



1 SWEDEN

## Into The Valley

**WHERE** Dalhalla, Dalarna, July 31–Aug 1  
**HEADLINERS** Åme & Dixon, Ben Klock, Four Tet, MCDE, Richie Hawtin, Nicolas Jaar, Nina Kraviz, Ben UFO, DJ Harvey, Carl Craig, Ricardo Villalobos & more

This 5,000-capacity festival in a Swedish forest is one of the most spectacularly sited of the summer. Set at the bottom of a quarry, enclosing an emerald lake, Dalhalla is recognized for its natural acoustics. Add the great and the good of house and techno and it's a match made in heaven. It's pricier than your average European festival (this is Sweden), but there are phone charging stations, impeccable toilets, a water truck and high-end street food.

The site is spread over three steeply descending levels, leading down into the grand amphitheater, with food trucks on the first level, followed by a landing hosting The Box (a low-slung, intimate tent, its transparent DJ booth bringing the DJ and crowd closer). Finally, the Musikaliska Gård is a separate, smaller

building with wooden flooring, that overlooks the main stage below, where Åme & Dixon were the talk of the day before Richie Hawtin's advanced light show cast shadows across the quarry. In The Box, Swede-liebling John Talabot spun to a packed floor, and on the more intimate Musikaliska Gård floor Bella Sarris was a highlight. "I love playing in Sweden," she tells us. "Into The Valley is a perfect example of how cool and fun the Swedes are. I wanna get lost here for the whole weekend next year!"

Despite the Swedish weather dropping to just six degrees at night, the smiles on everyone's face remained long after Ben Klock closed the main stage at 4am, with peachy-pink dawn hugging the treetops.

### **BEST THING ABOUT THE FESTIVAL**

The crisp yet warm sound.

### **WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN BETTER**

First-year teething problems included failing transportation between the venue and campsite, 3km away.

**SURPRISE HIT** The merging of Zip and Villalobos' sets into a transcendent B2B. Jackpot!

**TUNE OF THE FESTIVAL** Leigh Dickson 'Praise' (Baby Ford's Heavenly Circuit remix) played by Villalobos, which resulted in a bit of a spiritual moment on the dancefloor. **CECILIA BORJESON**