, Gran Canaria.

This leads nicely on to you being awarded your MBE. What an honour for you!

Hugh Elliott, then British Ambassador to Spain, said: "Deborah's 25 years of serving the needs and integration of the British community in Fuerteventura make her a worthy recipient of this MBE award. She has worked tirelessly to ensure that British nationals know their rights, and has not hesitated to step forward when most needed, through times of great changes or uncertainty, from Brexit, through the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. Through her sterling work, she has earned the respect and trust of those around her, and I'm delighted that it has been recognised with this award".

How was that day?

It was just brilliant, I went back to Buckingham Palace for my investiture from Princess Ann, and I was allowed to take both my boys and my mum with me for what was a very special day.

I also had my Uncle John with me, and some close friends travelled over. Some friends from Scotland came down too so that we could all have a bit of a celebration. It was a really special day, it will always be a great honour and a complete surprise to have been awarded an MBE. I still feel immensely proud and humbled.

Something that was so difficult was having to keep it a secret until it became official. I was absolutely floored when I was told (I was in the supermarket at the time!) and it was December 1st 2023. I wasn't allowed to say anything to anyone until the 28th December!

To receive this for Services to British Nationals in Fuerteventura is the greatest privilege.



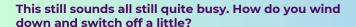
Since stepping away from politics, how have you been spending your time Debbie?

I made the decision to have more time for myself and my family. I still have my boys living at home with me as does my Mother, Carol. In 2011 when I first got into politics my mum came over and the plan was to help with the boys for a few months as I was also separated from my husband by then. My husband returned to the UK, and I have to say we are still great friends.

My mum being here allowed me to settle into my new role, and well Mum just never went home!

We sadly lost my Father, John, back in 2009, and it's nice that I have the boys and my Mum here.

I still have the apartments that Ilook after myself, and that keeps me busy. I do the assistance with the Consulate when that's needed. That can range from a quick phone call to something more demanding. I hope to be doing this for a long time to come.



I have a great bunch of friends that I like to socialise with. Sundays are a great day for us all to get together and take the chance to cook a particular style of food and make a cocktail to accompany it.

I got creative and started making a beach bar sign from an old pallet for our own little home bar called 'Onanas'. People liked it and asked me to make them their own. It's just a lovely little hobby to help wind down and relax.

When feeling more energetic, I like to climb the mountains that island has to offer. Here's a photo of Jack and me at the top of Pico de la Zarza, the highest peak on the island!

Debbie thank you so much for giving us your time and allowing us to share just some of your story with our readers!

I look forward to hearing about whatever you get up to next. And hopefully, fingers crossed, you'll be telling me all about it over a cocktail while we sit in Onanas Bar!











Treat yourself... to a Retreat

Fuerteventura has quietly become a haven for wellness seekers from around the world. With its peaceful landscapes, year-round sunshine, and gentle pace of life, it offers the perfect setting for slowing down and reconnecting with yourself.

In recent years, a growing number of retreats have blossomed across the island, ranging from yoga and detox to personal growth and self-compassion. One of the most meaningful of these is led by Denise from Perpetual Kindness Retreats.



Born and raised in Canada, Denise has lived a life full of purpose and adventure. She's travelled to 24 countries, spent a year living in Australia, and in 2022, married Marco - her Italian partner who introduced her to the Canary Islands. Her background is rich with volunteer work: from children's hospices and cancer foundations to international service clubs. Her love of cycling, baking, and Christmas lights up any room. With decades of experience in personal development and coaching, Denise now brings her heart-centered work to the shores of Fuerteventura.

Hi, Denise. Tell us a little about how you ended up in the Canary Islands.

My path to the Canary Islands began with nearly 30 years as a registered nurse in Canada, where I was passionate about helping others grow and heal. Over time, that passion evolved into coaching and personal development work, leading me to create retreats that help women reconnect with themselves in meaningful, lasting ways.

That insight led me to pursue certification in Transformational Coaching, which opened the door to a more holistic way of empowering others. Eventually, that passion evolved into the creation of retreats - safe, supportive spaces where women can reconnect with their inner strength and rediscover the importance of self-love.

Honestly, I didn't know much about the Canary Islands until I met Marco. In Canada, we usually think of places like Mexico or Hawaii for quick getaways. I vaguely remember hearing about the Canaries in third-grade geography class, but that was it.



Marco always dreamed of retiring here, and I had always pictured myself in a quiet beach town. Somewhere I could walk to the market every day and live simply. So we made the move full time this past January.

You were already leading retreats back in Canada. What inspired you to bring that work here?

Connecting and learning has always been a part of who I am, both professionally and personally. Back home, I hosted workshops centred around selfawareness, emotional healing, and kindness.

The decision to bring that work here felt natural. Fuerteventura's calm, wide-open landscapes offer the perfect space for reflection and reconnection. It felt like an invitation to continue this work on a deeper level.

Why focus on self-compassion?

Because I've lived through the opposite. For years, I was the woman who put everyone else first... juggling responsibilities, internal guilt, and that harsh inner critic we all know too well. I've experienced firsthand what it feels like to be disconnected from myself, to question my worth, and to carry unrealistic expectations.

But as I've deepened my own journey, I've come to see self-compassion as not just helpful, but essential. It's the doorway to healing, to real connection, and to living from a place of strength and truth. Women are incredible. We carry so much, give so much, and often forget to give that same care back to ourselves.

Self-compassion reminds us that we don't have to earn our worth or prove our value. We're already enough. And when women come together in a space of kindness and honesty, something powerful happens. We begin to remember who we are.

What kinds of practices do you teach at the retreat?

The core of the retreat blends guided meditation, journaling, mindful movement, and group exercises that invite emotional openness. We explore practical ways to shift from negative self-talk to self-support. Each activity is intentionally designed to help participants reconnect with their inner wisdom.

Can you describe what a typical retreat experience looks like?

Our main retreat is six days long, running from Sunday evening to Friday afternoon. We stay together in a stunning villa where all meals are prepared by our private chef. It's a small group (never more than 12 women) so it feels very personal. There's time for rest, connection, and transformation. For women local to Fuerteventura or just looking for something shorter, we also offer one- and two-day weekend workshops.

Who do you find is drawn to your retreats?

Women from all walks of life. Some are navigating major life transitions; others are just seeking space to breathe. Many have spent years giving to others and are now ready to give something back to themselves. It's not about having the right background. It's about being ready to turn inward and embrace a new way of being.



"I learned to accept positive traits of myself. I was out of my comfort zone a lot during the week, but that's where I had my best learning. Thank you to all the ladies who attended. Denise, you were a very calming facilitator. You let us know it was ok to be vulnerable both in the room and in life. I learned some valuable lessons."

- C.L.



"Wow! I learned so much about myself! How often I sabotage myself and why. What an eye opener. I found it really interesting to work through how I got here, and I now have ways to get through things when they come up. I definitely have more compassion for myself and others."

- S.T.

What makes your retreat stand out from others?

There's an honesty and intimacy in the way we do things. This isn't about escaping your life. It's about coming home to yourself. We don't focus on perfection or performance. We create a space where it's okay to be real, to be raw, and to explore what self-compassion truly looks like for you. And because we keep the group small, each woman is seen, heard, and supported.

You are also a transformational coach and offer sessions online or in person in Fuerteventura. What does this mean?

Transformational coaching is about helping people connect more deeply with themselves so they can move forward with clarity, strength, and purpose. It's different from traditional goal-setting or performance coaching because the focus is on inner growth and long-term change. In our sessions (whether face-to-face on the island or over Zoom) we work through whatever's keeping you stuck or holding you back, and we uncover the tools, confidence, and resilience already within you.

And if people don't really know if it's for them?

That's completely okay. A lot of people feel unsure at first, which is why I offer a free Discovery Call. It's a no-pressure chance to talk, ask questions, and see if the approach feels like a good fit. You don't need to have all the answers or a big life plan, just a willingness to explore. Sometimes, the smallest step toward yourself is the most powerful one.





Where can people go if they want to learn more or sign up?

They can head to perpetualkindness.com. All the retreat dates, details, and contact information are available there.

I truly welcome women from near and far. Whether you're living here in Fuerteventura or coming specifically to join us at our retreat... you are invited.

Any final message for our readers?

I'd just say this: taking care of yourself is not selfish... it's essential. Self-compassion is not about being indulgent; it's about being honest and gentle with yourself.

When we embrace who we really are, without conditions, life opens up in the most beautiful ways. Let's give ourselves that chance.

Thanks, Denise. It was a pleasure talking to you

For prices, availability and more information, contact Denise on:



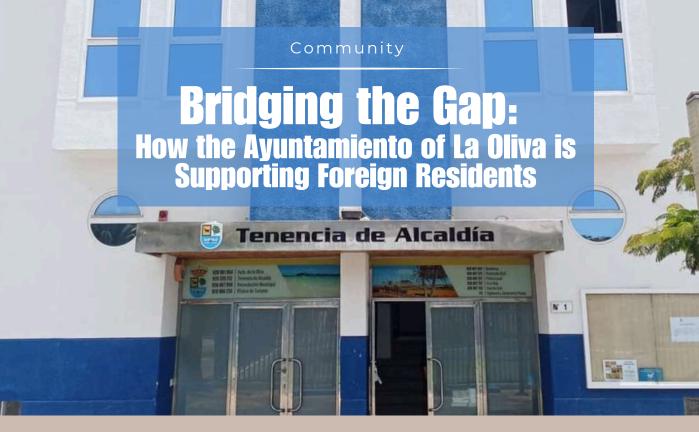
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If you've ever struggled to navigate local paperwork, understand tax documents, or access social services in a language that isn't your own, you're not alone. Fortunately, the Ayuntamiento of La Oliva is making it easier than ever for non-Spanish speakers to feel supported, understood, and included in the local community.

At the heart of this initiative is **Josan**, a long-time resident of Fuerteventura who brings warmth, language skills, and years of experience in hospitality to his new role.

After nearly three decades on the island, Josan shifted from tourism to teaching, and now leads a multilingual help desk at the Tenencia de Alcaldía (local council office) in Corralejo.

Fluent in English, French, Italian, German, and a few other languages, he offers support to foreign residents trying to navigate the sometimes confusing world of Spanish bureaucracy.

So, what exactly is this helpdesk?

It's a collaborative project between the Ayuntamiento and Stronger Together designed specifically to assist non-Spanish speakers. Whether you're trying to register documents, apply for benefits, or deal with municipal issues, Josan is on hand to guide you through the process with clarity and patience.



A One-Stop Hub for Public Services

The Tenencia de Alcaldía building itself is a surprisingly resource-rich hub for residents. Here's a quick look at what's available:

- Social Services (Servicios Sociales): Located on the upper floor, this department provides vital support for families facing hardship. They can help with food, housing, education, and home assistance.
- Municipal Tax Office (Recaudación): Assistance with local property taxes, vehicle taxes, and other fees. If you've been incorrectly charged or need to update your records, this is the place to go.
- Document Registration (Registro General & Social Services): Need to register an
 official document with the Ayuntamiento? Want to register your residence on the
 Padrón, print a Certificado de Empadronamiento, or request a Travel Certificate?
 Head to the reception desk downstairs.
- Island Government Office (Cabildo de Fuerteventura): Also located in the building, this office handles everything from transport subsidies and fishing licences to tourism permits and holiday rental applications.
- Water Company (CAAF): On Tuesdays and Wednesdays, representatives from the local water company are available to help with contracts, billing issues, and account changes.
- Local Development (Desarrollo Local): This department is a hidden gem. Whether you're job hunting or running a business, it offers services ranging from job boards and training opportunities to employment programs funded by the Canary Islands Government. If you're registered as unemployed, you may even qualify for temporary work placements through special public employment initiatives.

Why It Matters

For many foreigners, the idea of dealing with government offices in another language can be daunting. But with people like Josan and a growing commitment from the Ayuntamiento to provide inclusive services, things are changing for the better.

"It's about making sure everyone, no matter their language or background, feels welcome and supported," says Josan. "We're here to help people integrate, not just administratively, but socially, too."

Whether you've just arrived on the island or called it home for years, this service is a vital lifeline for staying informed and empowered.

Need help?

Visit the Tenencia de Alcaldía in Corralejo during weekdays from 9am till 2pm, or ask at the front desk for Josan and the helpdesk for foreign residents.



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Guise & Ayose



WHO ARE THEY?

When driving along the high, quite intimidating road up the mountain on the way to Betancuria, deep in the heart of Fuerteventura, you'll encounter two statues: two men wearing loincloths and holding staffs. They stand tall and proud, majestically watching over the enormous, seemingly infinite, dry valley. Who are they though?

Well, let's start answering this question, with another question. A more rhetorical one. Do you know who used to live here before the Spanish conquered the Canary Islands? Some of you will say... Ah, I know! The Guanches! This name is quite a generalization, though, as each island had its own indigenous inhabitants with their own dialects and particularities. Therefore, other readers might offer a more specific answer: The Majos, of course! (Not to be confused with "Majorero", the present-day name for people who live in Fuerteventura).

This brings us to another question of mine. Did you know that back when the native Majos used to live here, Fuerteventura, or Erbania as it was known long ago, was split into two separate kingdoms? The kingdom of the north was called Maxorata, and the kingdom of the south was called Jandía. The border between the two was a long but not very tall stone wall that ran from east to west. Fun fact: this is why the southwestern town of La Pared has that name, which in Spanish means 'the wall', because that's where the stone border used to reach!

Let's return to the statues. You're probably thinking, Aydan, what has anything you've just said got to do with these two loinclothed men with staffs?



Well, dear reader, after deciding to park and take a closer look, you'll be standing in the presence of the last two native kings of Fuerteventura: Guise, the king of Maxorata; and Ayose, the king of Jandía.

They were in power in their respective kingdoms at the time of the arrival of the Normans, under Jean de Béthencourt, who arrived in 1402 to take the islands as vassals of the Castilian Crown (Spain wasn't a united country yet).

What did they do when Béthencourt arrived? Did they resist?

Well, it turns out that two indigenous women named Tibiabin and Tamonante (possibly priestesses) had predicted the arrival of 'a certain manner of people from across the sea', and once they were proved correct, the two women convinced Guise and Ayose to make peace with the conquerors. It is said that one of these priestesses, Tibiabin, was the first native inhabitant of Fuerteventura to convert to Christianity and be baptised by the Normans.





Guise and Ayose, the island's kings, would soon follow, officially surrendering in 1405 and receiving the Christian names of Luis and Alfonso, along with 400 acres of land each for them to farm and live on. They quite literally went from being Guanche kings of Erbania to mere Christian landholders in Fuerteventura under the overlordship of the Lord of the Canary Islands, Jean de Béthencourt.

While Tenerife, Gran Canaria and La Palma were directly taken by the Crown in a more royal conquest, Lanzarote, Fuerteventura, El Hierro and La Gomera would remain under the control of noble families. They were passed down like inherited property, until 1812, when Fuerteventura and the rest of the Canaries were fully integrated into the Spanish state.

Aydan

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@historyaydan

In conclusion, whenever you pass by these two statues standing over that cinematic valley, remember that you are looking up at two monarchs who witnessed the end of an era. They don't rule anymore, but their story has been immortalized in bronze, and they have become symbols of an important chapter in the history of the island: A chapter when the people of this island would no longer greet each other with 'tamaragua', but with 'buenos días'.

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123 567 what happened to 4 & 8? Try Salsa they said. It will be fun they said. Why Salsa?

It's an interesting question and one I asked myself many times when the team at Breeze suggested that I go and experience an evening of Salsa dance with Fernando from "Contigo Home of Dance."

So, after a little research and a lot of 'this is going to be sooo far out of my comfort zone', I agreed and signed up for a class for beginners in Corralejo. It was a decision inspired partly by curiosity and partly by an inner desire to learn to Salsa. It's a dance full of life, rhythm, and history.





Salsa is a dance style that first emerged from Cuba at the beginning of the 20th Century created by the merging of different cultures from Spain, Africa and the Caribbean. The dance is accompanied by a fusion of all these musical styles which creates rhythms with powerful percussions and strong vocals. The type of music that has an irresistible rhythm and makes you want to move as soon as you hear it. The word 'salsa' itself means 'sauce' - a fitting name for a dance that mixes such diverse influences.

"Along with its history there are numerous health benefits from Salsa." Beyond the fun and culture, Salsa is an incredible form of exercise. It builds stamina, develops cognitive connections, improves coordination, and enhances balance and flexibility. Moving to music trains your brain and body to sync, boosting mental focus and body awareness. Salsa is also a fantastic mood booster. Immersed in the rhythm, your brain floods with endorphins, those feel-good chemicals that leave you energised and happy.

For people looking to meet others and try new things, Salsa classes offer a welcoming community. The shared experience creates bonds quickly. It's a reminder that connection is one of life's most nourishing ingredients.

On a very warm evening in July, I walked into the studio. It's a bright open space with a tiled floor, mirrored wall, and a lively group buzzing with anticipation. I found them downstairs in the Buendia Nohotel in Corralejo at 7pm this particular Tuesday evening.

Speaking very little Spanish, I am always extremely nervous in these types of situations. But there was no need for nerves. Fernando welcomed me and briefly explained how the evening would work. Everyone was friendly, and there was a mix of people. Some had never danced Salsa, and some were more experienced dancers who proved to be invaluable as the evening progressed.

To start, we were shown the first basic steps: forwards and backwards. Fernando explained and showed us, breaking everything down patiently and repeating the sequences until they began to feel natural. Each step is to a count of uno, dos, tres, cinco, seis, siete, and when the music started, the count is heard alongside the music making it easier to follow.

All you must remember is that on one you step forward with your left foot, two is a step on the spot with the right foot and three is the left foot returning next to the right. Five is right foot back, six is a step on the spot and seven is right foot returning next to the left. Simple, right!





After practicing these basic steps until they became automatic, we were divided into two staggered lines facing each other: men and women. At first, stepping opposite strangers felt awkward and my main concern was not to tread on any toes and to remember that count of 1,2,3... 5,6,7.

The smiles were wide and genuine, and soon I felt connected, not just to the music, but to everyone in the room. Just as you were getting into the rhythm of the dance there is a shout of 'cambio' meaning 'change'. High-fives follow this instruction, and the men move to the left with the women staying where they were, so you rotate around the studio and dance with everyone.



This is where the experienced dancers became invaluable, correcting you as you danced. Everyone was patient and understanding. These basic steps form the backbone of the dance, so therefore it is important that they become second nature and are ingrained into your subconscious mind allowing you to perform them without thinking. I'm not sure I'm quite there yet.

Then we moved onto turns followed by repetition, repetition, repetition. What then became obvious, at this stage, is that the dance is male dominated with the women following subtle instruction given by their male dance partner. It's an interesting concept for today's independent strong-minded women.

In conclusion, it was a very enjoyable hour spent learning something new, and I'm proud of myself for stepping outside my comfort zone.

Salsa showed me that you don't need to be perfect. You just need to be willing to move, to laugh at mistakes, and to open your heart to new rhythms. I will be continuing my Salsa journey, keep learning, and dance with more confidence. If you ever feel stuck or in need of a little spark, I highly recommend trying Salsa. It's more than a dance - it's a celebration of life.



@contigo_home_of_dance



+34 658 34 50 94



About Contigo Home of Dance - Meet Fernando: Fuerteventura's King of Salsa

Originally from Vigo in Galicia, Fernando has called Fuerteventura home for the past 30 years. A lifelong dancer with a competitive career that began at 18 and spanned over a decade, Fernando brings nearly three decades of experience to the island's dance scene.

Today, he teaches vibrant, sociable salsa and bachata classes at the newly opened Contigo dance school in Buendia Nohotel, sharing not just steps and technique, but the passion and joy that make Latin dance so irresistible. Drop him a message if you'd like to give it a go.

Spotlight On

Bringing Local Back...

This issue we delve into the world of agriculture, fishing and Km0, and we caught up with the councillor responsible. Good morning, can you tell us a little about yourself?

I'm Rubén González Montelongo. I'm a lifelong resident of Tindaya, and I currently work for the La Oliva Town Hall. My role spans across the Department of the Primary Sector and cleaning services in the municipality.

So what's the situation with La Oliva's primary sector right now?

The truth is, it's a difficult moment. That's not just locally, but throughout the Canary Islands and Spain. Farmers, livestock breeders, and fishermen are under enormous pressure. Rising production costs are making it nearly impossible for many to make ends meet. Even though there are subsidies, our condition as an 'ultra-peripheral' region means extra shipping costs by plane or boat, particularly here in Fuerteventura. Everything is more expensive.

That said, local products are beginning to gain value again. More people are consciously choosing to buy and consume local goods, even if they're a bit pricier than imported alternatives. That appreciation is offering a bit of breathing space to the people who work in this sector.

Do you have data on how many people are involved in the sector here?

Yes. In La Oliva we currently have about 10 farmers, 19 livestock farms, and 48 registered fishing boats. Last year, I held meetings with representatives from each sector to identify ways the municipality could help. Unfortunately, we have very limited powers at the local level, but we do what we can.

One bright spot was the fishing sector. Among the 48 boats, most are captained by individuals under 50, so there's a clear generational renewal happening there.

In livestock, the numbers have dropped compared to 20 years ago, but we still have 19 active operations. Three of them even run their own artisan butcheries. The rest supply milk to major outlets like Masorata and Tindaya, or even to an abattoir in Lanzarote.

What about agriculture?

We have 10 farmers now, which is double what we had three or four years ago. The increase is thanks in part to growing demand for quality local produce. We've made it easier for them to sell their goods in the traditional market in La Oliva, which operates Tuesdays and Fridays.

Why not open a market in Corralejo?

That's a great question, and we have discussed it. But several farmers told us it wouldn't be viable for them. They already have two sales days in La Oliva and one at the Biosphere Market in Puerto. They simply don't have the time or workforce to maintain another stall.

However, there is progress on this front. We are currently negotiating with El Campanario and the farmers, as El Campanario has offered them the opportunity to join their established markets on Thursdays and Sundays.



If this moves forward, it would likely mean shifting one of the current market days from La Oliva to Corralejo, as the farmers need time to work on their farms and cannot commit to additional market days. We're hopeful this collaboration can provide the much-needed visibility and sales opportunity for local producers in Corralejo.

So how are you promoting the local product?

We created a new role in the council called ELEIM, held by our very own Elaine Turner, whose work focuses on promoting local agricultural, livestock, and fishing products to tourist complexes and restaurants. We've already seen some partnerships develop between local farmers and restaurateurs, which is fantastic.

The goal is a circular economy. We want the products grown or raised in La Oliva to be consumed here. By eliminating middlemen, more of the profit stays with the producers.

What types of produce are most common in La Oliva?

We mostly grow potatoes, onions, lettuce, and rocket. In El Roque, farmer Michel has even started growing strawberries and tomatoes with ecological methods. The water situation has improved compared to previous years, which helps. There's also a plan under discussion to create an independent irrigation water system for the northern region.

Can the public buy these products directly?

Yes. They can shop at the La Oliva traditional market on Tuesdays and Fridays. There's also the market in Puerto del Rosario on Saturdays. Michel recently opened a small fruit and vegetable shop in El Cotillo, near the Al Goloso coffee shop.

For those who prefer direct contact, people can visit the farms or get contact info through the Town Hall or from the flyers we distribute at events like FEAGA.





What can the public do to help?

Buy local. That's the most important thing. Yes, it may cost a little more, but you get unmatched quality and you support your neighbours. As my grandmother used to say, "We are what we eat." If we don't support local producers, they'll be forced to shut down. And then we all lose.

Is there a labour shortage in the sector?

Yes. Some can't find workers, while small-scale producers can't afford to hire anyone. That's why most of them only sell three days a week. They just don't have time to grow, manage, and sell their products.

What do the producers need most from the government?

Less bureaucracy. Farmers tell me all the time that the red tape is crushing. A simple plan to build a new barn or expand farmland can take years. And every delay costs money. We're calling on all levels of government to help streamline these processes.

Does La Oliva produce wine?

Yes. Three of our ten farmers operate vineyards. Two wineries are in Las Ares: Conatus, which is the most established, and another smaller one owned by Leonardo. Juanma Benítez also runs a vineyard in La Oliva.

Even with limited rainfall, their wines have won awards and are gaining prestige. Conatus, in particular, has launched oenology tours at their site along the Camino Viejo. It's a fantastic way to experience local wine firsthand.

Final thoughts?

My hope is that this sector won't just survive, but thrive. With the quality of the product we have, and the growing awareness among residents and tourists, I believe the future of La Oliva's primary sector is worth fighting for. And we'll keep working every day to give our producers the recognition and support they deserve.

Thanks, Ruben, for your time.









WHERE TO BUY LOCAL...



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928 905 436

696 055 650 649 816 171 618 309 138 **Fernando** Mercado de las Tradiciones. La Oliva

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649 495 470 Quesería Barichuelo 928 865 588 630 974 723

696 401 796 618 023 975 Bod' Gavias de San Miguel 609 788 294





Fuerteventura's wildest race is back... and bigger than ever.

Looking for the ultimate challenge on the island? Look no further than **Baifo Extreme Fuerteventura**, an adrenaline-packed obstacle course set against the striking volcanic backdrop of Tindaya mountain.

We caught up with local organiser **Jonay** from *Al-Máximo Sports Club*, who has been running the event since 2015 in collaboration with the **Department of Sports of La Oliva**. What began as a small fundraiser for the Nepal Earthquake Appeal has grown into **Fuerteventura's largest race**, now entering its **10th year** with over **700 competitors** expected in 2025.

What's it all about?

Baifo Extreme is a physically demanding (but incredibly fun) 6km obstacle race featuring everything from crawling and climbing to leaping, lifting, and running your heart out. But don't worry, it's not just for elite athletes. Whether you're a seasoned OCR (obstacle course runner) or just up for a new adventure, this is an experience for everyone... locals, expats, and tourists alike.

When and where?

2025

Friday 12th – Sunday 14th September 2025

TINDAYA

📍 Tindaya, La Oliva

The weekend kicks off on Friday with children's environmental workshops from 5pm, followed by **Baifo Kids** on Saturday 13th, a specially designed 1km obstacle course for those aged 5–16

It's totally free and packed with fun challenges that get kids active, muddy, and smiling.

Then, on Sunday, the adults step in for the main event: **Baifo Extreme 2025.**

Throughout the day, the area will host food trucks, drinks, music, and plenty of good vibes for racers and spectators alike.

@baifoextreme.com

Choose Your Category

Standard:

Want to test your limits but without the pressure? This category lets you sidestep tougher obstacles - just swap them for 10 burpees. With 45 obstacles, it's still a challenge, but more accessible.

Pre-Elite:

Not quite ready for Elite but craving more than Standard? Pre-Elite gives you a tougher challenge with fewer bypass options - the perfect stepping stone if you're aiming to go pro next time.

Elite:

This is the real deal: 53 hardcore obstacles. There's no skipping allowed, and it's a race against the best of the best. Designed for physically fit competitors who want to push to the absolute max.

Who Can Enter?

Everyone! Whether you live on the island or are visiting for the first time, Baifo welcomes locals, expats, and tourists alike. In 2024, competitors came from Spain, the UK, Portugal, Italy, and beyond.

Scan the QR code above to enter Or sign up on the website:

In this issue, we introduce a photographer who believes capturing love means more than just clicking a camera.

Introducing Tija, the heart behind Have Your Moments, whose lens searches for real, raw emotion and stories told through light, laughter, and connection.

Today she transforms breathtaking island backdrops into deeply personal experiences for couples and families alike. Meet Tija...

FUERTEVENTURA THROUGH MY LENS

with Tija Mikeli



Tija is a beautiful and unusual name. Where are you from, and how did you end up in Fuerteventura?

Tija indeed is a very unique name. Thank you. I'm from a little country called Slovenia. How did I end up on Fuerteventura? With a one way ticket and whole life packed in one suitcase. My parents' legacy permitted me to turn my dreams into reality.

How did you start in photography?

I started photography in Slovenia, but the real game began in Fuerteventura. I had the luck to be mentored by two amazing photographers that taught me a lot, and I would never be where I am without the knowledge they shared with me. They know who they are. On this occasion I would like to thank them again.

You called your business 'Have your Moments'. How would you describe your photography and the experience?

I remember the long nights when I was choosing the name of my brand and doing my web page. "Have your Moments" felt perfect for what I like to express on photos.

Real and raw emotions will always be the number one that my camera is searching for, and for me the experience is as important as the final photos.

How do you decide where to go and what to do with each couple?

Every couple is different, with their unique story behind them. I always try to connect the little dots and details so the final result is as personal as it can possibly be.

I see you work with more than just weddings. What is your favourite work?

My absolute favourite work is elopements!

Private, sweet and full of emotions and tears of pure joy usually.

Don't ever hold back the tears of happiness. They don't happen often in life.









What do you love about working in Fuerteventura?

Fuerteventura is an amazing island with countless breathtaking locations, and I can call those breathtaking locations my office.:)

What is the most difficult part of your job?

It is hard to say. It's difficult when you really love your job. I would say finding ideal clients. Not every photographer is for every person/occasion and visa versa.

You have to click with your photographer, and your photographer needs to click with you in order for the experience to be the best it can be with photos that reflect your true personality.

Why should people choose you to record their special moment?

The experience I offer is always very personal. "If you want to see your soul in a photo," says Tija, "I'm definitely the one." And if your photo-shy partner ends the session saying, "Hey, that was actually fun!" I'll smile and say, "mission accomplished."



Do you have any funny stories you can share with us?

Funny and beautiful, yes. Once we had very romantic engagement with a picnic, and at the end I always give couples privacy for an hour or so. When I came back to pick up the set up, the table set up was changed to a bed. I don't if they were making babies or just watching the beautiful Fuerteventura sky, but it made me giggle of for sure.

What are your ambitions? Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

To grow ,to learn, always try to come up with new ideas. I have some ideas i want to make come true, but for now let's keep them a secret.

In 10 years I want to still be doing what I love and maybe travel more for photography.

Lovely. Thank you so much, Tija.





Made in Fuerte

By LULU



This issue we were looking for something a little bit different. We came across a great initiative run by some committed, enthusiastic local sportsmen. Do you own a business? Then this is your chance to be involved in the future of Fuerteventura's football...

Little Boots, Big Dreams

To find out more we sat down with Gerardo, one of the founders of Inter Fuerteventura Football Club.

Gerardo Bruna was born in Argentina, but moved with his family to Fuerteventura when he was just six months old.

He recalls growing up here as being a gift. The sun and beach were amazing, but it was football that truly shaped his life. At 13, he signed with Real Madrid Academy (La Fábrica), where he spent three incredible seasons learning and developing in one of the best football environments in the world.

At 16, everything changed. His agent received a call from England. Liverpool had shown strong interest and offered him a five-year deal, along with an incredible opportunity to train with the first team at such a young age. He made the move and began his professional career there. It also changed his life off the pitch, it was where he met his wife, Rebecca.



During his time at Liverpool, he received international call-ups from both Spain and Argentina. He first represented Spain's U-17s, winning the European Championship. Later, he was called up by Argentina's U-21s, where he made the switch and proudly wore the shirt of his birth country.

Pictured left to right, celebrating: Jason Neymar Ciraco Spencer (13), Adonay Alfonzo Andre Glez (8), Hugo Blanco Gomez (7), Leonidas Jesse Bruna (10).

Pablo Vincente Saa Roger (2) cheering on Farran Traore (4)





After Liverpool, Gerardo's career took him to Blackpool, then to SD Huesca in Spain, then briefly back to England before moving to North America following a call from Paul Dalglish. After three seasons in North America, he spent four great years playing in Ireland, where he had the chance to compete in the Europa League qualifying rounds, which was a standout moment late in his career.

After his final season, his father became ill, and he made the decision to retire and return to Fuerteventura to be close to his family after spending so many years away.

Back in Fuerte, Gerardo recalls "I joined a local team just to stay involved in football, and that's where I met Ubay Blanco, now co-founder and president of Inter Fuerteventura. He coached me for six months, and over time, our relationship grew beyond football and turned into a genuine friendship.

We also shared the same vision: we saw so much talent on the island, but very few opportunities or support systems for young players to grow and reach their potential.

As our conversations about building a serious football project began to take shape, we came up with the idea of running a pilot trial to see if the potential we believed was out there was truly real.



From left to right, Coach: Gerardo Bruna Blanco.
President Ubay Blanco Marrero & coach Juan Lopez
Vila. Boys: Dylan Castro Navarro, Hugo Blanco
Gomez, Guillermo Rojo Cortes, Alessandro Grasso,
Alvaro De Mendoza Brito, Adrian Fajardo Roger,
Adonay Alfonzo Andre Glez, Leonidas Bruna, Farran
Traore, Iker Gomez Navarro, Aaron Ramirez Lopez,
Jason Neymar Ciriaco Spencer, Martin Lopez Gomez,
Thiago Blanco Giminez, Pablo Vincente Saa Roger.



Inter Fuerte: Farran Traore (4), passing the ball to Leonidas Bruna (10)

We selected a group of young players from Fuerteventura who showed promise and entered them into the San Bartolomé Cup in Lanzarote, a beautifully organised and highly competitive tournament.



In the group stage, we played against teams from La Palma, Las Palmas, and Getafe CF from LaLiga. We won our first two matches comfortably, then narrowly lost 1-0 in a tightly contested game against Getafe.

Finishing second in the group, we advanced to the knockout stages and faced Tamaraceite from Las Palmas, securing a dominant 5-1 win. That set up a showdown with the tournament favourites, Real Madrid, who eventually went on to win the whole competition.

Despite a 4-1 defeat, our boys put up a strong fight, showing heart, courage, and glimpses of real quality. That experience confirmed for both Ubay and me that with proper training and structure, these players from Fuerteventura can easily compete against academy-level teams.

That's how Inter Fuerteventura was born. Together with Ubay and Juan, we decided to create a club unlike anything else on the island: a club with a professional structure, starting with U-10 and U-12 teams.

Our goal is to give kids an environment that mirrors what it's like at a top academy. With the right coaching, values, and real development pathways, we'll give them every chance to succeed, not just here, but far beyond the island.

This project isn't just about football. It's about building something meaningful for the future of Fuerteventura, and giving talented kids the opportunity to dream big.

Alongside coaching this team, Gerardo also launched Gerardo Bruna Elite Coaching, offering individual and small-group training for both local players and visiting children and adults. It's all about giving the next generation the attention, respect, and guidance they deserve.

If you're interested in following the journey of this exciting new club, or if you're a business owner looking to support and sponsor the growth of Inter Fuerteventura, we'd love to hear from you.

For sponsorship opportunities or general inquiries, please contact Gerardo or Juan Vila



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@cd.interdefuerteventura



@gerarbruna



From Sketch to Runway: Inside EsModa's Fashion Design School



Fuerteventura might be best known for its beaches and laid-back lifestyle, but just a short walk from the heart of Corralejo, something stylish is taking shape. We sat down with Ana Santonja, the powerhouse behind EsModa, the island's first dedicated fashion design school. With decades of experience and a deep love for teaching, Ana has created a space where aspiring designers can turn ideas into collections, and collections into careers.

Tell us a bit about yourself, Ana. How did you end up in the world of fashion?

My journey into fashion started with formal training in fashion and textile design at several academies and universities in Madrid, London, and

Barcelona. My first professional role was as a designer for Women'Secret, which gave me a strong foundation in the commercial fashion world. Not long after that, I was offered the opportunity to launch my own business in Madrid, which I did, and it was an exciting and formative time.

Alongside running my business, I was invited to teach at a private fashion university, which led me to the Istituto Europeo di Design in Madrid. I taught there for 12 years and was the Director of a Master's program for seven of those. It was a program I developed from scratch, and to this day, it remains one of the most successful and popular within the institution.

Teaching has always been a passion of mine, and it's run parallel to everything else I've done. I've taught not only in academic institutions but also directly within companies like Zara and Mango, helping their design teams stay updated with trends and techniques. I love coordinating, developing curriculums, mentoring others... education is something I feel truly connected to.

When I moved to Fuerteventura, I was surprised to find there was no structured fashion education on the island. None at all. I came with the idea that I'd teach my specialism within fashion, but quickly realised the gap was much bigger. There were a few women offering basic sewing lessons at home, but nothing resembling formal training or creative fashion development. That's when the idea of starting a fashion school here really began to take shape. It felt both necessary and full of potential.

Tell us about EsModa. What kind of school is it, and how does it work?

EsModa is a private fashion design academy that I founded last year in Fuerteventura. It was created to fill a real gap in professional fashion training on the island. There are talented people here, but until now, no structured pathway for them to develop their skills beyond basic sewing or home tailoring.

Our core offering is a nine-month annual course that runs from September to June. It includes six hours of weekly classes (blending creative and technical instruction) along with 12 additional hours of open studio time for students to work on their collections with hands-on guidance. It's a deep, practical immersion into the full design process.



For those who aren't ready for the full course, we also offer short, themed monographic workshops that last about a month. These focus on specific skills like swimwear design, and are perfect for people who want to specialise or need help with a particular project.

Is it an official qualification? How many students do you take, and what kind of person is the course aimed at?

At the end of the full program, students receive a private diploma from the academy. We're not focused on volume. We accept only six students per year for the main course, and five per monographic, so we can offer close attention and mentorship.

This isn't a hobby school. Our aim is to train real fashion designers, not people who just want to make clothes for themselves or their dolls, but those who are ready to step into the industry. Some of our students come in with a brand already in mind, or even one already launched, but want to refine their technical knowledge. Others have a clear concept or market niche they're passionate about and want the tools to make it a reality.

The process we teach is the same used in professional studios: starting from a moodboard and concept, building technical drawings, adapting patterns, creating a toile (prototype), and finally presenting that look on a model for professional photos and runway. It's an end-to-end process that prepares them for real-world production.



Do students need to have experience before joining EsModa?

Not at all. Experience isn't a requirement. Our groups are small and that allows us to give every student a lot of individual attention, whether they've never touched a sewing machine or already have some skills under their belt. What we do ask is that students arrive with a clear idea or concept: something they want to work toward during the course. This helps focus the learning process.

We've had students with a very defined vision, like one who wanted to design beach wedding dresses. That clarity helped her get the most out of her time with us. Others have come in without a specific goal, and while they've still learned a lot, the journey can be more challenging without a direction. So while experience isn't necessary, having some kind of creative vision definitely helps.

What does the course involve? What do students actually do?

The course is structured around three core pillars: creative design, technical development, and construction.

Students begin by developing a moodboard based on their chosen inspiration. This becomes the foundation for their entire creative journey. From there, they move on to sketching figurines, drafting technical sheets, constructing patterns, and producing a toile: a prototype garment as close as possible to their original concept.

Each student creates three complete design proposals over the course of the year. These are reviewed in-depth by our project director, Rosa, who visits the school three times (January, April, and June) to offer critique and guidance. At each checkpoint, students present their garment, explain the concept behind it, and receive constructive feedback to refine their work.

By the end of the course, students are capable of producing a professionally developed look, backed by technical documentation and storytelling. The final project culminates in a small runway presentation where models wear the students' finished designs. It's a true celebration of their creativity and progress.

What are your students aiming for after the course?

The students at EsModa are training to become professional fashion designers with the goal of creating their own brand or collection. Some may continue their education after the program, possibly off-island, but many come with a vision already in mind.

And how is the school linked to Fuerteventura Fashion Week?

The school is deeply connected to Fuerteventura Fashion Week thanks to a close collaboration with Rosa, the event's creative director. Rosa also acts as the school's project manager, guiding students through key milestones. At the end of the course, students present their final collections, and those approved by the teaching panel (including Rosa) are invited to showcase their work on the official Fashion Week runway. It's a huge opportunity and a very real incentive for students to develop industry-level skills.

Fuerteventura Fashion Week will take place the 17th of October in Pal<mark>acio</mark> de Formación y Congresos in Puerto del Rosario

How did the first year go?

The course has gone incredibly well, we couldn't be happier. Our first group of students was truly inspiring: creative, bold, and full of unique ideas. Their projects were wildly different from one another, but each had something special.





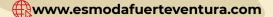
"Ana's ability to teach goes beyond sharing techniques; each class is a source of creative inspiration and professional growth."

Florencia Dávalos CEO @ Florencia Davalos. NY



New course starts on September 23rd 2025

CHECK OUT the info at:



We've had moments of laughter, challenge, and breakthrough, and we've built a close-knit community in the process. Because our group is small, we've been able to adapt when needed and support each student individually.

The final project presentations are coming up soon, and we're excited to see everything come together. If the upcoming students are anything like this year's group, we're in for another amazing ride!

So, the new course in September. How do people apply?

Applications are now open for the 2025–2026 academic year of EsModa's Integral Fashion Design Course. Classes begin on September 23rd, and space is limited to just six students to ensure highly personalised attention.

The nine-month course includes six hours of weekly lessons plus access to an open workshop space for 12 additional hours per week. The curriculum covers everything from inspiration and moodboards to technical design, pattern making, and garment construction.

Students receive guidance from seasoned professionals and those who complete the course may even have the opportunity to present their final collections during Fuerteventura Fashion Week.



For more details or to apply, visit www.esmodafuerteventura.com or send a message to Ana on



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Breeze sends me to Boxfit... and I live to tell the tale (just about!)







Hello again, my darling Breeze readers! Now, let me begin with a serious accusation: I think the Breeze team is trying to kill me!!! Gently. With cardio.

Instead of sending me off to something serene and soul-soothing like pottery, or watercolour painting, or even a competitive game of Bingo (which, let's be honest, can get dangerously aggressive when Doris from Table 5 is one number away), they decided, in their infinite wisdom, to send me to... Boxfit



Yes, **BOXfit**. That charming blend of boxing and exercise that combines everything I'm terrible at: sweating, moving quickly, and remembering which limb does what.

Now, I know what you're thinking.

"Dear God, NO!"

"Why would they DO this to her?!"

"Has she recently offended someone in HR?"

Fear not, dear readers. I survived. Just about. I now possess a newfound appreciation for the stamina of anyone who boxes for fun, let alone those who do it for real. Turns out, swinging your arms around while not falling over is very hard.



This particular class was run by the fabulous Lee Sibley. A local legend. A real boxer. And also the man I am far more used to seeing behind the bar at The York, where the only punching going on is when the card machine declines your payment on a Friday night.

I dared to ask him one day how long he had been boxing, and wow, I got an answer I didn't expect. With his usual laid-back confidence, he told me:

"I'm one of the owners of *Club Noi Thai* in Corralejo. I'm a pro-boxer, lightweight Canarian champion, two-time bronze medalist in the Spanish amateur nationals, with nearly 50 fights under my belt. I'm 33 years old now, and I've been boxing since I was 19... with my coach Jordi, who opened *Club Noi Thai* over 16 years ago."



Hearing that gave me a whole new level of respect. It's one thing to train for fitness or fun, but Lee lives and breathes this sport.

Club Noi Thai isn't just a gym, it's a legacy, built through hard work, sweat, and determination. And if you've ever considered stepping into the ring - whether for fitness, self-confidence, or to really compete - this is one of the best places to do it on the island.



I wasn't entirely sure what to expect. I had a fleeting nightmare of being thrown into a ring with a stranger and told to 'fight for my life'. Luckily for me (and everyone else's insurance), Boxercise is non-contact. No punches thrown at faces. It's more just the occasional gentle love-tap to a punching bag that I hoped wouldn't fight back.

We focused on technique. You know, stance, footwork, guard position. They're all things that sound deceptively simple until you're doing a shaky downward dog while trying not to punch yourself in the eye.

We kicked off with a warm-up. Lee informed us we'd be doing exercises in 3-minute intervals with 20-second breaks. Now, the sheer panic that washed over my face at the word 'three minutes' must've triggered his mercy response, because he graciously reduced it to two minutes. Even then, I nearly needed a lie-down and a defibrillator.





My cardio abilities could be described as... aspirational. My coordination? Non-existent. At one point I think I was punching with one hand, stepping with the opposite foot, and simultaneously apologising to a cone I accidentally kicked. It was like watching a spider learn Zumba.

And because my poor life choices know no bounds, I dragged my son and his new girlfriend along. Her first encounter with me outside the home involved flailing punches, drenched hair, and me nearly going headfirst into a wall. She handled it like a champ. I'm 99% sure she thinks I'm completely unhinged. I'm also 99% sure she's not wrong.

Thankfully, I had my trusty teammates Ali and Liz alongside me, cheering me on (read: laughing with me as I sweated out what felt like half my body weight and possibly a bit of dignity).



Lee, bless him, was brilliant. Kind, encouraging, and only slightly concerned that I might pass out mid-uppercut. The class wasn't terrifying at all. In fact, it was fun. Genuinely fun. And afterwards, we all felt pretty pleased with ourselves. Well... "pleased" might be a stretch. More like, 'not entirely dead'. Which, frankly, is a win in my book

And here's the kicker: Boxing rounds are THREE MINUTES LONG. I couldn't even last two without needing a full-body nap and a biscuit. How do people do this professionally? They deserve medals, massages, and unlimited access to snacks.

So, would I go again? Surprisingly... yes. I would. And I probably will. (After a brief lie-in and perhaps a light blessing.)

If you're feeling brave, or you just want to laugh at someone else's coordination fail, check out Lee's new gym. It's shaping up to be a brilliant space, both for Boxfit fun and for proper training if you're the real deal. He knows his stuff, he's making the place top-notch, and he hasn't banned me yet. Now that's got to be a good sign.

Till next time, dear readers... stay fit, stay fabulous, and if you see me limping through town, just know I probably survived another Breeze challenge.

| | 9:30 | 10:30 | 16:00 | 17:30 | 19:00 |
|-----------|-----------|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Lunes | Jiu Jitsu | Bexee | Kick Boxing niños | Kick Boxing Adultos | Jiu Jitsu Adultos |
| Martes | Boxfit | Jiu Jitsu | Jiu Jitsu niños | Kick Boxing Adultes | Jiu Jitsu Adultos |
| Miércoles | Jiu Jitsu | Boxeo Adultos | Kick Boxing niños | Kick Boxing Adultos | Jiu Jitsu Adultos |
| Jueves | Boxfit | Jiu Jitsu | Jiu Jitsu niños | Kick Boxing Adultos | Boxeo Adultos |
| Viernes | Jiu Jitsu | Boxeo Adultos | Boxeo niños | Kick Boxing Adultos | Boxeo Adultos |

To book your classes head over to Calle Bocinegro n14 in Corralejo or check them out at...



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A safer, cleaner, and more dynamic future for La Oliva

From enhanced public health services to ecotourism innovation, the municipality of La Oliva is ushering in a wave of improvements that promise to enrich the lives of residents and visitors alike. Here's a closer look at some exciting developments happening across the region.

LIFESAVING MEASURES REACH LOBOS ISLAND

A first aid post has opened on Isla de Lobos. In response to growing safety concerns, the municipality of La Oliva has established a new first aid station on Isla de Lobos, a small, ecologically protected island just off the coast. Spearheaded by the Department of Public Safety and supported by Mayor Isaí Blanco, the initiative aims to offer timely medical attention for visitors experiencing dizziness, dehydration, or minor injuries.

Previously, emergencies on the island required dispatching personnel from mainland Fuerteventura, with average response times of about 45 minutes. The new on-site facility drastically reduces that wait and provides immediate support for one of the island's most frequented natural attractions.

This move not only safeguards the wellbeing of tourists but also shows a commitment to balancing sustainable tourism with essential services.







EL COTILLO TO GET PERMANENT PRIMARY HEALTHCARE ACCESS. HEALTH COMES CLOSER TO HOME

The residents of El Cotillo will soon benefit from enhanced access to primary healthcare, thanks to the La Oliva Town Council's decision to provide a dedicated facility as part of the Canary Islands Health Service. While the current arrangement allows for temporary medical coverage, the council is already working on modifying planning regulations to designate land for the construction of a permanent health clinic.

This long-awaited addition, opening in August, will help ease the pressure on other health centres in the municipality and provide El Cotillo with a vital local service that reflects the area's growing population and popularity as a tourist destination.





SUPPORTING LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS YEAR-ROUND. PRODAE PROGRAM RENEWED

CLEANER STREETS AHEAD: A BOOST FOR PUBLIC HYGIENE. LA OLIVA INCREASES STREET CLEANING SERVICES

Big changes are coming to La Oliva's sanitation services. The local council has signed a new contract with the waste management company responsible for cleaning services across the municipality, unlocking a significant increase in the budget. The result? A substantial improvement in cleanliness, especially in busy areas like Corralejo.

Residents can expect more frequent cleaning, afternoon shifts for the first time, expanded service areas, and additional staff to support these upgrades. Mechanical street sweeping, street washing, and bulk waste collection will all be ramped up, improving the overall environment across the municipality.

By reinforcing private services, the Town Hall will also be able to reassign municipal staff to focus on cleaning neighbourhoods and smaller villages, ensuring more consistent coverage throughout La Oliva.



Good news for local businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs: La Oliva has renewed the PRODAE (Promotion of Economic Activity Development) service for another year. Backed by the Canary Islands Employment Service and the Federation of Canary Island Municipalities, PRODAE provides free business advisory services, helping to fuel the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises in the region.

With a focus on local economic development, the program offers advice on business plans, legal procedures, and access to funding. It's an invaluable tool for those looking to launch or expand a venture in La Oliva.

If you are interested in this program, get yourself along to the Tenencia de Alcaldia (Town Hall) in Corralejo and chat with Josan (our translator in the council Help Desk) who will help you with an appointment with the right department...

CULTURAL HERITAGE MEETS SUSTAINABLE TOURISM HISTORIC WATER CISTERNS RESTORED AS CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS

In a groundbreaking project that merges history, sustainability, and tourism, the Department of Environment and Tourism has undertaken the rehabilitation of two historic water cisterns, known as Aljibe del Veneno and Aljibe Redondo.

This project is the only EU-funded Ecotourism initiative of its kind on Fuerteventura. It's designed to both preserve cultural heritage and diversify the tourist offering in the municipality.

Aljibe del Veneno now features an exhibition on traditional water collection and storage systems, offering insights into how they shaped the landscape and culture of Fuerteventura.



Aljibe Redondo showcases an operational, restored water mill demonstrating ancient techniques of water extraction. The cisterns are set to open this August, offering a unique cultural experience that enhances the town's eco-tourism appeal while honouring its agricultural and architectural past.



CORRALEJO TAKES THE SPOTLIGHT ON THE GLOBAL STAGE. GRANDES PLAYAS NAMED BEST BEACH IN THE WORLD BY NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

In a proud moment for the community, Corralejo's Grandes Playas has been named Best Beach in The World for 2025 by National Geographic. The iconic stretch of golden sand and turquoise Atlantic water stood out for its breathtaking natural beauty, sweeping dunes, and unspoiled serenity. The feature, published in the magazine's June issue, described Grandes Playas as "a rare combination of wild coastline and pristine calm, perfect for both adventurous explorers and families seeking sun-soaked peace."

This recognition shines a spotlight not only on the beach itself, but on La Oliva's ongoing efforts to preserve the natural environment while welcoming visitors from around the world. As tourism continues to grow, accolades like this reaffirm the region's unique appeal and the importance of sustainable planning to protect it.

LOOKING AHEAD

With these projects, La Oliva continues to show what a forward-thinking local government can achieve through collaboration, strategic investment, and community focus. Whether you're a resident, visitor, or business owner, the future of La Oliva looks cleaner, safer, healthier, and more connected to its roots than ever before.

Eating out



No one can deny that we are spoilt for restaurants on the island, and something that we are all a little bit guilty of is staying in our comfort zone when it comes to eating out.

Everyone has a favourite place, a regular Spanish Tapas bar, a go-to Indian, a spot to grab a quick bite before drinks, their best Italian... but there is only one place on the island to sample some modern Polish / International fusion. And that is 'Me Gustas Tu' in Corralejo.

Located in Calle Ballena in the old town, the restaurant is playing its part in continuing to make the area the place to be for great food and cocktails.

Breeze sat down with Tomasz and Lewis to find out what's making Me Gustas Tu stand out form the crowd, and to hopefully encourage you to take a step out of your comfort zone for your next meal

Guys, start us off by telling us a little about the restaurant.

Okay. Let's jump straight in with a cliche. Me Gustas Tu isn't just a restaurant, it's our home, and everyone is invited to sample some of our dishes.

We have been here in Calle Ballena for over six years now, taking over the space /restaurant that used to be El Andaluz. Situated right next to the harbour, this little area has become vibrant in recent years and seemed like the right home for the restaurant.

We are small, intimate, and rustic in style. We serve handmade pierogi and tapas inspired by our Polish roots, love for Fuerteventura, and travels. Bundle this together with our friendly personal service, and you get what keeps people coming back time and time again - 'come hungry, leave happy'





Tomasz, tell me a little about yourself and why you chose Corralejo.

I am originally from Warsaw, the capital of Poland, and for almost my entire professional life, I worked in the marketing industry in Poland. Looking for a change from marketing, I decided to retrain, and I opened a restaurant in Poland 10 years ago with my wife Olga.

After many holidays to Fuerteventura, we decided to open a restaurant here, as by then the island felt like home to us all.

We had stayed all over, but there was something special about Corralejo that made us choose here for Me Gustas Tu.

People who are not familiar with Pierogi must always ask what is it.

Pierogi are a type of filled dumpling, and are very popular in Polish cuisine. Ours are all handmade. They consist of dough filled with various savoury or sweet fillings. They're boiled and pan-fried to finish.

The most popular varieties just now are the 'goats cheese and potato' and 'salmon and teriyaki'. We often introduce a new seasonal flavour to gauge popularity.





These sound delicious!

Traditionally served with sour cream, caramelised onions and other toppings, the customers LOVE them, and for us it's always nice to introduce a small Polish dish to people that they have perhaps never tried before but leave knowing they will certainly have again. Some customers even pass by just for the Pierogi.

We get asked so often 'and how can I make them'... but I'm afraid we're not going to share our secret.

These make a great starter, and with three on each dish, they are great for sharing, meaning you can sample a few different tastes with others at your table.

What are some of the dishes we should try to get an authentic taste of Me Gustas Tu?

Polish culinary tradition is very rich. Even 100 hundred years ago, small dishes, similar to tapas, were very popular. It's very easy for us to adapt our Polish cuisine to local tastes. We can interpret Polish culinary traditions using the local products to elevate them.

Stand out dishes include our homemade 'Kopytka' (Polish gnocchi) with king prawns, 'Bigos', a Polish stew of slow-cooked beef, It's stewed with sauerkraut, smoked plums, and spices. Our slow-cooked bbq glazed baby back ribs are always popular, as are the crispy prawns.

The list could go on for a lot longer, but the best thing I can suggest is to just come and try us.



There is almost too much to choose from! Help me decide!

Haha. OK! We also offer a tapas selection which is the best way to experience many flavours and dishes from the menu. It includes any four of our dishes, even from our nightly specials, a side of potatoes or salad, and bread, olives and aioli.

This is a popular choice amongst first time visitors and repeat customers alike, and it also allows you to add a bottle of the house wine at a reduced price.

Now seems a good time to mention the drinks...

For anyone looking to just swing by and grab a drink, please come take a seat on the terrace and say hi.

We have a great range of local Canarian wines, and we have craft beers from all over the Canaries on offer. We like to introduce different craft beers as they become available, whilst keeping the more popular brands stocked all year.

There's a fantastic cocktail menu. It features some classics, as you would expect, and of course we wouldn't be doing ourselves justice if we didn't offer some Polish cocktails too. So before you ask anymore questions, please take a sip of the 'Polish Ice tea' whilst we enjoy our 'Chalupy'





Lewis, you then joined the team in 2023...

I did. This was in the January. I then spent the next year getting to know the restaurant, the food and its style which is different to anything else the island has to offer. I then became manager at the start of 2024.

What is your background Lewis?

I have grown up in the industry. I was always in restaurants and pubs as my dad is a chef, so it was hard to avoid. And believe me, I tried! I went to university in Leeds to study Business and Events Management. I have been working in kitchens from the age of 13 years old, and I now have over 15 years experience in and around the industry.



How would you describe your style of cooking?

No rules. That's how I identify as a chef. No limitations on flavour, techniques or traditions. I cook with flavours I have grown up with and have experienced on travels to South America and Asia. However, since working in a Polish kitchen my cuisine, flavours and flare have developed even more.

You can experience the versatility and passion of the food whenever you visit. Be sure to check out the ever-changing specials board to experience dishes and flavours that you just won't get anywhere else in Fuerteventura!



Lets talk vegetarian and vegan for moment. What can we expect to find on offer?

We have multiple dishes on the menu that are vegetarian / vegan, and when we review the menu, we are looking to increase this again. Crispy aubergine, grilled goat cheese, salads, asparagus, Kopytka, and the very popular chill sin carne. If you are looking to try a few dishes, then we would recommend the 'Vegan Set' which gives five tapas dishes to enjoy on the one plate.

Some dishes, although not listed as vegan or coeliac-friendly, can be modified. So if in doubt, please speak to the staff and see what we can offer you.



We've covered the drinks, cocktails, and food. So it seems only right that we should talk about desserts, and maybe even try some!

We have our set desserts that we have as standard: Eton Meringue Mess, ice cream & coulis, Cafe Afagato, and the ever popular Chef's Brownie (worth reserving when you book your table due to popularity!)

Over and above this, we try to include a dessert on the specials menu that's homemade and just that little bit different. They're often indulgent and always ideal for sharing.









What's still to come to come for Me Gustas Tu, guys?

Lewis: Over this summer I will be travelling through Thailand and training in a culinary school in Bangkok. I'll return with an even broader range of knowledge and will have dishes to show to the island through the restaurant.

Tomasz: Yes, what Lewis will be doing coincides with a review and refresh of the menu to see what different dishes and tastes we would like to introduce for the coming season.

As well as tables serving from one person to groups, we are also finding ourselves doing more private parties, birthdays and celebrations.

These allow groups to have the restaurant exclusively and to sit down with us both to design what they would like their exclusive menu to be for their event.

These are being received exceptionally well and we want to continue to do more of these events.

Final words form you guys, Tomasz, Lewis what would you like to say before we wrap up?

If you haven't already been to see us, come down and give us a try. We are confident that you will love the great food, the vibe that we offer, the sounds (which you can find on our spotify channel!) and of course the friendly service. We've got a great team in place in both the kitchen and front of house, with staff speaking a several languages.

We are open seven nights a week from 6pm. If you like to eat early, then you can usually get a table from 6pm (but no gaurantee of course!), but we strongly recommend making a reservation on any of our socials below, so that you know you have your table guaranteed.

And to our loyal regular customers, we would like to say a massive thank you for continuing to support us!













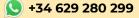












MeGustaCorralejo

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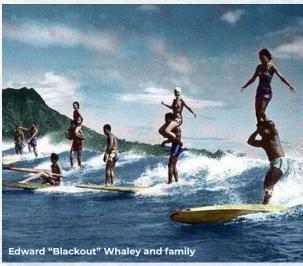
A Legacy on the waves



Every so often, a casual conversation leads to a story that deserves to be told. That's exactly what happened when we sat down with Keiki Whaley, husband of good friend and Breeze advertiser Elisabeth Gierus.

While we were initially chatting about Elisabeth's work, the conversation turned to Keiki's late father, Edward "Blackout" Whaley, a legendary Hawaiian surfer whose name still echoes through the beaches of Waikīkī.

What followed was a fascinating glimpse into the golden era of Hawaiian surf culture, told with warmth, humour, and deep pride. Edward Whaley may not be a household name, but his impact on the sport of tandem surfing and the lives of those around him is undeniably profound.



Who Was Edward "Blackout" Whaley?

Edward "Blackout" Whaley was part of the iconic group of beach boys who emerged during the golden age of Hawaiian surfing. Born and raised in the islands, Whaley made his mark in the 1950s as both a charismatic surf instructor and a competitive tandem surfer.

While he may not have racked up international titles, he stood out for his flair, personality, and daring moves on a board, often partnered with well-known surfers like Rabbit Kekai in major events such as the Makaha International Surfing Championships.

He was nicknamed "Blackout" not just for his smooth style on the water but for his social persona on land, a beach boy who could just as easily steal the show at a luau as he could on the surfline.

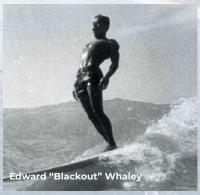


What Is Tandem Surfing?

Tandem surfing is a discipline that dates back to the early 20th century in Hawaii, where surfers would ride longboards with a partner, usually performing acrobatic lifts and balances while gliding across the waves. It combines elements of surfing, gymnastics, and dance, requiring incredible balance, communication, and trust between the duo.

During its peak in the 1950s and '60s, tandem surfing was a crowd-pleaser at surf contests, drawing large audiences eager to see overhead





lifts and graceful poses pulled off on the open water. Often, the male surfer would lift a female partner above his head into a ballet-like position while maintaining stability on the moving board.

It wasn't just spectacle... tandem surfing required immense technical control. The boards were typically longer and heavier than today's standards, sometimes reaching 12 feet or more in length, to provide the necessary stability for two people.

Tandem surfing today still exists, mostly as a niche within surf festivals and exhibitions, but its roots remain central to surfing's cultural history - especially in Waikīkī, where it began.



Did You Know?

Tandem surfing was featured as a demonstration sport in the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin. though it never gained full Olympic recognition.

There are still active tandem surfing competitions today, particularly in Hawaii and parts of California.

Though Whaley never became a commercial icon, he represented the soul of surf culture: connection, athleticism, and joy. He taught countless tourists the basics of surfing, shared Hawaiian traditions, and inspired young locals to see surfing not just as a sport but as a lifestyle.

While detailed records of his life remain scarce, oral histories and surf lore still carry his name, especially among longtime residents and surf historians in Hawaii.

Tandem surfing may no longer be the centrepiece of modern surf competitions, but its artistry lives on in those who know where the sport began. Figures like Edward "Blackout" Whaley remind us that surfing's history isn't only written by world champions, but also by those who brought style, spirit, and humanity to the waves.

While Fuerteventura is a top-tier surf destination and offers structured lessons and surf camps for all ages and levels, specialised tandem surfing opportunities are virtually nonexistent at present.

However, given the island's vibrant surf community and openness to creativity, there may be opportunities to explore tandem surfing privately or through special arrangements - such as personalised lessons or festivals, if a motivated instructor or group emerges.

Why not? Would you give it a try? Let's see if we can bring Tandem surfing to Fuerteventura, it would certainly be a first!



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