

# Ten Days of Ibiza

island fun for everyone

by Matt Bellegham



DJ Kav and many others come together to bring a little taste of Spain to Cowtown this month.

This Stampede, Calgary nightclub Tantra is hosting its third annual “Ten Days of Ibiza” festival, which brings to Calgary a wide range of dance acts from across Canada and the rest of the world. BeatRoute caught up with the event’s organizers to get the inside story on the biggest dance music event of the year.

“This is our third year running for this event,” notes Kav Molavi, who heads up DJ bookings and promotions for Penny Lane Entertainment Group, the Calgary-based entertainment company that owns Tantra and many of the city’s other nighttime hotspots.

From the time the idea of an Ibiza-themed Stampede-long festival was first floated, Molavi explains, the vision was to bring in the sorts of acts that Calgarians would normally need to travel to London, New York or Ibiza to see, and to put the Calgary Stampede on the global radar as a dance music destination. “It’s about branding a festival in Calgary that is recognized worldwide,” he explains.

In a city where it seems many establishments are wary to waver too far from their established top-40 routine, Tantra’s commitment to supporting the underground dance music community is refreshing.

“We’re looking to do more than just showcase local talent,” says Molavi. “We’re also

aware of the bigger picture – of strengthening the scene in Calgary as a whole.”

As the festival enters its third year, it’s an approach that seems to be working, both for Tantra and for the wider community.

Further indication of the importance Tantra has placed on bringing new talent to the forefront can be seen in their Thursday, July 12 show. On a night when it would seem every bar in town would be packed just by opening its doors, Molavi has made a bold move, bringing in for the night two DJs whose names are little known outside dance music circles, American DJ Blake Jarrell and Dutch DJ Matthew Dekay.

But if this seems like an unusual decision for one of the city’s biggest nightclubs, then one need only look a bit deeper into just who these two “unknown” DJs are. Both Blake and Matthew were handpicked by Armin Van Buuren (the #2-ranked DJ in the world who tore the roof off Tantra at the last Stampede, only to do it again in December, and again in April of this year) to appear on his record label.

Both are remarkably underrated – Blake Jarrell was well on his way to a successful musical career when his hometown of New Orleans was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina, facilitating a move across the United States

and a rebuilding of his career from scratch, while Matthew Dekay is in fact the underground alias of Matthew D. Kerkhoff, who was a widely respected pop star in his native country before giving it up to pursue underground dance music.

The festival kicks off on Wednesday, July 4 with DJ AM, the L.A.-based DJ formerly of the band Crazy Horse, who has played on records for Madonna and Will Smith and is one of the most in-demand DJs among Hollywood’s A-list crowd. The following night sees the well-known German trance duo Blank & Jones hit the controls, with Calgary institution Cary Chang warming up for them.

Following a Friday and Saturday night with Tantra’s regular program, Sunday July 8 sees a double billing of Markus Schulz and Sander Van Doorn, both world-class DJs who will be fitting in their stops at Tantra around multiple Ibiza appearances this summer – at least two for Markus, and a whopping seven for Sander. Considering that both of these two have turned Tantra on its ear during their previous appearances this past winter, this double header should be number one on the to-do list of any fan of progressive or tech-trance.

The next night, Monday July 9, is the official Hed Kandi party, with Manchester’s

Andy Daniels and Toronto’s Mark Oliver both on the lineup. Mark’s previous appearance at Tantra during the winter was very well received, while Andy Daniels has spent the past fifteen years becoming one of the most sought-after house DJs in the north of England.

The festival continues with German hard trance act Cosmic Gate on Wednesday July 11. On Thursday, July 12, the Alberta-based promotions company Boodang, which has been a part of presenting many of the big acts at Tantra, is holding its Customer Appreciation Party, which is a free entry show and will feature a draw for four VIP tickets to the upcoming Tiesto show in Edmonton.

Following on from there is the aforementioned double bill of Blake Jarrell and Matthew Dekay on Thursday July 12, before U.S. superstar DJ Skribble rounds out the festival along with a little help from his friend Dave Navarro on Sunday the 15th. Wait, what? Yes, it’s true. DJ Skribble, who has established himself as one of America’s premiere DJs with his appearances on MTV’s Spring Break, will be playing a hybrid live DJ/Guitar performance with none other than Dave Navarro, the legendary guitarist/sleazeball of Jane’s Addiction and the Red Hot Chili Peppers.