

# IN SUMMER...

# LET THE MUSIC PLAY!

The excellent weather and the great hospitality of its people make Spain an ideal place to celebrate all types of concerts and music festivals. In summer the most varied styles echo in every spot of the country attracting thousands of visitors from all over the world who want to enjoy the best artists in an incomparable atmosphere. And so, the event becomes an unforgettable experience. Let the music play!

By **MARTA MARTÍNEZ**  
photos from **FILES AND V.P.**





**Just for Rock in Rio in Madrid the City of Rock has been built with 200,000 square metres, even with a snow run**

**S**ummer is the ideal season for music. Outdoors, when the sun is setting, night lovers and music lovers meet opposite the most attractive and original scenarios, like the beautiful Spanish beaches, medieval castles, the desert or even cities especially created for these festivals. The objective is always the same: enjoying the best music and making these summer evenings a real party.

Great musical events need, nonetheless, apart from extensive fairgrounds, very specific technical facilities. Every year, Spain shows, thanks to the increasing number of international festivals, that not only the weather is an advantage but also the excellent logistic facilities and the faultless management ensure their success to a hundred per cent.

Rock, pop, jazz, classical music, electronic... all has its place in this great summer festival which Spain becomes. If you are late to buy your tickets, because a lot of these festivals are sold out, make your reservations for the summer of 2009 as soon as possible.

**Rock in Rio.**  
**July 4th, 5th and 6th.**  
**Madrid**

This solidarity international festival that was born in Rio de Janeiro in 1985 has decided to establish in the Spanish capital city this summer its "Rock City". The incredible facilities which have been built just for this multitudinous musical event make anyone wonder: fairgrounds of 200.000 square meters, three stages for concerts, fashion, children's fun fair attractions, restaurant areas of 4,500 m<sup>2</sup>, 36 shops and even a snow run.

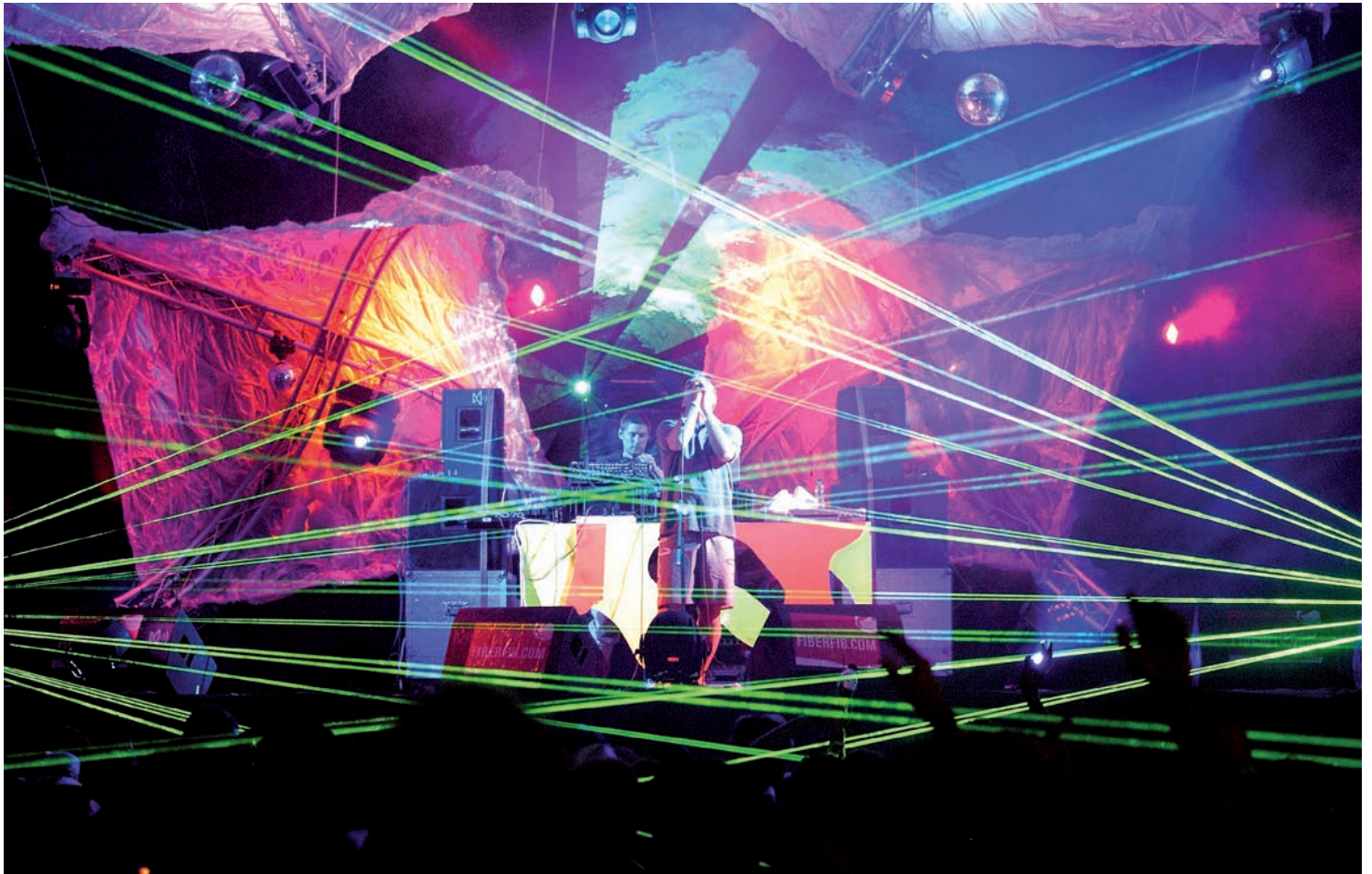
The list of acts does not fall short either: Bob Dylan, The Police, Lenny Kravitz, Shakira, Alanis Morissette, Stereophonics, Franz Ferdinand, Jamiroquai... An estimate of 100.000 people will attend the festival every day to see these well known artists.

This year the solidarity project Rock in Rio, will be about global warming. Through some amusing activities it will try to make visitors aware of the importance of protecting the environment.





The growing number of festivals organised in Spain shows that not only the weather is an advantage but also the excellent facilities and management of the events ensure a hundred per cent success



**BBK Live**  
**July 4th, 5th and 6th**  
**Bilbao**

The third edition of the most important summer festival in the Basque Country rivals dates with the gigantic Rock in Rio in Madrid with a suggesting list of acts full of secure values: The Police, REM, Madness, Lenny Kravitz, The Prodigy and Tequila, among others. The iconic artists will share the two stages of the festival with young and fresh bands like The Wombats, The Raveonettes or The Charlatans. Situated in Kobetamendi, a hill belonging to the city of Bilbao, the BBK Live expects to outnumber 2007 figures when almost 95,000 people attended this music event.

**Ortigueira Festival**  
**10th to 13th July.**  
**Ortigueira (A Coruña)**

The small locality of Ortigueira holds the 30th Folk Music Festival, which is one of the most important ones internationally. It has been avowed Event of International Tourist Interest. This summer, the festival bets on Galician artists and traditional Celt music, represented by bands such as Sondseu, Fía na Roca or Uxia. Historical Celt music bands will not go missing either like the Irish Mov-

ing Hearts or Dubliners or the Scottish Boys of the Lough, together with ground breaking proposals that do not have anything to do with this music trend, like the Finn Värtinä. The concerts at Ortigueira Festival are free, one of the reasons why this traditional music event holds beyond 100,000 visitors every summer.

**Monegros Desert Festival**  
**July 12th.**  
**Los Monegros (Zaragoza)**

There are no limits here for the amount of decibels. Why not? Well, because this festival is celebrated in the middle of Monegros desert, which is in the province of Zaragoza. This rave is the most famous party in the country and more than 40,000 people meet in this fairground of 350,000 square metres, to which another 300,000 should be added corresponding to the attached car park area. Adventure is ensured in this unlimited party: it is a must for authentic party animals. Doors are opened at five o'clock in the afternoon on the 12th July and electronic music continues non-stop until 14:00 hours on the 13th. In this endless evening Cyprus Hill, Miss Kittin, 2 Many DJ's, Laurent Garnier, Dave Clarke and Richie Hawtin will come to the huge "jaimas"-music tents as well as a lot more, because there are 70 in-

vited artists. The six stages of Monegros Desert Festival seem promising a lot of action in this 14th edition. Not in vain, it was awarded the 2007 Best International Festival at the DJ Awards and the Best Electronic Music Festival at the DeeJaymags, which are the most important awards in Spain for this musical style.

**FIB**  
**July 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th.**  
**Benicàssim (Castellón - Valencia)**

The Festival of reference, internationally speaking, of independent music is holding its 14th edition this year directly fighting with the young Summercase festival, as they have been scheduled on the same days in July. Benicàssim's major asset is experience. Figures of the history of contemporary music are coming back to its stage like Leonard Cohen or Morrissey. But the festival is not only based on iconic figures like them. Organisers have been led by their expert nose, as it is characteristic of them, and are presenting new young bands like Death Cab for Cutie, My Morning Jacket or Hot Chip. The little coastal village of Benicàssim, with a population of scarcely 17,000 inhabitants, changes completely when the FIB takes place. Last year, the festival registered more



**More than 40,000 people meet to celebrate the biggest rave in the country in the middle of Monegros desert**



## **ROCK IN RIO PHENOMENON IN MADRID**

Rock in Rio goes beyond a simple music festival. As the organisers explain, the intention of this remarkable event is “to make the world stop, think and act”. To change the world is the Philosophy of Rock in Rio and to achieve this it has been fighting since the beginning. Rio de Janeiro was the city that held its first edition in 1985 and carried on with the name of the city although now it is an itinerant event. The social side has characterised the festival since the last edition in Rio in 2001, when the project for “A Better World” started. Thanks to this, 3,200 youngsters were able to finish their studies, with a hundred classrooms in some communities of Rio de Janeiro.

Dealing with NGOs has been a characteristic of the festival since then. On the 2004 edition held in Lisbon, the international organisation Plan International benefited from part of the profit of Rock in Rio with the campaign to help children with special needs.

The 2008 edition centres the social project of the festival in Global Warming, which will be celebrated in Madrid between 4th and 6th July. One of the most important sides of the project is the awareness of the population and that is why an enormous Climate Alteration Park has been created with 11,600 m<sup>2</sup>, a green area where different circuits can be observed showing how global warming and human activity affect the environment. The release of carbon dioxide plays a key role in the celebration of the festival, that is why they created a plan to reduce such releases affecting mobility and waste or energy. Also inevitable releases have been offset with 50,000 trees planted in Bosque Sur in Getafe.

than 150,000 visitors, 47% were international audience. The fairground where the concerts are held has more than 100,000 square metres and is only a few minutes away from the beaches of Benicàssim, on the Azahar coast, where the fibers usually go to bathe and sleep their siestas. Two camp areas have to be added to the concert area which have been specially prepared for the occasion and there are also spaces for art and video shows.

### **Summercase**

**July 18th and 19th.**

**Barcelona and Madrid.**

The independent music Festival Summercase tries to satisfy its indie rock fans as much as possible and this is why it has opted for an original organisation: the bands playing on the 18th in Barcelona will be playing in Madrid on the 19th and vice-versa. By plane or by train, with the recently opened high speed train AVE, the protagonists of the alternative music scene will be able to visit in no time the two main cities in the country. In this third edition, this new festival, Summercase, will have the presence of Maximo Park, Blondie, Primal Scream, The Verve, Interpol and the Sex Pistols.

At the Forum of Barcelona fairground four different stages will be installed, an ample and modern space of more than 360,000 square metres next to the Mediterranean Sea where you can easily arrive using public transport. In Madrid, it is the nearby locality of Boadilla del Monte where spaces will be fitted out for the festival occupying 400,000 square metres. Last year Summercase festival exceeded 110,000 visitors.



### **Festival Castell de Peralada**

**17th July to 16th August.**

**Peralada (Girona)**

A unique festival could not have a better setting to be celebrated than Peralada Castle, joining gothic and renaissance spaces built between the XIVth and XVth centuries. For 22 consecutive years, the best voices of jazz, gospel, flamenco, pop or even opera sound against the walls of the historical building.

Amongst the 33 shows which will be celebrated during 32 days, there will also be space for chamber music, dance, opera and symphonic concerts. Amongst the most outstanding names this summer in Peralada there will be Chucho and Bebo Valdés, Joyful Gospel Choir, the French string quartet Le Quatour, Diana Krall and the Dresden Philharmonic with Rafael Frühbeck von Burgos. The concerts will take place in three different spaces of unequal beauty: the auditorium Jardines del Castillo, the church El Carmen and the garden's pavilion. Thousands were able to enjoy the most unique music last year in this unsurpassable space which is the magical Castell de Peralada.

### **Jazzaldia Festival**

**22th to 27th July**

**San Sebastián**

Not many plans sound as idyllic as a walk on the beach when the sun is setting with jazz music in the background. This dream becomes true every afternoon for six days, the duration of the prestigious Jazzaldia festival in San Sebastian. The glamorous coastal city of the Basque Country invites, for the 43rd consecutive year, international and exceptional jazz figures in a series of more than 80 concerts. Undisputed names as Dianne Reeves, Ahmad Jamal, Johnny Winter or Maceo Parker are enough to come by to San Sebastián this summer, adding to this some surprises like the celebrated actress and singer Lizza Minnelly.

In 2007 there were 135,000 jazz lovers who enjoyed the best music in San Sebastián in commendable spaces: Kursaal auditorium, whose modern architecture by Moneo rises majestically opposite the sea, Victoria Eugenia Theatre and Zurriola beach, of course.





A XVIth century castle is the scenario of the distinguished Peralada Festival



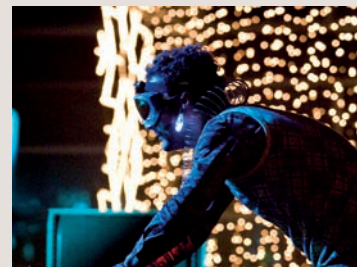
### **Creamfields and Ola Festival**

**August 9th and 15th.**

**Guardias Viejas beach (Almería)**

If Andalucía was not full enough in summer, Creamfields and Ola Festival intend to fill Guardias Viejas beach in the locality of El Ejido of electronic music lovers one more year. The space provided, more than 100,000 square metres, will reunite thousands of people eager to dance all night long to the rhythm

that the best DJ's and groups play opposite an unequal view: the Mediterranean Sea. This summer, the main attraction of Creamfields are Chemical Brothers, Groove Armada, Thievery Corporation and Carl Craig; while a week later Ola Festival will bring Björk, Massive Attack, Editors and Goldfrapp, amongst many others. Both festivals together will add more than 80,000 people who will be stay up all night this summer at Guardias Viejas beach. The two typical things in the summer, beach and music, meet in these festivals. An irresistible combination for any party animal.



## **OTHER FESTIVALS**

In Spain music goes on playing all year round. Although it is the summer season when most of the festivals take place there are other indispensable dates to take into account during the rest of the year:

**Actual.** January can also be a good month for festivals and Actual in the Rioja shows it. The concerts combine with films and other varied parallel activities, from parcour to circus. Musically speaking, the supply is wide. In 2008 Logroño had such different artists as Benjamin Biolay and Asian Dub Foundation.

➔ **PRIMAVERA SOUND.** Spring is a perfect season to enjoy Indie music. The festival in Barcelona which takes place in May holds the name of alternative with full meaning, as it is one of the most selected and demanding in criterion. Without having to go any further, Portishead was the star of the festival presenting their new album last May.

➔ **CULTURA URBANA.** Hip Hop echoes in Madrid every month of May during this international festival. The best rappers, battles, break dancers and even beat boxers do not fail to come to the Spanish capital city to present the richness of this musical style, which is gaining more and more fans every day.

➔ **SÓNAR.** The Advanced Music Festival of Barcelona is always ahead in all senses and it precedes the great summer events. By mid-June, the most original and modern artists internationally renown meet in this festival for lovers of the very latest musical trends.