

The Formentera Department of Commerce reports that Saturday 1 May marks the start of the season for vendors at local craft and art markets, with merchants returning to stalls in Sant Francesc and Es Pujols as soon as tomorrow. Elsewhere the yearly kick-off has been set for the 15th (La Mola) and 29th of May (Sant Ferran). The *mercat* in La Savina is expected to reopen in early June, exact date yet to be confirmed.

"An island-wide launch was initially scheduled for 15 May", confided commerce chief Ana Juan, "but we listened to artisans who pressed to get things going a little earlier. Although footfall is low at this stage of the season, it's important to be able to open and start work".

The markets will continue until October, and this year like last, the Consell de Formentera will subsidise one hundred percent of fees paid by vendors in stalls on the public thoroughfare, said Juan.

Hours will be adapted to public health protocol and curfew rules. From tomorrow, the Mercat des Pujols opens Monday to Sunday, 7pm to 10pm. The Mercat de Sant Francesc, meanwhile, will keep regular hours: Monday to Saturday, 10am to 2pm.

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**Communications Department**
**Consell de Formentera**