

FESTIVAL  
**INSIGHTS**  
THE KNOWLEDGE HUB OF THE FESTIVAL INDUSTRY

PRESENTS....



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## WELCOME...

To the fourth edition of the Festival 250, a new annual project from Festival Insights that ranks the world's top festivals in terms of size and commercial success. We'll be releasing this year's listings in batches of 50 over the course of the next few weeks, so be sure to keep an eye out to see who's made the cut for 2016.

The data used to determine the rankings was sourced and analysed by the renowned business intelligence consultancy CGA Strategy during the 2015 season, and was based on such metrics as duration of the event, ticket revenue, capacity, and sponsorship estimates.

Each entry on the list is accompanied with a short bio, and I hope that you enjoy reading through and gaining a little insight into some of the history and unique characteristics of these eminent events. Next year's edition will maintain the same format, and will also demonstrate whether festivals have moved up or down in the league table.

In the meantime, please enjoy the inaugural list and feel free to provide any feedback that you think will help to refine and improve the initiative.

Cheers,  
Michael Baker  
Editor, Festival Insights

## 100. BOTTLE ROCK

NAPA, USA



**BOTTLEROCK**  
MUSIC • FOOD NAPA VALLEY WINE • BREW

Kicking off the US festival season from the heart of the legendary Napa Valley, Bottle Rock combines music with a wealth of wines and craft beers, world-class muralists and sculptors, a culinary stage, and a host of VIP options for an exceedingly luxurious festival experience.

## 99. WOMADELAIDE FESTIVAL

ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA

The Australian branch of Peter Gabriel's WOMAD festival was founded in 1992 and has since become one of the nation's most popular outdoor festivals, a feat achieved in part thanks to a family friendly atmosphere facilitated by providing free entry to kids 12 and under. The incredibly cosmopolitan world music line-up might have something to do with its widespread adoration too.



Photo: Steve Tutwin

## 98. CAPRICES FESTIVAL

VALAIS, SWITZERLAND



Caprices is a four-day alpine festival whose three different stages are positioned on both the top and bottom of its slopes. Launched as Modernity@Caprices in 2003, the first edition of the festival came in 2004 with the intent to bring people and electronic artists together in a dreamlike location in the Swiss Alps. Recently shifting from mainstream and crossover programming sensibilities to more of an underground and exclusive cast last year, Caprices Festival continues to switch things up and thrive after 12 years on the scene.

## 97. NORTH SEA JAZZ

ROTTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

Paul Acket – a businessman and jazz lover who made a fortune in the 1960s through print publishing – founded North Sea Jazz Festival in 1976. The inaugural edition was an immediate success, featuring six stages and 300 performances that drew over 9000 visitors. Some of said performances came courtesy of untouchable icons such as Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie, Benny Goodman, Sarah Vaughan, Count Basie, and Stan Getz.

This year the festival featured more than 1000 musicians, spread out over 150 performances across 13 different stages, upping the number to 25,000 visitors per day. Refusing to confine itself to its titular genre, some of its most recent bookings include The Roots, Earth, Wind & Fire, Flying Lotus, James Blake, Anderson Paak & The Free Nationals, Simply Red, Jill Scott, and Buddy Guy.



Photo: Ian Taylor



## 96. NOS ALIVE (FORMERLY OPTIMUS ALIVE!)

LISBON, PORTUGAL

In tandem with Porto's Optimus Primavera Sound, Optimus Alive changed its forename to NOS several years ago. Despite a change in title, both festivals have stayed true to their origins. 2016's edition of NOS Alive saw performances from Radiohead, Arcade Fire, Tame Impala, Foals, Father John Misty, Hot Chip, M83 and more.



Photo: Hugo Marcelo

## 95. ØYA FESTIVAL

OSLO, NORWAY



Surprisingly, having an absolutely outstanding line-up hasn't factored into these rankings, but if it had then Øya would be in the upper echelon. Some notable names from its past line-ups are Outkast, Neutral Milk Hotel, PJ Harvey, Todd Terje, Joey Bada\$\$, Darkside, Blood Orange, Little Dragon, Jon Hopkins, Queens of the Stone Age and Janelle Monáe, amongst others.

## 94. OPEN'ER FESTIVAL

GDYNIA, POLAND

Based in a military airport, Open'er's balance between booking the critically lauded and commercially successful is one of the reasons it garnered consecutive wins of the European Festival Awards' Best Major Festival accolade in 2009 and 2010.



Photo: Tomek Kaminski





## 93. FAIRPORT'S CROPREDY CONVENTION

CROPREDY, UK



Photo: Nicola Atter

Founded by seminal British folk rock band Fairport in 1980, this 20,000-capacity festival has purposely stuck with a one-stage setup in order to ensure that the audience doesn't miss a single act. Also intentional is the guarantee that each band, regardless of timeslot, will perform in front of thousands. The Cropredy 'Fringe' – entertainment provided by the two pubs in the village – act as satellite stages. Resistant to being pigeonholed as a folk festival, Cropredy has hosted the likes of Alice Cooper, Robert Plant, Status Quo, Steve Winwood and Buzzcocks over the years.

## 92. HELLFEST

CLISSON, FRANCE

Brooding deep in the plains of Turkmenistan's Karakum Desert lays an abyssal pit of perpetually blazing natural gas affectionately dubbed the 'Door to Hell'. Encircled on all fronts by endless swathes of nothing, the 60 metre wide and 20 metre deep anti-oasis was ignited by Soviet petrochemical engineers in 1971 – presumably for fun – and has inexorably raged ever since.

Tangential as this factoid may be, the Door to Hell embodies the exact atmosphere that Hellfest attempts to cultivate through its plethora of acts whose logos are as illegible as their music is heavy. Hellfest's financial clout – coupled with an encyclopaedic knowledge of metal and the genre's many permutations – results in a bill unparalleled in comprehensiveness and credibility.



## 91. SUMMERSONIC

OSAKA, JAPAN



Osaka's Summersonic Festival is much like Tokyo's, except it's in Osaka.



## 90. SPLENDOUR IN THE GRASS

BYRON BAY, AUSTRALIA

Unwilling to settle for a similar line-up to its national counterparts, Splendour In The Grass this year continued to establish its individual character through exclusive Australian performances from The Strokes, The Avalanches, and Sigur Rós, plus a wide assortment of those currently killing it, from James Blake to Flume and At The Drive-In. Aside from the main programme, the festival incorporates several other areas, including The Tipi Forest – an immersive outdoor dance space full of interactive art, underground sounds and alternative beats.



## 89. GREENFIELD FESTIVAL

INTERLAKEN, SWITZERLAND



Greenfield is an annual music festival held on the outskirts of the town of Interlaken, in the Swiss canton of Bern. Organised by FKP Scorpio, the 30,000-capacity event welcomed Red Hot Chili Peppers, The Prodigy, Volbeat, Deftones, NOFX, Nightwish, and The Offspring to perform at this year's edition.

## 88. ROCK ON THE RANGE

COLUMBUS, USA

Rock On The Range is one of the largest and most acclaimed rock festivals in the United States, and celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2016 at Columbus, Ohio's MAPFRE Stadium. Its line-up this year featured Red Hot Chili Peppers, a newly reformed Disturbed, Rob Zombie, Shinedown, Five Finger Death Punch, Bring Me The Horizon, A Day to Remember, Lamb of God and At The Drive-In. The latest edition of the festival sold out over two months in advance, marking the fourth consecutive advance sell-out for Rock On The Range.



## 87. VOODOO EXPERIENCE

NEW ORLEANS, USA



New Orleans' Voodoo Experience describes itself as a musical gumbo that stirs together music, art, community, cuisine and all the mystery and adventure that Halloween weekend in New Orleans conjures up. With more than 65 bands over three days, Voodoo is one of the most successful festivals in a city whose musical heritage rivals that of any other.



## 86. 80S REWIND (SOUTH)

OXFORDSHIRE, UK



The three 80s Rewind festivals treat their atavistic attendees to overwhelmingly nostalgic line-ups, a human carwash disco, posh food, a funfair, and firework displays. Rick Astley, Adam Ant, Marc Almond, and Erasure's Andy Bell were amongst the acts at this year's festivals.

## 85. NEW ORLEANS JAZZ FESTIVAL

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Each year, the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, presented by Shell, celebrates the music and culture of New Orleans and Louisiana with the biggest names in rock, blues, jazz, R&B, gospel, Cajun, zydeco, folk, Latin, rap, country, bluegrass and everything in between. Spanning two weekends, Jazz Fest consistently scores an impressive line-up of over 500 artists on 12 stages. Located at the New Orleans Fair Grounds, incredible food and crafts from around the region and the world round out the seven-day extravaganza that keeps Jazz Fest an annual can't-miss destination.



## 84. PRZYSTANEK WOODSTOCK

KOSTRZYN, POLAND



Named after its legendary American ancestor, the Polish incarnation of Woodstock Festival is an annual ticket-free rock event that has reached average attendance figures exceeding 600,000. An admirably altruistic endeavour, the gargantuan open-air festival is organised by the Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity as a way to thank its volunteers. The two stages of the weekend-long event are in continuous use from early afternoon to dawn, and feature performances by roughly 30 bands per year.

## 83. ZÜRICH OPENAIR

ZÜRICH, SWITZERLAND

Zürich Openair offers a blend of top acts and promising new talent, from indie rock to electronica. The metropolitan festival, equidistant between the city of Zürich and its neighbouring airport, has become a big player on the Swiss festival scene.





## 82. MYSTERYLAND (USA)

BETHEL, NEW YORK



Taking place on the site of the legendary '69 Woodstock over Memorial Day Weekend, Mysteryland is an arts & culture festival that draws electronic music fans from around the world by showcasing internationally renowned artists over multiple stages and creating immersive art environments. It has been recognised by Julie's Bicycle its efforts to reduce the environmental footprint of the event, and also engages in a range of philanthropic efforts.

## 81. SOUTHBOUND

BUSSELTON, AUSTRALIA

Southbound is Western Australia's largest major music and camping festival. This year's event featured a DJ set from Hot Chip, plus live performances from Ladyhawke, Catfish and the Bottlemen, and a band called Hideous Sun Demon.



## 80. SXSW (SOUTH BY SOUTHWEST)

TEXAS, USA



Inaugurated in 1987 as both a conference and music festival, South by Southwest took advantage of Austin's cosmopolitan populace and music scenes to stage what has now become a multimedia hive of activity that annually attracts an international influx of fanatics like bees to a clichéd simile.

With overlapping gaming, film, comedy and music exhibitions, a job market and the aforementioned conferences – SxSW offers more than your standard phoned in sets from ubiquitous indie rock bands and terminally formulaic EDM DJs. Case in point: in 2013 the experimental hip-hop group Death Grips patched their drummer in through Skype for their Boiler Room performance, with each of the group's members recording the event through homemade cyberpunk Google Glass knockoffs. It was neat.

## 79. SOUTHSIDE FESTIVAL

MUNICH, GERMANY

Southside is the southern counterpart and big sister to Germany's Hurricane Festival, and shares a nearly identical line-up.



Photo: Diana Mühlenberger



## 78. HIDEOUT FESTIVAL

ISLE OF PAG, CROATIA



Boasting pool and boat parties on iridescent waters – soundtracked by the trendiest dance acts in the world – Hideout Festival sounds like a fun, sexy time for everyone involved. One of the most popular festivals of its kind in Europe, Hideout’s line-up demands attention from fans across the full spectrum of dance music. With Zrce Beach as its backdrop, the festival is a desirable destination for partygoers and adventure lovers alike.

## 77. MOVEMENT ELECTRONIC FESTIVAL

DETROIT, USA

It’s only right that the birthplace of techno should have an annual celebration of its indelible mark on electronic music. However the genres represented are anything but singular, with some of the most interesting hip-hop, dubstep, downtempo, electro, and house artists in attendance.



## 76. RHYTHM & VINES

GISBORNE, NEW ZEALAND



Taking place in the Waiohika Estate vineyard, New Zealand’s Rhythm & Vines originated as a way for a few university friends to celebrate the arbitrary point of personal renewal and redemption we call New Year. Now a three-day event, Rhythm & Vines excellently curated line-ups comprise the best of underground hip-hop, future beats, trap, and pop music.



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## 75. TINDERBOX

ODENSE, DENMARK

Taking its name from a poem by Odense wordsmith Hans Christian Anderson, Tinderbox is a new entry on the festival scene whose stylistic sensibilities lean heavily towards inoffensive pop, rock, and EDM – with Robbie Williams, Calvin Harris, The Gaslight Anthem, and Denmark's own MØ on the inaugural bill.



## 74. SUMMERSONIC

TOKYO, JAPAN



According to Summersonic's official website: 'Sparrow mechanic our notorious will listen to you!' which concisely demonstrates why you shouldn't ever use Google Translate. In addition to the adorable promise of an attentive, anthropomorphic sparrow mechanic, Summersonic features a casino, and a stage dedicated to the celebration of Asian music.

## 73. GRASPOP METAL MEETING

DESSEL, BELGIUM

Despite only having a perimeter of roughly four kilometres, Graspop Metal Meeting somehow manages to funnel 45,000 visitors through its site every day for four days of metal and punk. Originally conceived as a family friendly rock festival, its ailing ticket sales in 1995 prompted a reconfiguration of its remit, as well as a name change. Since then the festival has enjoyed a continually growing audience, and now has four stages.



# TICKET TOURISM AND ITS IMPACT ON THE EUROPEAN FESTIVAL SCENE

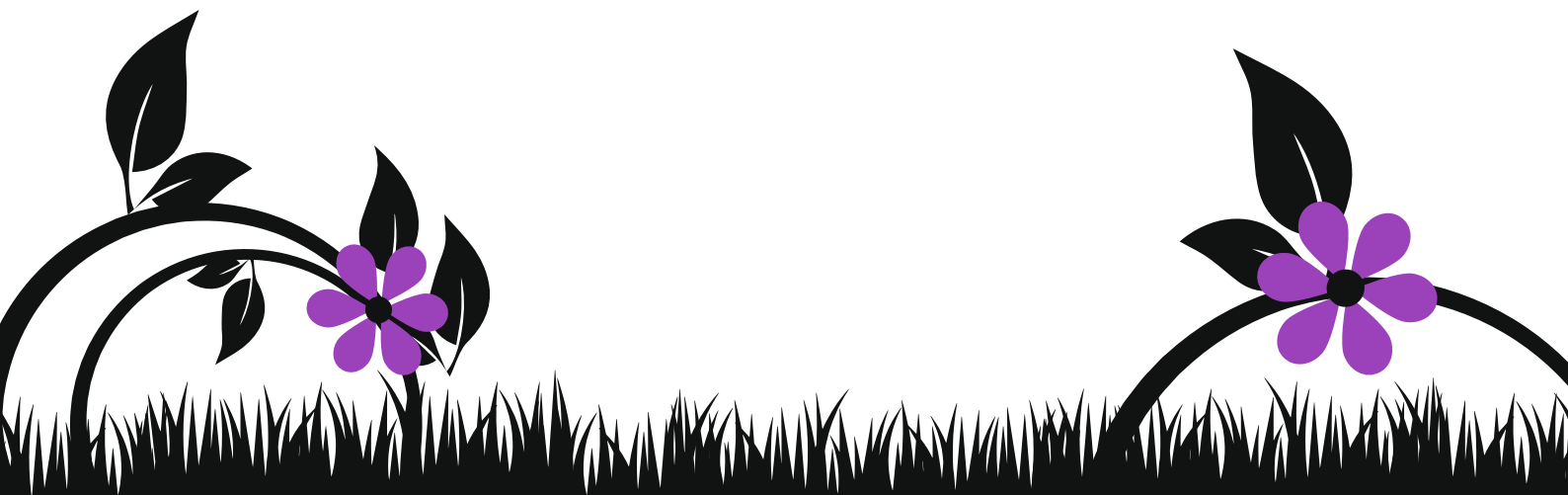
The summer period is one of the most popular times of year to travel. With school holidays and warmer weather, people use this time of year to take a break from work and go on a holiday. Tourism is an extremely important sector for the global economy. According to the World Tourism Organisation, tourism is one of the growing industries for our economy. In 2015, 1.184 million people travelled abroad and this is expected to reach 1.8 billion by 2030.

Clearly, this is not a sector to be ignored and there are major implications and opportunities for the festival industry. With more people travelling than ever before and the ease of access to the internet by mobile phones and tablets, fans can enhance

their travel experience by going to a local event, such as a festival.

In fact, at StubHub we have identified a new trend called *ticket tourism*. This is the notion that fans plan their holidays around specific events. It enables them to experience live events with the locals. It also gives them the opportunity to experience something beyond the typical and often already-seen tourist destinations.

For example, instead of going on a weekend getaway to Belgium to see the main tourist sites, a *ticket tourist* will plan a whole holiday around the Tomorrowland Festival. They will then







add some other tourist attractions as part of that holiday, but they are principally travelling because of the festival.

As a festival organiser, it is important to consider the idea of *ticket tourism*, as it could open up a whole new audience for the festival. It will also help to build your brand across borders. Through technology like mobile ticketing and cashless RFID bracelets, going to festival as a tourist is much easier than it ever has been before.

Local towns and cities value large festivals because they help to drive the local economy. The more overseas visitors that you can attract, the more people will be staying in local accommodation, use the public transportation networks and

dine in the local restaurants, cafes and bars.

So, who is a typical *ticket tourist*?

They have usually already covered the typical tourist circuits and key destination cities. They have been to Rome to see the Colosseum; they have seen Big Ben in London; and they have climbed to the top of the Eiffel Tower in Paris. But now these ticket tourists want to revisit these cities to see a more local side and experience a local event. This interest combined with a broad and deep passion and appreciation for culture, music and sports makes them likely to get a relatively short flight to enjoy a live show in another city.

So, don't forget about the tourists when thinking about your festival audience.

**BY: ANTONIO VALERO, HEAD OF NEW BUSINESS MODELS, STUBHUB**  
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## 72. NORTHSIDE FESTIVAL

AARHUS, DENMARK

The seventh version of NorthSide occurred this June and presented acts like Beach House, Beck, The Chemical Brothers, Deftones, Duran Duran, Iggy Pop, Jamie xx, Lukas Graham, Sigur Rós, and approximately 30 others, who helped to once again turn the peaceful Aarhus valley into three days of high-energy music and parties.

NorthSide focuses on innovation, sustainability, and user involvement, and has the largest selection of organic food of any Danish festival. Besides a large selection of vegetarian and vegan options there are also several seated dinner options built around the social dining philosophy.

Located within walking distance of downtown Aarhus, the festival is deeply rooted in its community, drawing on a number of organisations and groups like graffiti painters, bicycle enthusiasts, student groups, and many more, who help build an event unlike any other in Denmark.



## 71. ELECTRIC FOREST FESTIVAL

ROTHBURY, USA



Having wrapped up its sixth year, Electric Forest is known for bringing together a passionate group of fans whose shared community spirit makes the festival a truly unique experience. The festival incorporates the natural beauty of its surroundings into carefully crafted art pieces and creatively themed environments, while colourful interactive characters and storylines blend with eclectic performing artists and musicians.

## 70. OPENAIR FRAUENFELD

FRAUENFELD, SWITZERLAND

Openair Frauenfeld is one of the largest festivals in Switzerland, boasting a capacity of 100,000 and past bookings that represent everyone from Rammstein to Wu-Tang Clan to Pink.



## 69. ELECTRIC DAISY CARNIVAL

MILTON KEYNES, UK



Photo: Bennett Sell/Kline for Inseamiac 3

EDC UK stays true to its international franchises and EDM culture at large by making spectacle the operative word in its philosophy. Between its extravagant staging, production, rides, art installations, dancers, aerialists, and circus performers – the appeal is as dependent on visuals as it is on sounds.

## 68. DOUR FESTIVAL

DOUR, BELGIUM

Dour Festival might be a bit of a misnomer considering the vibrancy of the artists it chooses to showcase, with everyone from Pixies to DJ EZ, The Bronx to SOPHIE, and The Prodigy to Mbongwana Star in attendance.

Effectively equidistant from France, England, Netherlands, Luxembourg, and Germany, Dour Festival is situated in the accessible, scenic village of the same name.

Evidently the focus of the organisers is music centric here; unlike other entries in this list there aren't a whole lot of extras, but the ones available are quietly impressive. Beer connoisseurs can enjoy a 'special beer bar', and football enthusiasts can register for its annual 'Dournois' tournament.



## 67. SLOTTSFJELL FESTIVAL

TANSBERG, NORWAY



Photo: Christian Hestrum

Founded in 2003, Slottsfjell Festival takes place on the site of a 1,000-year-old Viking fortress and welcomes 14,000 daily visitors for five stages of music every July.

## 66. ROCKNESS

LOCH NESS, UK

Citing the one-two punch of the World Cup and Commonwealth Games as the fatal causes, RockNess cancelled its 2014 event and unfortunately has yet to return.



## 65. HANGOUT MUSIC FESTIVAL

GULF SHORES, USA



A.J. Niland and Shaul Zislin founded Hangout Music Festival at the tail end of 2009, after spending several years scouting locations. In 2015, Goldenvoice – the promoter behind Coachella – entered into a joint venture to produce the festival. Similarly to Coachella, Hangout’s line-ups typically run the gamut from rock to electronica, hip-hop, punk, RnB, and EDM. Those who can afford the two-tiered VIP options can enjoy such as extras as watching main stage acts from hot tubs, eating gourmet food prepared by acclaimed chefs, getting rides to stages on golf carts, and experiencing a number of assorted surprises.

## 64. WOODFORD FOLK FESTIVAL

WOODFORD, AUSTRALIA

Roughly 130,000 attend Woodford Folk Festival’s six-day and night forest getaway, which culminates on the precipice of the New Year in a pyrotechnic, musical, theatrical and dance display simply dubbed the ‘Fire Event’. Despite its penchant for burning things, Woodford Folk won the FasterLouder Festival Award for the most Green Friendly Festival in 2008, and often invites environmentalist activists to speak at its event.



## 63. WAY OUT WEST

GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN



Taking place in Sweden’s music capital of Gothenburg every August, Way Out West celebrated its 10th anniversary this year with a myriad of international talent. The line-up included Sia, PJ Harvey, Morrissey, Grace Jones, CHVRCHES, Haim, Skepta, Jamie xx and many more. What’s more, its nighttime programme, Stay Out West, once again gave revellers a chance to see acts of the highest calibre play in the best and most unique venues across the city.

The festival also prides itself on its environmental credentials. In 2012 Way Out West announced that all food served to artists, staff and visitors during the festival would be vegetarian and this year it stopped serving dairy – offering oat substitutes to further help save the planet.

## 62. PALÉO FESTIVAL

NYON, SWITZERLAND



Despite the implications of its name, Paléo has nothing to do mimicking the dietary habits of troglodytes and everything to do with ingesting vibrant fringe music that exists in [hopefully] satirical micro-genres such as ‘literary rock’, ‘composite hip-hop’ and ‘electronic gypsy cabaret’.

Nestled between the Jura Mountains and Lake Geneva, halfway between the cities of Geneva and Lausanne, it has become one of Europe’s largest open-air music events since its humble beginnings in 1976. Over six days, audiences totalling more than 230,000 come together for the event, which boasts over 250 concerts.





## 61. FURTHER FUTURE

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Combining music, technology, gastronomy, wellness, visual art, and discussion, Further Future hopes to evoke social and cultural progress through its examination of new ideas, inspirational creative works and a communal ethos. As much for entrepreneurs and technologists as it is music fans, attendees can experience virtual reality and immersive sound installations onsite, and can gain insights from visionaries across each of the aforementioned fields.



Photo: Jacob Avanzato

## 60. BOOMTOWN FAIR

WINCHESTER, UK



Extending its capacity to 60,000 this year, BoomTown has become one of the UK's most successful and innovative independent festivals, offering its citizens a fully immersive, theatrical experience.

'Metropolis' might be a tad hyperbolic, but it's fair to say that Boomtown Fair styles itself as a municipality of some sort each year within the woodlands of Hampshire. Akin to Burning Man but without the special snowflake complex, its nine districts comprise everything from cyberpunk dystopias to pirate infested port towns. There's also a child-friendly zone replete with workshops, music, and interactive games.

## 59. ROTOTOM SUNSPASH

BENICASSIM, SPAIN

One of the more socially conscious festivals on this list, reggae festival Rototom Sunsplash incorporates an educational component into its proceedings with the Reggae University, plus a Social Forum designed to debate and exchange ideas, an Art Symposium, an artisanal market, as well as areas to learn about sustainability and African culture.



## 58. SASQUATCH! FESTIVAL

GEORGE, USA



Photo: Christopher Nelson

Named after one of the five greatest mythological forest-dwelling ape-men of all time, Sasquatch! Festival possesses a similar level of prestige to the eponymous hominid due to the depth and breadth of its line-ups, this year including Sufjan Stevens, Grimes, Chet Faker, Four Tet, Purity Ring, Baroness, Tycho, Vince Staples, Digable Planets, The Internet, Mac Demarco, and Yo La Tengo.



**57. ELECTRIC PICNIC**

**STRADBALLY, IRELAND**

The self-professed 'festival of good intentions' saw 10,000 punters attend its inaugural event in 2004, and now boasts attendance figures exceeding 40,000. Its success comes as no surprise, considering its consistently strong music programming, beautifully constructed stages, interactive theatre, creative workshops, immersive spa experiences, all manner of artistry, and – of paramount importance – great food.



Photo: Paulo Gonçalves

**56. NOVA ROCK**

**NICKELSDORF, AUSTRIA**



Nickelsdorf's Nova Rock successfully endeavours to represent acclaimed international acts alongside local ones, with metal and hard rock leanings as the common thread between them.

**55. WIRELESS**

**LONDON, UK**

Taking place in London's Finsbury Park, Wireless presents a range of hip-hop, grime, RnB and EDM acts across its three days, with 2016's event featuring Boy Better Know, Calvin Harris, Future, Vince Staples, Action Bronson, Miguel and more.



**54. SMUKFEST**

**SKANDERBORG, DENMARK**



Photo: Kasper Hornbæk

Smukfest, which takes place amidst a beech forest, is the second largest festival in Denmark and one of few to offer its fans the chance to nominate acts they'd like to see in the following year. The festival has a pretty preternatural sense of altruism – each year donating the proceeds of its onsite sports tournament to The Beautiful Foundation, as well as allocating 200,000 DKK to various local cultural initiatives.





## 53. BENICASSIM

BENICASSIM, SPAIN



Aficionados of beaches, bangers and beers will no doubt thrive at Benicassim, as long as they're somehow immune to heat stroke. Ostensibly due to said heat, the bands run from 5pm – 8am, so attendees better be ready to forego their Circadian rhythm in exchange for some rhythm of the four-to-the-floor variety.

## 52. BYRON BAY BLUESFEST

BYRON BAY, AUSTRALIA

As lauded as it is alliterative, Byron Bay Bluesfest is one of Australia's most prestigious and beloved festivals – having accrued all manner of accolades since its inception in 1990. Speaking of Inception, the organisers launched Boomerang Festival in 2013, a fully-fledged celebration of indigenous Australian culture that takes place within the Bluesfest site. Together, the two intertwined events present over 200 performances across seven stages, and feature five licensed bars, over 100 food and market stalls, dance, theatre, comedy, film, visual arts, cultural knowledge exchanges, beer gardens, and children's entertainment.



## 51. HURRICANE FESTIVAL

SCHEESSEL, GERMANY



Photo: Frank Embacher

Hurricane is the northern counterpart and little sister to Germany's Southside Festival, and shares a nearly identical line-up. The first festival to take place on Hurricane's grounds of Scheeßel was Es rockt in der Heide, literally translated to the objectively awful title 'It's Rocking in the Heath'. Hurricane, its spiritual successor, was born in 1997. A noteworthy fact about the festival is that following his headline performance there in 2004, David Bowie suffered a heart attack and collapsed backstage. It would be his last full set.

**ENTRIES 50-1 COMING**

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