

Terraneo Festival, Croatia

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War, what is it good for? Well, absolutely nothing, obviously. So why not use that old military base you don't need anymore and give it a second lease of life as a playground for Croatian teenagers?

The lighting at Terraneo festival is minimal everywhere on site, and the huge concrete buildings are serving mainly as audio and visual barriers between a series of stages. The overall impression is that of a huge squat party where the initial breaking and entering was unsuccessful, so they've made do with setting everything up just outside the place they were going to put it. This is not a bad thing, 'this could get shut down at any moment if they find us' is an elusive but highly desirable look to pull off convincingly.

It's more or less 6pm until 6am, and all the headliners are followed by smaller acts continuing until the morning. For a festival this small - a few thousand - the bill is ridiculous. The Prodigy are an awesome peak to the first night, with My Bloody Valentine leaving behind many bloodied eardrums on the second. Wu-Tang Clan have to be the final night headliners, because that much testosterone and champagne will take a while to clean up.

The rest of the bill hasn't been scrimped on either. Emilia Torrini, Dubfire and Calexico are all here, plus The Cribs, who play to a surprisingly small but appreciative crowd. The rest of the bill is a combination of local artists, European buzz bands, and some fairly obscure acts from America for no obvious reason.

Finding the abundance of barracks a bit oppressive? Luckily they've thought of that, and there's a bus every half hour from the site to something dubbed 'the beach stage', which is actually a DJ playing Shaggy while festival punters spend the blazing daylight hours rolling between the bar, the sand, and the sea.

It's an intoxicating and accessible combination, so while the Brits haven't quite invaded Terraneo yet, it probably won't be long.

