



PRESS RELEASE NR. 04

Avegno, April 16, 2025

OFFICIAL PRESENTATION OF THE 2025 EDITION - 23rd Year

“Naturally magic!” and hot the musical summer in Vallemaggia!

After a challenging year following the events of June 2024, the Vallemaggia Magic Blues is back at the starting line for its 23rd edition. The legendary hall of fame has welcomed Duke Robillard, the Band of Friends in their four-member lineup, the surprising Harlem Lake, and Selwyn Birchwood — all major stars of last summer. “Naturally magic” is the slogan chosen for the 2025 edition. Naturally emphasizes how the Blues has become, over the years, a distinctive trait of Vallemaggia. The organizers have worked hard to present the many aficionados with a lineup worthy of the recent editions. This summer, magical vibes will once again fill the squares of Vallemaggia. And there’s a real blockbuster! After more than sixty years, The Yardbirds are returning — they first played here at the Lido of Locarno during a four-day concert series in July 1964! This edition will also feature, in the “vintage section,” two other legendary names, Atomic Rooster and Lou Marini of the Blues Brothers. Alongside these well-known and highly respected artists, new and lesser-known groups and musicians — at least in our region — will take the stage, undoubtedly upholding the high quality of past editions. In keeping with a well-established tradition, a large percentage of the performers will be making their debut at Magic Blues.

The festival will kick off on Friday, July 11. As per tradition, the *opening night* returns to Brontallo, promising an unmissable evening with the return of **Paul Rose** - one of the most talented guitarists in the world, who impressed audiences last year at Magic Blues with the Band of Friends. His extraordinary playing style blends blues, country, jazz, and folk into a unique and personal mix. Not a single concert goes by without someone in the crowd declaring Paul the best guitarist they’ve ever heard. Rory Gallagher once described him as “a musician with a great future.” He was even awarded “Guitarist of the Year” by Guitarist Magazine. More recently, he’s been the guitarist for Sari Schorr’s band. Paul has also collaborated with top artists such as jazz trumpet legend Randy Brecker, Bill Evans (Miles Davis, Mick Jagger, Derek Trucks), and John ‘Rabbit’ Bundrick (Free, Bob Marley, Pete Townshend, and a 30-year stint with The Who). With his tight-knit trio, we’re expecting a blazing performance.

Opening the night will be the welcome return of **Egidio “Juke” Ingala and his Jacknives**. For many years, they’ve been one of the most in-demand old-school rockin’ blues combos on the international blues scene, known across Europe for their high-energy live shows and top-tier music, featuring Chicago and West Coast Blues. Active in the blues scene since the mid-80s, Ingala began by studying legends like Little Walter and George “Harmonica” Smith, eventually developing his own distinctive and refined compositional style. A natural-born instrumentalist, he has always paid close attention to sound quality and the expressive power of the harmonica, shaping what Americans often call a





"big brass tone." He began collaborating with the Jacknives in 2010. The band was already well-known for accompanying various harmonica players in a way that recalled the legendary Chicago blues trio, The Aces.



The following week, the Giomaglio square will host three nights of music. In addition to the two traditional evenings - including the European Blues Night - this year will also feature the final of the 14th Swiss Blues Challenge. Things kick off on Wednesday, July 16 with **Mrs. Iz and the Wild Cats**, a band that's making a name for itself in the region, thanks to their ability to captivate audiences with energy and skill. Their setlist is so unique it wins hearts at first listen. The band's motto is: "Only good music" - the timeless kind that makes you dance, sing, and dream. From goosebump-inducing blues to romantic ballads that make you fall in love. The group is led by the frontwoman Isabella Marelli (The Voice, Steelriders), a standout voice full of charm and talent, supported by four seasoned musicians of proven class and experience. Professionalism, attention to detail, great energy, and joie de vivre are the core of the band's spirit.

Ben Poole was scheduled to perform last year in Brontallo, but due to well-known circumstances, his debut at *Vallemaggia Magic Blues* was postponed. Poole is a British blues-rock guitarist, singer, and songwriter. His musical style is original — an electrifying blend of blues, rock, and soul. His skill has been praised by none other than Jeff Beck and Gary Moore. In 2012, he

represented the UK at the European Blues Challenge, finishing third. That same year, he was voted "Best Newcomer of 2012" by Blues Matters! magazine. In short, a night that's sure to blow you away.

Thursday, July 17 brings two bands that could both be considered headliners and a tribute to Benelux blues, following last year's brilliant performance by Harlem Lake. First up is the **Leif de Leeuw Band**, the ultimate European jam band! Leif has been voted Best Blues Rock Guitarist in the Benelux six times in a row, and Sem Jansen is the winner of the TV show Hit the Road. The six-piece band delivers a powerful show full of blazing guitar solos, dueling drummers, roaring Hammond organ licks, and songs where improvisation and strong storytelling take center stage. Over a decade of touring across Europe, the U.S., and China has earned them a solid international reputation. After a tribute tour dedicated to the Allman Brothers Band, the group began moving in a new direction. Their lineup — two drummers, Hammond organ, bass, two electric guitars, and the raw, soulful voice of Sem Jansen — strongly echoes Southern Rock vibes. Improvisation is at the heart of every song, ensuring no two shows are ever the same. Their sound is a vibrant blend of rock, blues, Americana, country, and Southern rock, with heartfelt lyrics and a groovy '70s feel. For fans of the legendary Allman Brothers Band, Tedeschi Trucks Band, Little Feat, Warren Haynes and Gov't Mule, and Eric Clapton's Derek & the Dominos era — this is a must-see concert.



Among the finalists of the 2017 European Blues Challenge, **The Bluesbones** - a Belgian blues-rock band acclaimed worldwide — have been setting the stage on fire since their debut in 2011. Their unique sound blends blues with elements of rock, soul, and funk, earning them widespread recognition and praise. Their music pulses with an unstoppable and distinctive groove. Renowned for consistently delivering high-quality music and electrifying live shows, The BluesBones have built a loyal following and received critical acclaim across continents. With every new release, they push genre boundaries and reinvent themselves, solidifying their place as pioneers in the blues-rock scene. As one of Europe's top blues bands, they continue to grow and stand tall alongside the most established names in the global blues scene. A night featuring two top-tier bands -absolutely not to be missed!

This year, *Vallemaggia Magic Blues* hosts the final of the Swiss Blues Challenge, rounding out the evening with performances by the winners of the last two editions. First up, **Dan Mudd feat. bearbeat**. A versatile artist, Dan captivates audiences with his raspy voice and precise guitar technique. After starting as a street musician, his charm, talent, and skill have taken him to major stages across Switzerland and abroad, performing more than 80 shows a year. His musical style spans blues, soul, rock, and funk, blending traditional fingerstyle with sonic experimentation. As a singer, guitarist, and songwriter, Dan is a true storyteller who enchants listeners with his music. He's joined by Dominik Liechti, aka bearbeat, a passionate percussionist with over 15 years of live experience, who has toured Europe with top-tier bands and artists. In April last year, the duo won "Best European Solo/Duo" at the European Blues Challenge finals in Braga, Portugal.

Next up, the four finalists of the 14th Swiss Blues Challenge 2025: **Amaury Faivre** – harmonica player, guitarist, and singer, with a 25-year career and over 1,000 concerts in ten countries. Born in Besançon, he discovered the harmonica at age 8 and fell in love with the blues, steering clear of his teenage years' Spice Girls by listening to Robert Johnson and John Lee Hooker tapes. After studying musicology and jazz in France and Canada, he settled in Geneva. He won the Swiss Blues Challenge in 2017 with his duo, reaching





the semi-finals of the International Blues Challenge in Memphis. From electric blues to one-man shows, his latest release, *My Americana* (2024), is a musical journey through blues, bluegrass, and classic rock. On stage, he blends the emotion of blues, the freedom of jazz, and the energy of punk, with rare harmonica mastery for an intense, captivating performance.

Eve Gallagher, originally from Sunderland and raised in West Africa, she studied theatre and English literature and performed in London's West End musicals. In the '90s, she worked with Boy George on hits like *Love Come Down* and *You Can Have It All*, winning fans in both the U.S. and UK. She also collaborated with Ken Hensley, and in 2010 founded Galacteve with long-time friend Uli Heinzler, fusing rock and electronica. In 2023, she duetted with Michael Von Der Heide on *Hole In My Heart*. Now based in Zurich, she performs with Heinzler and top musicians like Patrick Murdoch and Roman Roth, presenting her new album *Roots*, a blues/soul project featuring songs like *Lovin' You Again*, *Higher and Higher*, and *Take My Hand* — marking a new chapter in her extraordinary career.

Noir & Gerber, Simon Gerber, after numerous musical collaborations (including 10 years with Sophie Hunger and since 2020 with Stephan Eicher), returns to his roots in soul and rhythm'n'blues. Together with Sophie Noir, his musical partner for over 25 years, and drummer Claude Kamber, they form a trio where two lead vocals intertwine in a unique chemistry, drawing from original songs in French and English, as well as American soul duets. Their 2025 album *Partout Partout* expands their repertoire with new compositions and powerful collaborations.

Delta Groove Band formed in Ticino in 2016 as a quartet (bass, drums, and two guitars), originally focused on reinterpreting Delta Blues, especially the work of Robert Johnson, performing his 29 tracks with fresh arrangements in his signature style. Over time, the band has refined their sound through collaboration and innovation. Today, with musicians like Matteo Frapolli (drums), Carlo Reichlin (bass), Gianluca Croci (slide guitar), and Oliver Frei (guitar and vocals), they've broadened their style to include original songs rooted in Mississippi Delta traditions. Their mission is to preserve and promote this musical heritage, bringing the raw emotion and expressive power of Delta Blues to new generations.

To close the evening, the 2024 Swiss Blues Challenge winner: **Mark Slate & Rotosphere**, led by guitarist Nic Niedermann (Justina Lee Brown Band), who has shared the stage with artists such as Magic Slim, Susan Tedeschi, Coco Montoya, and Chicago blues harpist Matthew Skoller. Charismatic blues and soul singer Mark Slate joined as frontman in 2021 and immediately wowed the crowd and band with his powerful, gritty voice. Over his 30-year career, Slate has opened for legends like Chris de Burgh, Joe Cocker, and James Brown, and toured extensively with a Joe Cocker Tribute Show. Slate embodies raw, earthy blues, and together with Rotosphere, they perform original songs that radiate pure energy. In January 2025, the band performed at the renowned International Blues Challenge in Memphis. We're in for a night of top-class blues made in Switzerland.

Magic Rock Nights! A major new feature in Cevio: starting this edition, the town square is entirely dedicated to Rock. Two intense evenings featuring highly acclaimed Swiss and international acts. Wednesday, July 23, returning to *Vallemaggia Magic Blues* are **Gut's**, a rock band from the Lausanne area. Think walls of Marshall amps, gritty guitar sounds, and a "plug and play" vibe — this is a high-powered show that hurls you straight into the frenzy of 1970s Rock 'n' Roll. That's what defines Gut's. They play almost entirely original material with just a few covers (including a Chuck Berry track). Proudly influenced by the legendary AC/DC, they aim to be successors of that simple, powerful rock that resonates across generations.



Following them is a must-see event for fans of 1970s British rock: two authentic legends of English rock, members of the historic lineup — vocalist **Pete French** and guitarist **Steve Bolton** (formerly with Roger Daltrey and Pete Townshend) — will take the stage with **Atomic Rooster**, one of the iconic bands of Progressive Rock. This show offers music lovers the chance to hear true milestones of rock history, mainly from the albums *Death Walks Behind You* (1970) and *In Hearing Of...* (1971). The band will revive the original 70s sound, faithfully reproducing their historic tracks with truly exceptional musicianship. Let's remember: Atomic Rooster was formed in 1969 by keyboardist Vincent Crane and drummer Carl Palmer (later of ELP). With the addition of bassist Nick Graham (Skin Alley), they released their debut album *Atomic Rooster*, considered by critics to be one of their best works. Their music was a mix of hard rock with progressive and mystical/occult elements — a signature style of the era (think Black Sabbath). After Crane's death in 1989, in 2016 Pete French, with permission from Crane's widow, resurrected Atomic Rooster together with Steve Bolton. The band has continued to perform worldwide ever since. Missing this night would be unforgivable!





Thursday, July 24, arriving in the valley is the Holy Trinity of modern Rock'n'Roll: **Basement Saints**. As fresh as the old days, with a touch of blues and the right dose of soul — music made for thousand-mile nights on the road. Active for over a decade, their love for guitar riffs, driving grooves, the warmth of a real Hammond organ, and a distinctive voice evokes memories of the golden 70s. The diversity of their concerts — where you can experience goosebump-inducing epics, introspective psychedelia, and thunderous rock'n'roll — is their biggest strength. Basement Saints is a multinational rock band based in Switzerland, renowned for their explosive and energetic live shows. Founded by frontman Anton Delen in 2012 as a duo, the lineup expanded in 2014 with the addition of a drummer. Their first album, *Get Ready*, was released two years later. After their second album, *Bohemian Boogie*, the band took a reflective break, returning in 2021 with a new lineup and a third album, *Stimulation*. Currently working on their fourth album, the band will definitely treat Cevio to some brand-new tracks.

Next up: **FM**. In the summer of 1984, singer Steve Overland and his brother guitarist Chris (both formerly of *Wildlife*) teamed up with drummer Pete Jupp and bassist Merv Goldsworthy (ex-Diamond Head and *Samson*) to form FM.

Their talent quickly secured them a deal with CBS, and they headed to Germany for a tour with Meat Loaf. More tours followed, including with Tina Turner, Foreigner, and Gary Moore, leading to the release of their debut album *Indiscreet* in 1988 — a critical success. Their music takes inspiration from seminal groups like *Free* and *Bad Company*. After a 12-year hiatus, in 2007 they were persuaded to return for a “one-off” headlining show at Firefest IV in Nottingham’s Rock City — a sold-out success. This sparked a reunion and a new album. They returned to Firefest in 2009 and resumed live activity, now with Jim Kirkpatrick (seen at *Vallemaggia Magic Blues* with the *Band of Friends*) replacing Andy Barnett on lead guitar. Since then, FM has never stopped: headlining tours in the UK and abroad, and special guest spots alongside Foreigner, Journey, Thin Lizzy, and Skid Row. In 2018, they released their first-ever live album, and in 2024, FM celebrated their 40th anniversary with the release of their 14th studio album, *Old Habits Die Hard*, supported — as always — by an extensive live tour.

To avoid overlapping with events in the Locarno area, this edition once again schedules Avegno’s concerts on Tuesday, July 29 and Wednesday, July 30. Tuesday, July 29 – A tribute to Anglo-American Blues. The first evening is dedicated to Blues rooted in the Anglo-American tradition. Opening the night is **Krissy Matthews Band**, who has earned a reputation as one of the most distinctive guitarists of the 21st century, gathering a wealth of experience most musicians can only dream of. At just 12 years old, he was invited by John Mayall to play two songs with him. A few years later, he became the last artist to share the stage with the legendary Jeff Healey. In 2015, he joined the Hamburg Blues Band, replacing Clem Clempson (*Colosseum / Humble Pie*) and Miller Anderson (*Keef Hartley Band / Spencer Davis Group*). Krissy and his band have shared stages with big names like *Toto*, *Gregg Allman*, *Tedeschi Trucks Band*, *Joe Bonamassa*, *Joe Satriani*, *Beth Hart*, *Jimmie Vaughan*, and *Los Lobos*. His newest album, *Krissy Matthews & Friends*, was released on May 10, 2024, and features a who’s who of the blues and rock scene — including *Chris Farlowe*, *Dennis Chambers*, *Curt Cress*, and *Big Daddy Wilson*. “It took a long time to make. I wanted to bring together my favorite musicians I met on the road. Not all of them, but a good handful! There are different genres, from metal to blues, from jazz to rock’n’roll. But in the end, it’s Krissy Matthews’ music.” He returns to *Magic Blues* with his powerful trio, after an impressive performance two years ago in Caslano.



Next up: **Chris Bergson & Ellis Hooks**. Guitarist and songwriter **Chris Bergson** has been called “New York’s blues street poet with soul” (*Mojo*) and “one of the most inventive modern blues musicians” (*All Music Guide*). His *Chris Bergson Band* is hailed as “one of today’s most talented bands — from blazing rock to funk, soul, Delta blues, and everything in between” (*Magazine*). Bergson has performed with artists across genres, including *pop/rock* (*Norah Jones*, *Levon Helm*), *blues/soul* (*Hubert Sumlin*, *Bernard Purdie*), and *jazz* (*Al Foster*, *Matt Wilson*). In 2015, he was inducted into the *New York Blues Hall of Fame* as a *Master Blues Artist*. He also teaches guitar and songwriting at *Berklee College of Music*. **Ellis Hooks** (born 1974) is an American soul-blues and electric blues singer-songwriter. According to *All Music Guide*, Hooks “echoes *Wilson Pickett*, *Sam Cooke*, and *Otis Redding*, but you can feel the grit of *New York streets* where he once busked.” Born in *Bay Minette, Alabama*, to a *Cherokee* mother and *African American* father, Hooks has performed with *Stax legends* like *Steve Cropper* and *Little Milton*, and is considered by critics a true heir to the southern soul, blues, and gospel tradition. His voice is uniquely his own, and his phrasing is a hallmark. Hooks may very well be the one to carry these historic sounds into the 21st century. A world-class duo — live in Avegno.





Wednesday, July 30 – An All-Ticino Blues Celebration! The second evening shines a spotlight on top-tier talent from Ticino. First up: **Iris Moné**, a singer-songwriter whose irresistible energy is captivating audiences around the world. Live, her warm, expressive voice and powerful songs engage and entertain — while also moving listeners deeply, as she shares the life experiences behind her lyrics. She’s performed at major festivals and iconic venues in Switzerland (Montreux, Moods, Mühle Hunziken, Atlantis) and internationally (Leverkusener Jazztage, The Bitter End in NYC, Belly Up in California, and the Swiss Embassy in Washington). After her early days with Ticino bands Wave Flow and Little Venus, Iris made a splash at Blues to Bop in Lugano in 2006, earning the title “Queen of the Festival”. She later reached the finals in the first season of The Voice of Switzerland (2013), and her single The Lie earned nationwide recognition. She has lived in Southern California for the past 10 years, where she is increasingly in demand. She continues to release new singles, widely acclaimed by critics and fans alike.

Then it’s time for a supergroup from Ticino: **Bat Battiston & The Cannonballs**. Bat, guitarist and harmonica player, has been a fixture on the scene for over 30 years, inspired by blues greats like Robert Johnson,

Lightnin’ Hopkins, and Big Bill Broonzy. He has played countless clubs and major blues festivals like Piazza Blues, Blues’n’Jazz, and Blues to Bop. He was invited to the Charleston Blues Festival (USA) in 1993 and 2000 and had meaningful musical experiences in the Mississippi Delta with legends like R.L. Burnside, Eddie C. Campbell, Albert Collins, and Cedell Davis. In 1993, he formed the trio Bat Battiston & The Kids with Rocco Lombardi (drums) and Francesco Salis (piano), electrifying their sound and delivering gritty, raw blues inspired by everyone from Robert Johnson to John Lee Hooker, Albert King, Muddy Waters, and Elmore James. Over the years, Bat has kept playing — sometimes solo, sometimes in duos (with Jim Diamond or Angelo “Leadbelly” Rossi) — appearing at festivals and clubs in Switzerland and abroad. He’s released three albums to date. Now, he returns to *Vallemaggia Magic Blues* with longtime friends Robi Panzeri and Federico Albertoni and his band, The Cannonballs. Freddie “Cannonball” Albertoni has been active for over 20 years in the Ticino blues/rock scene. After starting with The Flag and then Drivin’ Mad (both previous *Vallemaggia Magic Blues* acts), he founded the fully blues-focused Freddie & The Cannonballs in 2018, stepping up as frontman and lead vocalist.

As for some years now, the closure in Maggia features two evenings mixing vintage bands with newly formed ones. **Andy Egert Blues Band** is a constant presence on the Swiss blues scene and has always been a guarantee of refined Blues in the style of Freddie King, Eric Clapton, Alvin Lee, Peter Green, and Johnny Winter, but also in acoustic Blues in the vein of Robert Johnson. Active for over 30 years, his consistent live presence in Switzerland, as well as tours and performances in many European countries and the United States, have made the former street musician known on the international scene. His annual tours with legendary Chicago bassist Bob Stroger (who performed at the *Vallemaggia Magic Blues* back in 2004), as well as with former Canned Heat frontmen Robert Lucas (RIP) and Dallas Hodge, have become cult events! Throughout his career, he has opened for Johnny Winter, Stan Webb’s Chicken Shack, Steve Marriott, Bernard Allison, Joe Bonamassa, Dr. Feelgood, Canned Heat, Charlie Musselwhite, Sugar Blue, Louisiana Red, John Lee Hooker Jr, and many others. Stylistically eclectic, the Andy Egert Blues Band confidently and skillfully navigates powerful Chicago Blues, Blues-rock, Power Boogie, as well as acoustic Blues and Funk Blues. In 2010, he was awarded the prestigious Swiss Blues Award at the Basel Blues Festival!



The **Treves Blues Band** also returns with great pleasure, “the” Italian Blues group, accompanied on this tour for their 50th anniversary by a true blues icon: **Lou Marini of The Blues Brothers**. Fabio Treves’ adventure began back in 1974 when he decided to bring the history and great masters of Blues to the forefront for the general public, in an era dominated by singer-songwriters and Prog Rock. It was an incredible success, partly because Treves toured the entire peninsula for decades. There is no club that hasn’t seen the presence of the Puma of Lambrate! He also had the opportunity to perform on stage with great musicians, including the legendary Frank Zappa (Milan and Genoa 1988). Today, with his vast experience, he is a point of reference and a dispenser of valuable advice for young musicians wanting to try their hand at Blues. Lou Marini shares a common connection with Frank Zappa (Zappa in New York 1976). Often described as an “unsung jazz hero,” he is the soul, the skilled multi-instrumentalist, arranger, composer, educator, and producer who has made a name for himself as a sideman in various high-profile bands, and any prominent jazz musician in New York will tell you that he is “one of the greatest jazz musicians ever.” Marini, who lives in New York, is famous for his chameleon-like ability to imagine and execute inventive ideas in Jazz, Rock, Blues, and classical music. His collaborations are countless, having been a member of groups like the Woody Herman Orchestra, Doc Severinsen, Blood, Sweat and Tears, The Band, Levon Helm & the RCO All-Stars, Dr. John, Frank Zappa, Saturday Night Live (SNL) Band, The Blues Brothers, Maureen McGovern, Lew Soloff Quintet, Blue





Beck with Joe Beck, Eric Clapton, Red House, and Magic City Jazz Orchestra. Maggia will host an unforgettable evening, not to be missed!



The last evening is no less. **Hus-Band** was formed in 2023 in Lugano, based on an idea by Matteo Bertini. Alongside him, once again, guitarist Mattia Mantello. The two, partners in bromance on the most prestigious local stages, enlisted the rhythm section of brothers Federico and Riccardo Sicilia from Val di Blenio. The four musicians created an honest and straightforward project, with upbeat and fun Classic Rock that does not aim to compare itself to big names or movements. Mad Mantello's guitar, historically colored with solid Blues, and the genetic-groovy patterns of the Sicilias are complemented by the riffs and raspy voice of Matt Bertini, without flashy and schizophrenic ambitions, but with the awareness of being "just" neighborhood rockstars. Their stage debut took place at the Rotonda in Locarno on August 1, 2023, as the opener for The Blues Brothers. The album Cheap Rock was released on April 6, 2024. A concept album that, like in the old days, expresses all its potential when listened to in full, with no track less important or predictable, and with a variety of sounds.

At the *Vallemaggia Magic Blues*, after long negotiations, they managed to score a real coup, a sort of cherry on top for the 2025 edition: the return of the legendary **The Yardbirds** after more than 60 years! Indeed, in August

1964, their mentor Giorgio Gomelsky, the first manager who secured them a contract with Columbia Records, under the pretext of a vacation, brought Eric Clapton and his band to Ticino, making them perform at the Lido and Innovazione in Locarno and the Taverna in Ascona. Of Georgian origin, to escape communism, the Gomelsky family left the USSR, first emigrating to Syria, then to Egypt and Italy, before settling in Ascona, where Giorgio grew up and studied before leaving for London at the age of 21. The Yardbirds, the historic band led by co-founder and drummer Jim McCarty, who continues to lead this once-innovative group from the British Rock Invasion, played a crucial role in connecting Blues, British R&B, Psychedelic Rock, and Heavy Metal, and were pioneers in using innovations like fuzz-tone, feedback, and distortion. This drummer, singer, songwriter, and producer is considered one of the driving forces responsible for the band's captivating sound. From the formation of the group in 1963 to their induction into the Rock'n'Roll Hall of Fame in 1992, The Yardbirds have been revered for the legendary guitarists who contributed to their history, including Eric Clapton, Jeff Beck, and Jimmy Page, all of whom are listed among the 100 greatest guitarists of all time by Rolling Stone magazine (ranked 35, 5, and 3, respectively). Originally a Blues-based group, known for their instrumental "rave-up" jams covering classic Blues songs like Howlin' Wolf's "Smokestack Lightning" and Bo Diddley's "I'm a Man," The Yardbirds later expanded their range into pop, pioneered psychedelic rock, and early hard rock/heavy metal, contributing to many innovations in electric guitar that defined these musical genres. After various lineup changes, in 1968, Jimmy Page took the reins of the group and, with McCarty and Dreja's "fatigue" from four intense years of activity and vocalist Keith Relf's desire to turn toward Folk (he would later form Renaissance), Page reformed the band, initially calling it The New Yardbirds. The quartet later changed its name to Led Zeppelin, and the rest is history. Returning to the early Yardbirds, the band had a series of successes in the mid-60s, including "For Your Love," "Heart Full of Soul," "Shapes of Things," and "Over Under Sideways Down." Celebrating its 30th year as Yardbird, singer John Idan has contributed his distinct voice to the band's sound since its reformation, as shown by the classic 2003 album *Birdland*, which featured Joe Satriani, Steve Vai, Slash, and Brian May. The current high-level lineup includes guitarist Godfrey Townsend (John Entwistle, Alan Parsons, Todd Rundgren, Ann Wilson of Heart, Christopher Cross, Dave Mason, and musical director of the Happy Together Tour with The Turtles) and bassist Kenny Aaronson (Bob Dylan, Billy Idol, Rick Derringer, Brian Setzer, Dave Edmonds, and Joan Jett), percussionist, harmonica player, and backup vocalist Myke Scavone (The Doughboys, Ram Jam). The current band (reformed in 2002 by McCarty) has always upheld the band's name and, despite various lineup changes, has consistently lived up to the original lineup, recently completing a live album *Mind the Gap*, set for release soon.

In summary, you are spoiled for choice. It pays to get a membership and make the most of it. Certain opportunities will never come again.

We would like to remind you that *Vallemaggia Magic Blues* is promoted by the Association of the same name with the support of the Lake Maggiore and Valleys Tourist Organization, the Canton with Swisslos, the Valley's municipalities and numerous sponsors, who have believed and continue to believe in "*The smallest big blues festival in Switzerland*"; the main sponsor Heineken, the main co-sponsor Raiffeisen, flanked by Hans e Vivian Borter, Polygon, Delea Vini & Distillati, Rapelli SA, Henniez, Azienda Forestale di Cevio, Carrozzeria Paradiso Avegno, Fart, Fondazione Cultura nel Locarnese, Azienda Forestale di Avegno, Elektroplan AG, Caffé Carlito, Securitas, HolAp, Mondini SA Elettrigilà, Pro Brontallo e L-Sound. Supporting the event as well Società Elettrica Sopracenerina, Ticino Gourmet Tour, Bibite Romerio, Policentro, Associazione Manggia Km0, Responsiva, Vedova Trasporti, Tipografia Bonetti, Freidesign e Ticketcorner. The media partners are. laRegione, Radio Ticino, RSI Rete Uno, Ticino By Night and Day e TicinOnline.





Program 2025 "Naturally magic!"

BRONTALLO, Friday, July 11, 2025

Opening Night

Egidio Juke Ingala & The Jacknives (I) - **Paul Rose Trio** (UK)

GIUMAGLIO, Wednesday, July 16, 2025

Mrs.Iz and The Wild Cats (CH) - **Ben Poole** (UK)

GIUMAGLIO, Thursday, July 17, 2025

7th European Blues Night

Leif de Leeuw Band (NL) *EBC 2015* - **The Bluesbones** (B) *EBC 2017*

GIUMAGLIO, Friday, July 18, 2025

FINALE 14th Swiss Blues Challenge

Dan Mudd feat. bearbeat (CH) *SBC 2023*

FINALE SBC: *Amaury Favre - Eve Gallagher - Delta Groove Band - Noir & Gerber*

Mark Slate & Rotosphere (CH) *SBC 2024*

CEVIO, Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Magic ROCK Night

Gut's (CH) - **Atomic Rooster** (UK)

CEVIO, Thursday, July 24, 2025

Magic ROCK Night

Basement Saints (CH) – **FM** (UK)

AVEGNO, **Tuesday!!!**, July 29, 2025

Krissy Matthews Band (UK) - **Chris Bergson & Ellis Hooks** (USA)

AVEGNO, Wednesday, July 30, 2025

Iris Moné (CH) - **Bat Battiston & The Cannonballs** special guest **Marcel "Jimi" Aeby** (CH)

MAGGIA, Wednesday, August 6, 2025

Andy Egert Blues Band (CH) - **Treves Blues Band feat. Lou Marini Blues Brothers** (USA-I)

MAGGIA, Thursday, August 7, 2025

Special Night 60 years later!

Hus-Band (CH) - **The Yardbirds** (USA-UK)

Admission prices and pre-sale

A reminder that presale, recommended for some dates, is going on at our partners ticketing.ch and tickecorner.ch.

Concerts of July 11/16 and July 30, 2025: admission CHF 20.00 in advance sales and CHF 30.00 at the evening box office.

Concerts on July 17/29 and August 6, 2025: admission CHF 25.00 in advance and CHF 35.00 at the evening box office

Concerts on July 23/24 and Aug. 7, 2025: admission CHF 30.00 in advance and CHF 40.00 at the evening box office

Concert on July 18, 2025, Final 14th Swiss Blues Challenge: admission CHF 20.00 in advance and at the evening box office

General Pass Valid for all evenings CHF 150.- Purchasable only at the Vallemaggia Tourist Office, Via Vallemaggia 10, 6670 Avegno.

Special "Backstage, The Restaurant of the Magic Blues" package.

As in previous years, for the Squares of Giumaglio, Cevio, Avegno and Maggia, it is possible to reserve the special package "Backstage, The Restaurant of the Magic Blues" in collaboration with the Manggia Km0 Association and chef Michele Calisi of Grotto Lafranchi in Coglio, including admission to the concert, "Rapelli" aperitif and dinner (excluding drinks). The evening's menu can be viewed at magicblues.ch. Places are limited and reservations are required, so **Backstage Tickets** must be purchased well in advance at www.biglietteria.ch.

Evenings of July 16/18 and July 30, 2025: Price CHF 100.00

Evenings of July 17/29 and August 6, 2025: Price CHF 120.00

Evenings of July 23/24 and August 7, 2025: Price CHF 150.00

"Backstage" opening at 7:30 pm.

Website and Social Media

www.magicblues.ch

<https://www.facebook.com/VallemaggiaMagicBlues>

https://www.instagram.com/vallemaggia_magic_blues

<https://twitter.com/magicblues>





<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UcKnOc2-B6LGP-R87OsRgZjw>

Media Relations

Press officers will send two Press Releases per week to the media during the festival with the presentation and report of the evenings. The Press Releases will be found at the following link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/hxd08qr0cqc1dm7hhov4ii/ABlybubjl-4zDhrTfYGI55Q?rlkey=mhs9an6ne579ffrsi7tz0n9x0&st=sm8d56mq&dl=0>

The official photographer of the Vallemaggia Magic Blues is Rémy Steinegger. Press photos of the event, PRINT MEDIA (high res), will be featured starting the next morning at the following link:

It will be announced before the start of the festival
e per ONLINE MEDIA / WEB / SOCIAL (low res):

It will be announced before the start of the festival

All photos of the musicians, squares, promotional 2025, for socials media as well as promotional materials, musician and evening cards are available for media with the requirement of wording (Byline: Vallemaggia Magic Blues/steineggerpix) at the following link:

<http://bit.ly/4ic8QFZ>

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/gcd3vo3umn0ni7a2f1no6/APZB8u-2k4nVdyPoQSQLxgM?rlkey=3lxw49n24259bovmdbijmtzw&st=3g45fpxs&dl=0>

