

The insider



Sting is on his way to Abu Dhabi, Noel Gallagher is coming to Atlantis, and there's now a third more Cirque du Soir

Another week, another round of gig announcements. First up, **Sting** is coming to Abu Dhabi. Catch the 61-year-old Police frontman at du Arena on Thursday March 14.

Meanwhile, in case you haven't heard, Oasis founder **Noel Gallagher** is headlining a bill on the Palm the next day, on Friday March 15: the line-up features ex-Verve frontman **Richard Ashcroft**, back for a second acoustic performance, as well as regular visitor DJ **Zane Lowe**. Noel is promising to play Oasis classics and solo hits. The evening will be more guitar-driven than the usual Sandance, and is subsequently called a 'Live@Atlantis' event.

And there's more gig news in the capital, with *Rush Hour* funnyman **Chris Tucker** serving up his in-your-face impersonations, outbursts and humour at two stand-up dates at du Forum, on Thursday February 28 and Friday March 1.



It's great to see the local scene continuing to shine, and this week congratulations go out to singer-songwriter **Tim Hassall**, who recently celebrated the online release of his first music video. Check out his tune, 'Marilyn Monroe', on YouTube now at www.tinyurl.com/timhassall.

We're pleased to report that there will now be 33.3 percent more **Cirque du Soir** in Dubai, with the quirky club now opening on Mondays, in addition to Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The news goes hand in hand with some typically theatrical events, with a new 'Cirque Loves...' concept, which will see the club change theme every

Tuesday, while Thursdays will feature a wilder-than-normal display of sword swallows, fire eaters and contortionists at Cirque Sauvage. That's all for this week, party people – it's time to get out and play!

This week's new bar review

Vault

The JW Marriott Marquis's vertiginous new venue offers bags of style to justify its record-breaking location



As the tallest hotel in the world, the JW Marriott Marquis represents a serious addition to Dubai's skyline. But as well as adding two distinctive, glimmering towers to Sheikh Zayed Road, the 1,608-room behemoth has also added a steady stream of welcome new venues to the emirate's (already more than healthy) eating and drinking scenes.

If you've been paying attention to these pages you'll already know about the exclusive VIP Room nightclub, formally launched at the tail end of January. There are promising new French, Indian, Japanese and steak restaurants. There's a poolside grill, international buffet, grape bar and

turn the levers and crack the code to gain entry, yet it's certainly an imposing entrance that creates some sense of ceremony.

Once inside, we found it difficult to find fault with the bar. Decorated in elegant black and gold, the room is classy and chic. The staff were welcoming, polite and knowledgeable, and the inventive mixed drinks were of a very high standard. The menu was impressive, and specialised in Russian drinks: there were scores of different brands on offer.

Despite the bar's elevated status, there are better Downtown views to be found in Dubai (see the aforementioned At.mosphere), though the full-length windows still offer dizzying panoramas of the skyline. Pleasantly, and far too rarely for Dubai, the lower of the two floors is kept smoke-free, while the rear of the upper deck houses a private room, presumably set aside for special bookings.

The views and record-breaking novelty might be what first lures you to Vault, but we'd venture that the cool vibe, restrained style and impressive drinks offerings are likely to keep you coming back for more. *Open daily 5pm-3am. JW Marriott Marquis Dubai, Business Bay (04 414 3000).*

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novel 'entertainment lounge' (expect to see the latter two, Kork and Velocity, reviewed here soon). But the bar picking up most buzz is – quite understandably – Vault.

Sitting on the 71st and 72nd floors, the lounge venue is a record breaker as the highest hotel bar in the world (not to be confused with the Burj Khalifa's At.mosphere, an independent venue not located in a hotel, which sits on the 122nd floor). This alone makes Vault well worth a visit, but is it worth a return trip? We'd certainly say so.

Accessed from the hotel's lobby via two elevator rides, the bar gets its name from the heavy bank safe-style doors that mark the venue's threshold. It's a novel twist – we were just a little disappointed it wasn't necessary to



PHOTOGRAPHY: GETTY/GALLO IMAGES; ITP PHOTOGRAPHERS

Virgin Radio's top 15 tracks

The most requested tunes on The Kris Fade Show last week

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 One Direction
'Kiss You' (Same spot) | 8 Bruno Mars
'Locked Out of Heaven' |
| 2 will.i.am ft. Britney Spears
'Scream and Shout' | 9 Pitbull ft. Christina Aguilera
'Feel This Moment' |
| 3 Macklemore and Ryan Lewis ft. Wanz
'Thrift Shop' | 10 Conor Maynard
'Animal' |
| 4 Rihanna ft. Mikky Ekko
'Stay' | 11 Justin Timberlake ft. Jay-Z
'Suit and Tie' |
| 5 Taylor Swift
'I Knew You Were Trouble' | 12 Olly Murs ft. Flo Rida
'Troublemaker' |
| 6 Maroon 5
'Daylight' | 13 Bingo Players ft. Far East Movement
'Get Up' |
| 7 Kesha
'C'mon' | 14 Mumford and Sons
'I Will Wait' |
| | 15 Calvin Harris ft. Tinie Tempah
'Drinking From the Bottle' |



KRIS FADE SAYS...

'Dubai is the clearly the place to be to catch all the hot artists right now. We're so excited that Bruno Mars is headed here to play Dubai Media City on Friday April 12.

'I don't know how Virgin Radio keeps doing it, but we have another holiday to give away. Stay tuned for your chance to win an all-expenses-paid trip to the Maldives – see www.virginradio.dubai.com.' *The Kris Fade Show airs Sun-Thu 6am-10am on Virgin Radio 104.4FM.*