



PRESS RELEASE NO. 01

Avegno, April 22, 2026

OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE 2026 EDITION – 24th Year

"Back to the roots!": a scorching summer of legends, welcome returns and new discoveries!

The 2025 edition has rightfully entered the history of the festival. An extraordinary, intense, and engaging journey, featuring top-tier artists such as The Yardbirds, Atomic Rooster, FM, Dr. Feelgood, and Lou Marini of the Blues Brothers, names that have enriched an already legendary roster! For the 2026 edition, the 24th, the chosen slogan is Back to The Roots! highlighting how blues has over time become an authentic and indelible hallmark of the Vallemaggia region. The summer in Vallemaggia promises to be red-hot with a program that weaves together past and present, legends and new discoveries, and doesn't lack showstoppers! The spirit of Woodstock '69 returns with Miller Anderson, the Scottish blues-rock legend, guitarist and singer of the Keef Hartley Band at Woodstock in 1969. For the first Magic Rock Nights, it's a last call for a legend, this might be the final chance to see them in Ticino: Colosseum with founding members Farlowe, Clempson, and Clarke, pioneers of a visionary sound blending rock, jazz, and blues. In Avegno, the unrepeatable magic of Paul Jones & John Etheridge, the voice of Manfred Mann and the guitar of Soft Machine together for the first time at Vallemaggia Magic Blues, delivering blues, soul, improvisation, and pure musical alchemy. For the second of the Magic Rock Nights, guitars at full volume: Eric Steckel and Sideburn unleash a storm on stage, and after 13 years, Eric Sardinas' incendiary slide guitar returns to shake the valley. Alongside the big names, a burgeoning scene full of talent, ready to surprise and confirm the quality that has always distinguished the festival.

First Week: BRONTALLO, Friday, July 10, 2026

From Texas to Vallemaggia Magic Blues, Ty Le Blanc: a rare and magnetic voice for a soul without roots or borders! Opening the evening, the blues-rock of Ticino's own The Green Led.

The Vallemaggia Magic Blues kicks off with the traditional Opening Night in Brontallo, and it does so with a bang. Arriving from Texas is the **Ty Le Blanc Band**. Born in El Paso, Creole with roots in Louisiana, African and French blood, an authentic and contemporary soul, she grew up between the gospel of her father's Baptist church and a nomadic life shaped by a military environment. She learned early on that music is her language. From soul to blues, from alternative rock to jazz: Freedom is a mature, atmospheric journey through R&B, blues, and pure light. Deep roots, an ever-evolving sound. An unmissable evening. Welcome to Vallemaggia Magic Blues!





Opening the night, Ticino's own **The Green Led**: five musicians united by energy, vision, and one certainty — the stage is their natural habitat. Blues and rock with a contemporary, direct, and personal language. Groove, dynamics, great chemistry... for the first time at Vallemaggia Magic Blues: break a leg!



Second Week: CEVIO, Wednesday, July 15, 2026

After 13 years, the incendiary slide guitar of the great Eric Sardinias returns to the Vallemaggia Magic Blues. Opening the evening, from Sardinia, the Bad Blues Quartet.

Two evenings of pure blues in Cevio: mark your calendars! On Wednesday, after 13 years of waiting, the incendiary slide guitar of **Eric Sardinias** returns to the Vallemaggia Magic Blues. Those who have already seen him know he is a force of nature, famous for fiery live shows, sometimes literally setting his guitar on fire. A left-hander who plays right-handed blues-rock guitarist from Fort Lauderdale, Sardinias grew up on a diet of Delta blues (Patton, Elmore James, Muddy Waters) before debuting in 1999 under the wing of Johnny Winter. Devil's Train, Black Pearls (recorded by Eddie Kramer, the man behind Hendrix and Led Zeppelin), and Big Motor have built his legend: no compromises, only fire. After a long break, he returned in 2023 with Midnight Junction, visceral, no-holds-barred blues-rock. Now he returns to our stage for the fourth time. Furious slide, wild energy, a stage on fire. Welcome back, Eric! An unmissable evening.

Opening the night, straight from Sardinia, the **Bad Blues Quartet**: Federico Valenti, Eleonora Usala, Frank Stara, and Simone Arca. Formed in 2014, from Delta blues to the vibes of John Mayer, they have built an original and powerful sound. In 2016, they won the Obiettivo BluesIn competition at the Pistoia Blues Festival. They have three albums to their name, and their new record was recorded in Brescia with American producer Mike Zito. Welcome to the Vallemaggia Magic Blues!



CEVIO, Thursday, July 16, 2026 - 8th European Blues Night.

8th European Blues Night: one night, three nations, one single beat! Three souls of contemporary blues: Italy's Sacromud, the latest winner of the Swiss Blues Challenge, the Eve Gallagher Band, and the explosive heavy-blues of France's Charb-On!

The following day will see the 8th edition of the evening dedicated to European blues. Opening the night will be **Sacromud**, the project of Maurizio Pugno: forty years of blues fused into a live performance that crosses Mississippi, Gubbio, and social inclusion. The gritty voice of Raffo Barbi leads a groove that blends soul, roots, funk, and R&B into a single narrative suite. Winners of the Italian Blues Challenge and featured in Memphis, they embody a blues that is alive, human, and necessary.

Following them, the **Eve Gallagher Band**, legendary voice of 90s dance music, returns to the blues and soul of her origins. With her exceptional band, winner of the Swiss Blues Challenge 2025, she brings a warm and enveloping sound, combining

powerful grooves with authentic emotion. Welcome back to magic valley, Eve.

Closing the night, **Charb-On** from Bordeaux: electric heavy-blues, swampy grit, and high-voltage intensity. Haunted by the ghosts of the Black Keys and MC5, in 2024 they recorded in Austin with Adrian Quesada (Black Pumas). Selected to represent France at the 2025 European Blues Challenge in Split, they are among the most promising acts on the new European blues scene.



Third Week: MAGGIA RONCHINI, Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Woodstock '69 back on the Vallemaggia Magic Blues stage: Miller Anderson returns, the Scottish blues-rock legend, guitarist and singer of the Keef Hartley Band at Woodstock. Opening act: Paolo Bonfanti, a six-string italian virtuoso!

The feeling of Woodstock '69 returns to the Vallemaggia Magic Blues stage thanks to the **Miller Anderson Band**. An evening that is history! Returning for the joy of his many fans is Miller Anderson, a living legend of British blues-rock. Arriving in London from Scotland in 1965, he immediately entered the beating heart of the music scene of the era. As singer, guitarist, and composer for the Keef Hartley Band, he recorded five albums and took the stage at the legendary Woodstock '69. Over an extraordinary career, he has played with Savoy Brown, Mountain, T-Rex, Donovan, has been a guest of Deep Purple, and collaborated extensively with Jon Lord. Today, with his Miller Anderson Band, in the midst of his final tour, he brings to the





stage the authentic spirit of an unrepeatable era. Refined slide, powerful wah-wah, magnetic presence: one of the great virtuosos of world blues-rock. An unmissable evening.

Opening the night, the Genoa-based **Paolo Bonfanti Band**; a top-tier guitarist with a degree in Music Semiotics from Bologna, formerly the leader of Big Fat Mama. He has collaborated with Dick Heckstall-Smith (Colosseum) and Mickey Waller, played at SXSW and Winfield, and worked with Roy Rogers and John Popper. In 2018, he received a lifetime achievement award at the European Blues Challenge. First time at Vallemaggia Magic Blues, welcome!



MAGGIA RONCHINI, Thursday, July 23, 2026 - 1st Magic Rock Night 2026

Last call for a legend: Colosseum return to the Vallemaggia Magic Blues! Visionary rock, jazz, and blues with Farlowe, Clempson, and Clarke, perhaps for the last time in Ticino. Opening the night, the Basement Saints with their 1970s magic.

Pioneers of prog and fusion, **Colosseum** fused rock, blues, jazz, and avant-garde into a unique, visionary style. Born in 1968 with Jon Hiseman and Dick Heckstall-Smith, they debuted with *Those Who Are About to Die Salute You* and followed up with *Valentyne Suite*, one of the masterpieces of English rock. Their concerts are powerful journeys through the history of British blues-rock, filled with epic tracks and spectacular solos. Today, Chris Farlowe, Clem Clempson, and Mark Clarke maintain an exceptionally high standard. This might be the last chance to see them in Ticino. See you at Ronchini in Maggia!

Opening the night, Switzerland's **Basement Saints**, the Holy Trinity of Rock'n'Roll. Blues, soul, and riffs sharp as blades. Hammond, groove, and a burning voice evoke the magic of the 1970s with a thoroughly contemporary charge. Born in a basement in 2012, growing from a duo into a multinational band, they have played the Montreux Jazz Festival, released three albums, and crossed Europe far and wide. At Maggia Ronchini, they will present tracks from their latest album *Down South* (2024). Welcome to the Vallemaggia Magic Blues!



Fourth Week: AVEGNO, Wednesday, July 29, 2026

Another welcome return: the Danish blues-rock of Thorbjørn Risager & The Black Tornado! Opening the night, The Gamblers, finally in Vallemaggia after the cancellation in 2024.

Thorbjørn Risager & The Black Tornado, one of the most authoritative acts on the European scene, return to Vallemaggia. Led by Risager's magnetic voice and elegant guitar, with echoes of Ray Charles and Van Morrison, they weave together soul, Chicago blues, boogie, and rock'n'roll with a powerhouse horn section and an irresistible groove. Their recent album *House of Sticks* explores modern sounds without losing its blues soul: incisive riffs, vibrant ballads, and an unstoppable rhythm. Twenty years of international touring, Danish Music Awards, the title of Best Band at the European Blues Awards, and collaborations with giants like Buddy Guy. Live, they are pure energy. Welcome back!

Opening the night, **The Gamblers**. Two years ago, their concert in Brontallo was cancelled due to the tragic events that severely struck the Upper Vallemaggia. Finally, here they are. A solid reality in the Italian blues scene, they have played on stages across the continent alongside Jerry Portnoy, Otis Grand, and Big Pete Pearson. Their album *Alive* in Italia, released by the Canadian label Stony Plain Records, attests to their quality. On stage: experience, groove, and authentic passion, with a powerful sound that celebrates the great blues tradition with contemporary energy. Finally welcome to the Vallemaggia!



AVEGNO, Thursday, July 30, 2026

An unmissable evening: Paul Jones & John Etheridge, two authentic British legends together for the first time at the Vallemaggia Magic Blues: blues, soul, and improvisation. The Ticino-based Delta Groove Band will open the show.

Two true British legends on the same stage! **Paul Jones & John Etheridge**: blues, soul, and timeless virtuosity. The historic voice of Manfred Mann, **Paul Jones** enchants with voice and harmonica, turning every song into a story full of passion. **John Etheridge**, formerly the heart of Soft Machine, responds with a guitar that sings, whispers, and burns, blending blues and jazz with elegance and power. Together, they create a rare alchemy: every concert is different, built on improvisation, dialogue, and pure freedom. Two masters, two friends, living music. Guaranteed thrills. Opening the night, Ticino's own **Delta Groove Band**. Unforgettable was their 2019 concert in Avegno, when they won over the audience





opening for Delta Moon and received compliments from bandleader Tom Gray. Their journey begins with the legend of Robert Johnson, the father of Delta Blues, a source of inspiration for the Rolling Stones and Eric Clapton. Formed in 2016, Frapolli, Reichlin, Croci, and Frei blend tradition and original songs with authentic energy. Finalists at the 14th Swiss Blues Challenge, they bring passion, roots, and truth to the stage. Welcome back: the Delta is still alive.



Fifth Week: MAGGIA, Wednesday, August 5, 2026

Larissa Baumann: the new star of Swiss soul shines at Maggia Ronchini! Winner of the Blues Music Awards Switzerland 2025. Opening the night, welcome to Take The 55 with their journey from St. Louis to New Orleans.

A grand finale at Ronchini in Maggia with two unforgettable evenings. The first night features **Larissa Baumann & Band**; a warm, deep voice, a charismatic and authentic stage presence. Elegant and powerful, she blends soul, blues, funk, and rock'n'roll together with an international band of extraordinary musicians. From her studies in Eastern Switzerland to the stages of international festivals, she has collaborated with Jeff Turner, Toni Vescoli, and Nicolas Senn. In 2014, she won Best Solo Performance at the Pyongyang Spring Festival. With Gotta Break Free and Showtime, she has ignited audiences across Europe. At Ronchini in Maggia this summer... It's showtime!

Opening the night, **Take The 55** and their journey from St. Louis to New Orleans.

The name comes from a love for the legendary Interstate 55: Memphis, the Louisiana swamps, the deep soul of the Mississippi. Their repertoire is a journey through juke-joints and southern roots: rare, authentic songs far from the usual settlers. Three frontmen lead the charge: Andy Boller (formerly with Bo Diddley), Felix Hohl, and Lo Trottmann, who has shared the stage with Johnny Cash. With the solid rhythm section from Basel, every concert is unique and unpredictable. Welcome! Let's hit the I-55!



MAGGIA, Thursday, August 6, 2026 – 2nd Magic Rock Night 2026

2nd Magic Rock Night: Guitars at full volume, Eric Steckel and Sideburn set the Vallemaggia Magic Blues on fire! The Texan blues-metal prodigy meets the hard rock power of Lausanne. An explosive evening!

In an era dominated by laptops and endless pedalboards, **Eric Steckel** goes against the current: big guitars, big amps, volume maxed out. At 11, he debuted with A Few Degrees Warmer; in 2003, he won over John Mayall at the Sarasota Blues Festival, becoming the youngest guitarist ever to join the Bluesbreakers. He has shared the stage with Ray Charles, B.B. King, Steve Vai, and Johnny Winter. With Havana, Black Gold, and Grandview Drive, he inaugurated the Bluesmetal era and solidified a powerful, no-compromises style. Over 30 countries, over 23 years of career. Welcome Eric!

Opening the night, Lausanne's **Sideburn**. Formed in the mid-80s, they are a true hard rock powerhouse: granite riffs, vintage sound, devastating live energy. In the

tradition of AC/DC, ZZ Top, and Rose Tattoo, for over 25 years they have set stages ablaze around the world alongside Kiss and Motörhead. Welcome!

In short, there's an embarrassment of riches to choose from. **It's worth getting the General Pass and making the most of it!** Some opportunities will never come again! We'll leave the embarrassment of choice to our loyal audience, even though it would be a shame to miss a single evening! Tickets are available now, and we highly recommend purchasing them in advance from our partners www.biglietteria.ch and www.ticketcorner.ch. As in previous years, you can also purchase the *Special «Backstage, Il Ristorante del Magic Blues» package*, which includes concert admission, an aperitif, and dinner (drinks not included) in the exclusive Backstage area. The evening's menu is available at magicblues.ch. **Seats are limited, and advance purchase via biglietteria.ch is required.**

We would like to remind you that Vallemaggia Magic Blues is promoted by the Association of the same name with the support of the Organizzazione turistica Lago Maggiore e Valli, 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 sponsors Heineken and Raiffeisen Bank, flanked by Delea Vini & Distillati, Rapelli Orior Food SA, San Pellegrino, Azienda Forestale di Cevio, Carrozzeria Paradiso Avegno, Karin & Adrian Bergmann, Kiener Properties, Fart, Fondazione Cultura nel Locarnese, Azienda Forestale di Avegno, Elektroplan AG, Caffé Carlito, Securitas, HoAp Immobiliare, 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, Freidesign e Ticketcorner. The media partners are laRegione, Radio Ticino, RSI Rete Uno, Ticino By Night and Day e TicinOnline.





Admission prices and pre-sale

Please note that advance ticket sales, recommended for some dates, are currently underway at our partners www.biglietteria.ch and www.tickecorner.ch.

Concerts on July 10/16 and August 5, 2026: admission CHF 20.00 in advance sales and CHF 30.00 at the evening box office.

Concerts on July 15/22/29 and August 6, 2026: admission CHF 25.00 in advance and CHF 35.00 at the evening box office

Concerts on July 23/30, 2026: admission CHF 30.00 in advance and CHF 40.00 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.

Speciale «Backstage, Il Ristorante del Magic Blues»

As in previous years, for the Squares of Cevio, Maggia Ronchini and Avegno, it is possible to reserve the special package «Backstage, Il Ristorante del 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 is available 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, and August 5, 2026: Price CHF 100.00

Evenings of July 15/22/29 and August 6, 2026: Price CHF 120.00

Evenings of July 23, and 30, 2026: Price CHF 150.00

"Backstage" opening at 7:30 pm.

Sito e Social Media

www.magicblues.ch

www.facebook.com/VallemaggiaMagicBlues

www.instagram.com/vallemaggia_magic_blues

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www.youtube.com/@VMMagicBlues

Sostieni chi ci sostiene!!!
Sostengono il Vallemaggia Magic Blues

Magic BLUES
back to the roots
2026
10th JULY - 6th AUGUST

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