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SIXTY NEW JOBS CREATED BY NEW BRANSON HOTEL



The new hotel at Banyalbufar will open in June of this year. A gala opening ceremony is being planned.

Palma.—Sir Richard Branson has launched a recruitment drive for 60 staff at his new Mallorca hotel, Son Bunyola, which will open on June 16.

In a video message to his would-be employees, Sir Richard says that he hopes that his Banyalbufar hotel will become one

of the best in Mallorca. He also recounts how he opened the luxury Hotel La Residencia in Deya.

The Son Bunyola hotel has almost been 20 years in the making. Plans to transform the Son Bunyola estate into a luxury hotel were dogged by planning issues and it appeared that the project


had been abandoned. However, it was revived again five years ago and now the hotel is on course to open this summer.

Sir Richard Branson says on the Son Bunyola website: "With its three miles of unspoilt coastline, beautiful rugged shores, olive groves, vineyards and completely natural

exquisite beauty in the untouched Tramuntana mountain range, our Son Bunyola estate is blessed with a very special location, miles of stunning walks and (as a keen cyclist) some of the best cycling in the world.

"It's taken me over 20 years to get the planning permissions to meticu-

lously restore and convert the stunning 16th century historic finca on our one-thousand-acre estate. It really was just waiting to be lovingly brought back to life as a small luxury boutique hotel and I'm excited for it to join our three beautiful villas which are already enjoyed by our guests.



See Branson video message on our website.

Spain economy to grow more this year

Madrid.—Spain's economy is likely to grow around 1.6% in 2023, 0.3 percentage points more than previously estimated, mostly due to a stronger-than-expected expansion last year, Bank of Spain chief economist Angel Gavilan says.

Gross domestic product grew a faster-than-expected 5.5% in 2022 as the country avoided a recession in the final quarter amid a global slowdown.

Spain's National Statistics Institute has revised significantly upwards the initial growth estimates for the first two quarters of last year, while the economy grew 0.2% in the fourth quarter from the previous

quarter, above 0.1% expected by the central bank.

"Mechanically, this new information would prompt an upward revision in the GDP growth rate in 2023 by about 0.3 percentage points," Gavilan said in a presentation posted on the Bank of Spain's web page.

On Monday, the European Commission revised its growth projections for Spain to 1.4% for 2023 from 1%.

For the first quarter of 2023, Gavilan also sees a higher-than-expected growth rate at least similar to the fourth quarter of last year.



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