

Music Week, where they played the record breaking number of parties. Yes, they've got their groove going on and just in time for summer festival season. They'll headline the official Ultra Countdown party at this year's Collegium Spring Break Island Festival, a season opening event at notorious Zrće Beach on the Isle of Pag, Croatia. We've caught up with Rafael and Mikio to chat about Spring Break phenomenon, Croatia party hotspot, cool beer and hot women as well as their latest banger, a collaboration with Croatian-Slovenian DJ-duo Vanillaz, 'Rock the Party', which has already entered Beatport Top 50.

You've stormed Miami with non less than 12 performances at the time of Winter Music Conference and Miami Music Week. How was it, which party was the best and are the ones to watch closely?

Actually we played 13 shows. :) It was a great Winter Music Conference. We love Miami and it's always great to see friends and partners in business right on the beach. We had some crazy shows with awesome crowds and had the chance to check some sets of other DJs we like. Our best show during WMC was at Nikki Beach. It was an amazing festival on the first day of WMC. Two of the best DJ sets we heard during the week were from Don Diablo and Tchami. We also like their production very much!

You're no stranger to Croatia and its top festivals. What makes Croatia one of the hottest party destinations on the planet and what brings you back?

We love the Croatian party people and the international party crowds we meet

during the summer in Croatia. Also the summer clubs are just amazing. Last year we played at Papaya, which was awesome. It's good to play Noa Beach Club for the first time this year. Heard a lot of good things about that place which is one of the highest new entries on this year's DJ Mag's Top 100 Clubs list.

Another thing that connects you to the region is collaboration with Slovene-Croatian duo Vanillaz on a nice club banger 'Rock the Party' (Tiger Records). How did you hooked up with these two guys?

We met Vanillaz through our agent. We became friends and started doing music together. Its great to meet talented people like that somewhere in the world. Also these crazy guys have the same kind of humor, so we understand each other really well! Rock the Party was just the beginning. We finished 2 more tracks and another one is almost done. The next collaboration got signed to Fedde le Grand's label Flamingo Records. The other collab is almost signed to a really big label as well. We think Vanillaz will be big very soon! Watch out!

You've been to Miami and you've been to Zrće before, so: what's the best way to get the best out of Spring Break Island festival on the Isle of Pag if you go there as a group of young people looking for the time of your life?

Wherever you go in the world to party, it's important to just enjoy yourself, respect other people, share the love of music and just have a great time with everybody. This way you will make a lot of new friends and you will have the best time of your life, doesn't matter if its Miami, Bangkok or Zrće.

Is there a certain way people in Germany do the festival and club partying – that differs a bit from the rest of the planet?

We love to perform in our home country, people understand electronic dance music and we have a lot of crazy fans at home. Though we wouldn't say it's a different or special crowd. You meet special people everywhere in the world.

Your family background is Japanese and Spanish and you travel the globe all the time, so this should be an easy one for you: Where are women the hottest and beer the coolest?

If we would pick a country now, there are a lot of fans going to be super pissed! J So lets take it this way, Croatia is definitely in the Top 10!

At SBI Festival you'll headline Ultra Countdown event. What's your experience with Ultra festivals and how important is for you being involved with them?

Ultra is one of the most known brands and festivals in the World, so we are more than proud to be part of their events. In 2014 we played Ultra Miami and Ultra Europe. Both festivals were amazing! We just can't wait for more Ultra craziness this year!

Drafting these questions I'm listening to your Miami Weapons mix for Tiger Records. Obviously we should know at least these 20 tracks to enjoy your gig - but tell us about your fresh tracks and remixes you'll be spinning this summer.

Before WMC we locked ourselves in the studio and finished a lot of new tracks and edits. We are really happy with the feedback and the result. There are two new tracks we just released at the end of March: 'Never Stop' which already went

to top 30 in Beatport Charts and is getting a lot of support. We also released the leading track of the WMC compilation of Dutch label Big & Dirty, a collab with the Lunde Bros. titled 'My MPC'. And like we told you before, there are 3 more collabs with our amigos Vanillaz. On top of all that we finished another 3 vocal tracks. So, we can't wait to play our new stuff at Spring Break Island and check the dance floor reaction!

What was the most embarrassing thing you did in a club or at the festival?

It's like 10 years ago (the very beginning of Plastik Funk) when we played a show at Pacha Mallorca, Spain. After the show our manger told us we have to play an after hour party as well. Waiting in the DJ booth to get on, both of us fell asleep. The reason for that was not the music of the DJs before us - we were just super tired!!! :)



◀ Talking about TRANCE NATION with
Simon Patterson

SIGMA is coming to Spring Break Island
to showcase their debut album Life! ▶

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