

Promotional feature



World's top DJs heading to the Palm

Don't miss LUVYA at FIVE Palm Jumeirah Dubai

There's a massive party coming to the Palm – and if you're ready to dance on the sand to the world's top DJs you're in luck this week.

Brand-new three-day LUVYA Festival is launching at trendy hotel FIVE Palm Jumeirah Dubai this weekend (Thursday December 12-Saturday December 14) and top names including Craig David, Lost Frequencies and the world's number one DJ duo – Dimitri Vegas and Like Mike – are coming to town. The world-famous Belgian duo are known for their eccentric show acts at venues including Ushuaia Ibiza, Creamfields and Tomorrowland, so fans are in for a treat.

Also on the stellar line-up will be Disciples, Klingande, Miguel Bastida, Lexlay and Eli & Fur, so you're guaranteed an exciting weekend of partying.

And the brand-new three-day festival isn't all about music, as FIVE Palm Jumeirah

Dubai is bringing food, art and fashion into the mix for the unique beach, basement and rooftop experience.

There will be three stages hosting the top acts across the weekend, held on the brand-new 150m private Beach by FIVE, *Time Out* award-winning rooftop bar The Penthouse, as well as in cool underground club Secret Room.

More than 40 top artists will perform across the weekend, plus there will be tasty dishes to try, too, from Japanese and Chinese to Italian and international street food. And you'll get those unbeatable views across to the Dubai Marina skyline, making for an awesome backdrop to the super-cool new festival.

Taking to the main stage on Beach by FIVE will be acclaimed British songwriter, DJ and producer Craig David, as well as dance music sensation and Belgian DJ Lost Frequencies, British production trio Disciples, and headliners, Dimitri Vegas and Like Mike.

The second stage will be at The Penthouse, where you'll see French DJ Klingande, DJ superstar Miguel Bastida and DJ producer duo Eli & Fur. Acts will be playing from 5pm until 4am every day. The third, in Secret Room, has DJ Jonezy, DJ Kidy, DJ 5Ugar and Lucas Dirty, among others.

One-day passes start at Dhs350 including three drinks on Thursday, Dhs550 on Friday with three drinks and Dhs300 on Saturday with three drinks, while weekend passes are Dhs1,000 with ten drinks thrown in.

Fancy making a weekend of it? Prices at FIVE Palm Jumeirah Dubai start at Dhs1,250 a night, with two general admission passes, while if you want to stay at the brand-new FIVE Jumeirah Village you can do so for Dhs850 per night, inclusive of two general admission passes. We'll see you on the Palm.

→ From Dhs300. Dec 12-14, 2pm-4am. FIVE Palm Jumeirah Dubai, www.luvya.live.

→ To find out more head to www.luvya.live

BEST OF THE FEST

Dubai's newest music festival, LUVYA, lands at FIVE Palm Jumeirah Dubai this week (Thursday December 12 to Saturday December 14). Amy Mathieson and Tim Skinner catch up with the top names ahead of the massive new event

Klingande

French DJ Cédric Steinmyller plays on Thursday December 12

What are you most looking forward to about your return to Dubai?

I always love to come to Dubai, it's such a fun and beautiful place to play, we always have a very good time. Dubai at night is just impressive to watch, it feels like an incredible and unbelievable place.

How does it feel being one of the top names on the bill at this brand-new festival?

I'm very honoured to be playing at LUVYA

this week. To be among this line-up of artists and to play alongside friends like Lost Frequencies is very exciting. I can't wait.

How does the nightlife and party scene in Dubai compare with other cities you've performed in around the world?

I think Dubai is very special because it's in the centre of various cultures. When you play in Dubai you have people from everywhere in the world in front of you, the reaction of the crowd is always organic, it's not about a single culture but about people gathering in a place to have fun and discover each other. I really like this vibe in Dubai and it makes it a fun place to visit and play at.

What's your favourite collaboration on the new album, and what do you look for when you collaborate with artists?

That's a tough question, I loved working with Jamie N Commons and Joe Killington, but maybe my favorite collab was with Bright Sparks. We did two songs together and I love them, I love his voice, I love his lyrics, he's a really great artist.

With *The Album* release, what's next up for you? Is there a tour on the way?

Yes I'll be on tour in North America and Asia in the upcoming months, then back in Europe as usual for all the summer festivals. I have new music to release in 2020 as well, with very nice collabs. I'm very excited, there's lots to look forward to.



“There will be loads of new stuff to hear”

Lost Frequencies

Twenty-six-year-old Belgian DJ Felix De Laet takes to the beach stage on Friday December 13

Are you excited about performing at a brand-new event in Dubai?

Dubai's party scene is really great, plus it's a beautiful place to visit so I can't wait. I've played at FIVE before [at The Penthouse] and this time it's a bigger venue so I'm looking forward to a larger crowd. Dubai is a bit like Disney World, there are a lot of things to do and a lot of people to see, so I always enjoy coming back. It's super-cool that FIVE is trusting me with a new project. I'm super-happy to have my name on the line-up and I'm really excited. I'm looking forward to seeing the other acts, too.

What can we expect to see from your set?

I've just released a new album, *Alive and Feeling Fine*, so there will be some new music to hear. But the set will be a mix – you'll have plenty of old stuff, favourite tracks. I'm also doing some stuff where I play the guitar on top of the DJs set, but I'm just preparing it now, and if it's not ready I won't do it. I really like making new music, and want to get it right.

What do you love most about what you do?

Making new music, for sure, as well as playing live. I like travelling – there's a completely different energy wherever you go in the world. When I'm on the plane I can sit and watch films and play Nintendo Switch and just chill. And of course I love making good music, stuff with emotion and strong lyrics. I love being in the studio making a really good track and then when I think it's good, it's always amazing when the crowd agree and love it too.

What kind of music do you like?

I really love indie rock, totally different to what I do.

What's next for you?

I'm working on new music, finishing remixes and looking at doing more collaborations. I'm working with more underground names for a darker sound, I'm curious about what will happen.



Disciples

The British production trio perform on Friday – we speak to Duvall (above, centre) ahead of their gig

How does Dubai compare to other cities you've visited and played in?

We love it here, we've played at a few clubs including Zero Gravity, FIVE and BASE before. Actually BASE was a funny story – we were there with Anthony Joshua and Gordon Ramsay – it was so surreal. There they were just chilling behind the decks, it was pretty cool. We love Dubai, it's friendly and people are open to listening to and trying new things. There's a strong expat community, but that doesn't dilute the culture – there's a nice vibe and it's authentic. If I want to try traditional food, I can. If I want to check out the world's largest mall and see a super-crazy aquarium, I can. If I want a cheeky Nando's, I can.

What are you looking forward to about LUVYA?

Dubai is becoming bigger in the nightlife scene, and it has a respectable culture. I'm looking forward to seeing Dimitri Vegas and Like Mike – they're our boys. We've been on the line-up with them before, we played for

them at Tomorrowland so it will be good to catch up with them.

You've worked with some top names, including Calvin Harris on hit single How Deep Is Your Love. Who would be your dream collaboration?

If I could work with anyone, wow, production-wise it would be Diplo or Pharrell. For vocalists, Khalid or Adele. Adele wouldn't do it – but this is my wish list. We loved working with Calvin, he's such a genius. It was really enlightening, and we learnt how to trust other people's ears. Calvin's ears are golden. He's given us really great tips – now we always send our stuff to him to listen to first.

What's in the pipeline for you?

Hopefully a lot more releases. We're so laid-back, which takes the pressure off, but I'd like to have at least four or five singles next year if not an album or body of work. Also I'd like to develop our own show and do some more touring and see our fans.

Talking of fans, what's the question you're most frequently asked?

'Do you guys fight?'. And I say 'yes we strap on the boxing gloves in the studio'. No, we're

"Calvin's ears are golden"

like brothers, so of course we do, but we always make up. It's positive fighting like, 'I don't think the chorus should go here', not like 'oi, you stole my girlfriend'.

What's the thing you love most about what you do?

The first is when you hit that sweet spot in the studio, and you look at each other and go, 'we've just cracked it'. And the second is when you're on stage and the crowd like it and the world confirms it. It's amazing.

What do you think is coming up in the global music scene in 2020?

I think it's open season for music. There are currently loads of sub-genres – commercial house, deep house, techno etc – but with streaming it all bleeds into one. There's a lot of strong music and I think lines will blur.

Why should people get out and support live music?

Live music is so important, more than anything. It's also about discovering new talent and learning new things and it's the most honest form of art. Music is meant to be played before it's recorded. I saw Michael Jackson before I'd heard his music – I was five and I went to see him perform live.