

# THE WORLD'S TOP 1

FINDING THE BEST NIGHT IN YOUR TOWN IS EASY. THE BEST DANCEFLOORS IN IBIZA ARE LOCKED IN YOUR BRAIN. BUT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD, WHO KNOWS? THE JETSET DJs, THAT'S WHO...



Sven's Cocoon sets are so good even his T-shirts comb

WORDS: CRAIG TORRANCE / COCOON PICS: ANTONIO PETRONZIO

## 1 Club: Cocoon Location: Frankfurt, Germany



Techno legend **Sven Väth** wanted to play the best club in the world — so he went home and built his own...

"COCOON CLUB IS the result of 20 years of travelling, living in hotels, eating in restaurants, and playing clubs across the world. It's a culture statement. I thought about what a club of the future would look like. I considered what elements it should have for people my age and younger to go out clubbing.

All in all, it took three years to design, partly because I wanted to combine a high-class restaurant with a lounge bar and a proper club. The club's laid out like a triangle with the DJ box looking out and in the surrounding walls we have 13 huge cocoons that people can go to lie in. We also have the most powerful sound system in the world. It was designed by Steve Dash, who

designed Twilo and Crobar's systems, so he's the world's pioneer for club sound.

On Fridays the main club's called Organic Electronics and Ricardo Villalobos, DJ Hell, Miss Kittin and I are all residents — it gets packed and there's an amazing atmosphere but we play pretty dark music. The Saturday's a bit more uplifting — party house music — and we always have a wild crowd in from all over the world 'cause we get students, music lovers and fashion victims! I'm pretty proud of the restaurant, Silk, too — it has an amazing chef and it's already won awards for the food and concept.

But my highlight of the club so far is my 40th birthday party with Laurent Garnier and Anthony Rother. We partied from the Friday through to the Sunday. It was amazing!"

**What a night costs...** €10-20 (£6.70-£13.50) to get in, €3 (£2) per drink  
**Closes 6am**



The computers that make it all happen

Sven at home in the booth

# KILLER CLUBS



## 2 Club: Womb Location: Tokyo, Japan



"Womb will turn your head upside down", warns minimal genius and regular **Richie Hawtin**...

"THE CLUB ITSELF is like a black box. It's dark, smoky, there are lasers and you're engulfed inside. Sometimes you can't see anything. The sound system is unbelievable. Usually, the DJ booth is on the second floor looking down but we built a special DJ booth on the floor so you're there with the people. To take things to the next level you need to be on the same level as everyone else. When I play at Womb with Sven Väth, he'll play and I'll be on the dancefloor — and they don't quite know why I'm dancing. It's a funny thing.

I play at least twice a year and I'm going back for Christmas. I play as often as possible — I don't play there enough! When the Japanese let go they can't control themselves! When you're there in the midst, they really go for it.

I was there with [new Minus signing] Magda recently and they went ballistic. The Japanese are really open to all types of music, they're really musically minded. If there's a place to go that'll open up your eyes to a different culture, Tokyo and Womb will turn your head upside down. It's so futuristic, so techno. In fact, I'd say it's the centre of the universe!"

**What a night will cost you...** ¥3,500 (£17.30) to get in, ¥500 (£2.80) per drink  
**Closes 5am**



## 3 Club: Warung Location: South Brazil



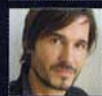
Half in a forest, half on the beach — Warung is the best of both worlds says **Layo of Layo & Bushwacka!**...

"WE WERE THE first international DJs to play in Warung. It's like one of those Balinese huts at these 5-star holiday resorts but it's wooden. It's half in a forest and half on a beach and it's got an open-air side at one end facing out to the beach. The club must be about 200 feet long. It's massive!

The beach it's on is a place called Camboiuru and the most famous place nearby is Florianopolis, south of São Paulo. When the sun comes up you can see right through the club and out across the ocean from the DJ booth. Add to that an amazingly open-minded audience and an electric atmosphere... but the best thing about it's definitely the women. Southern Brazil has the most beautiful women in the world. South America is the place to be right now and this is easily the best club there."

**What a night will cost you...** 35 Reals (£8.50) to get in and 5 Reals (£1.20) per drink **Closes 6.30am**

## 4 Club: D-Edge Location: São Paulo, Brazil



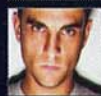
**Ali from Tiefschwarz** take us for a Brazilian that'll leave us red, raw and screaming (for more)...

"BASTI AND I love D-Edge club in Brazil. We've played so many places this year that it's hard to pinpoint one but this is the best international club we've played. It's got a very simple and minimalistic design — it's all black décor and hardly any light so it's very dark and there's just one big room that's divided by a huge bar. On one side is a lounge area and the other there's the dancefloor.

It's got this underground feel that all the best clubs have these days — and they have a great music policy. Brazilians have such great energy — they really love their music. Oh yeah, and I met my beautiful Brazilian girlfriend there. That's the best thing I can say about the club!"

**What a night will cost you...** 90 Reals (£21) to get in, 6 Reals (£1.45) per drink **Closes 7am**

## 5 Club: Cocoricó Location: Riccione, Italy



**Tom Stephan** finds a club with VJs to rival DJs and a glass pyramid roof that isn't in San Antonio...

"COCORICÓ'S CROWD REMINDS me of when I first went clubbing, with about 3,000 stylish, young and attractive people, loads of drag queens and dancers of questionable gender. There's a whole mixed atmosphere.

The main room has a glass pyramid roof over the dancefloor so when the sun comes up it lights up the whole club. The dancefloor's so big these little American trailers are parked on it so whoever gets there first can just hang out in them. It's crazy. It reminds me of New York in the '90s because they really make an effort.

There are transparent screens and projections going from all angles and they've got an amazing live VJ — sometimes I just end up watching from the DJ booth. It's a tremendous place!"

**What a night will cost you...** €23 to get in, €9 per drink **Closes 5.30am**

## 6 Club: The Fortress Location: Belgrade, Serbia



**Tom Neville** discovers a 600-year-old fortress where your ticket money may go direct to the police bribe...

"THERE ARE HARDLY any clubs in Belgrade because of the war and all they really have is small bar type clubs. The Fortress is one of the few homes for a proper club night, and it really is a fortress. The Turks used to use it to fend off the Austrians and it's right next to the Danube, almost on the dividing line between Asia and Eastern Europe.

The dancefloor is next to these catacombs where they once stored gun powder. You go into these big rooms, like archways, and the temperature just drops — weird when it's really hot outside.

I played there with James Lavelle and inside it was completely insane — 1,500 people were going crazy in this vast open-air courtyard below the fortress. I'm sure it's illegal to do parties in historic, listed buildings but in Belgrade money pays the way and so they do it every week."

**What a night will cost you...** €2.5 to get in, and per drink **Closes 6am**

