

## Spring Fiesta Review

You know you're in for something special when you can feel the bass under your feet and you're not even inside the venue yet! That's the welcome I received when I pulled up to the Wild Waters Complex for the Spring Fiesta organized by Soul Candi and its fellow stakeholders.

The first port of call for anyone arriving at the event was the burly security guards at the gate. Pleasantly enough though, they were firm but equally helpful. After checking my credentials and searching my bag I was ushered in and free to rock on. But in comparison to the fellow masses, I was definitely the odd one out. Camera and notepad instead of ice cold beverage and fist in the air, can anyone say out of place? But it didn't matter, the mood was electric and I was backed by the confidence that girls love journalists. Everyone knows girls love journalists.

The event itself seemed to be a well oiled machine. Each member played their part superbly. Castle lite and Red Bull made sure the drinks stayed flowing. Soul Candi picked the best line-up possible and Splakavellis Management ensured that the entire PR for the event was superbly done. Security was everywhere and visible and considering that the crowd steadily grew from 8 000 around mid day to 13 000 by nightfall, one still felt relatively safe considering the circumstances.

Depending on your pocket, there were three packages to choose from: a normal ticket, VIP and VVIP but once again the experience was equally spirit lifting for everyone. While part of the normal section, I got the chance to squeeze myself as close to the stage as possible so I could feel the speakers trying to blow my soul into the parking lot. VIP was a little, and I really mean a little, more laid back as it was situated behind the main crowd but not so far as to not get the full audio experience. It also featured its own bars so the wait to refresh your beverage was kept down to a minimum and had its own toilets so no queues there either. Thumbs up for that idea.

VVIP was full of the stars of the night as well as the big spenders. Hosted on a raised platform, some could argue it was the place to be. But for me, the prize has to go to the What About Soul stage that was situated behind the Main stage and was dedicated to deep and soulful house. Hosted by Lulo Café, it featured the finest house music and everyone who entered into the emptied out pool found it hard to leave as they raised their hands in the sanctuary.

The 'Old Skool is Cool' as well as the 'We Live Hip Hop' stages were also packed to the brim with revelers and everyone getting a piece of their own music preference. Back to the main stage, Black Coffee definitely stole the night when it came to local performances. Backed by the setting sun as well as fellow Soulistic artists such as Soulstar and Zano, his set sent the crowd into a frenzy that provided the perfect head start for the stars of the night, The Layabouts.

Coming on after Black Coffee meant they had to come out with guns blazing and they did exactly that. 'Do Better' performed by Imaani, shut the place down. The 13 000 people strong crowd sang word for word and then raised their hands in united solidarity when the chorus came in. At this point one could easily compare the Spring Fiesta to any other top musical festival around the globe like Ibiza or our own little Tomorrowland.

All in all Spring Fiesta is definitely an event to write home about and without a doubt will continue to grow bigger and bigger. Hats off to everyone involved.