

# Majorca Daily Bulletin

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## Time to “reimagine” travel industry, says Prince

**B** Britain's Prince Harry has urged the travel industry to “reset and reimagine” its future after the crisis caused by COVID-19 pandemic, with a focus on creating a more sustainable model which does less damage to the environment and local communities. Travel firms and airlines have been badly hit by the pandemic, which has put a stop to much of the global tourism business, while those who rely on visitors have also suffered. Harry, Queen Elizabeth's grandson, said the “acute hardship” of communities in tourist destinations had shown the importance of travel. “We know that to not travel again is not an option,” the prince, 36, said in a foreword to the annual report of Travalyt, an initiative he launched in 2019 with the objective of making the travel industry more sustainable. “Right before us, there is an opportunity to do things differently, to do things better. Travel and tourism are no exception. As the industry re-emerges from crisis, there is an urgent need to reset and reimagine.” Harry, like his father, the heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles, is a vocal champion of environmental causes, said it had been clear before the pandemic the industry had not done enough to tackle climate change.



# FEARS OVER THE STATE OF THE LOCAL ECONOMY

● Hundreds protest through the streets of Palma over the lockdown of bars and restaurants and economic slowdown: See Page Three.

## With much regret, Son Amar, parts with some staff for now

“The lack of serious government support for the hospitality industry and the arts, will never take away our energy and passion to be creative and ensure that the House of Son Amar will once again, even in 2021, be the entertainment centre of Majorca,” said owner Margaret Whittaker after announcing that they had been forced to part with some of their staff. The move is a serious blow for Majorca and clearly underlines the difficult deci-

sions which local businesses are being forced to make at the moment as a result of the challenging economic conditions.

Margaret Whittaker OBE, and founder of Slimming World, has invested millions of euros over the years in Son Amar and she still has ambitious projects for the entertainment centre in Bunyola. However, the lack of a tourist season in 2020 and unfavourable forecasts for this year has forced her to make a decision which she never

really wanted to make...parting with some of her staff for now. The announcement from Son Amar comes after the Chief Executive of the Melia Hotel Group, Gabriel Excarer, said that Spain wouldn't be able to survive without another tourist season. He called on the government to produce a road-map for the future which would allow safe holiday travel. At the moment unemployment in the Balearics stands at 110,000 people, one of the highest on record.

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