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Inside



PALMA BUS REVOLUTION

- Massive upheaval on the buses in Palma with six extra lines now in operation and changes to 19 other routes.
- Bus stops have been moved and others have been renamed which will no doubt cause some confusion for the first couple of days.
- See Inside.



Bus timetables have been changed.

"IT'S NOT CHRISTMAS IN SPAIN UNTIL "THE FAT ONE" SINGS

Madrid.—Forget Black Friday, twinkling lights or any other Christmas tradition; Spain's Christmas season doesn't properly kick off until Sunday when El Gordo, the world's richest lottery, hands out prizes totalling 2.38 billion euros (\$2.62 billion).

Across Spain, people come together to buy tickets for El Gordo, which translates as "The Fat One." On Sunday Spaniards will huddle around their televisions to watch as the lucky numbers are drawn, in a more than three-hour broadcast in which school children sing out the winning numbers.

Dating back more than two centuries, the tradition is deeply rooted in Spain, so much so that in the middle of the Civil War (1936-1939), both the Republican and Nationalist side held their own Christmas lotteries in Barcelona and Burgos, respectively.

The first broadcast of the draw was in 1957, one year after live television came to Spain.

The complex rules of the draw - which allow for multiple purchases of the same lottery number - make it almost impossible to decipher how many people have won. In the months leading up

to the draw, local bars, companies and associations share their numbers, hoping to celebrate the world's biggest windfall with their patrons.

On Sunday, as the per tradition, the winners will return to where they bought their lucky tickets, uncorking bottles of cava and revelling in how they will spend their spoils.

El Gordo is run by the Spanish lottery, and after the winners are paid, the proceeds fund the state budget. Last year Spaniards spent 2.82 billion euros, an average of 60.30 euros per person, on tickets.