



Let them eat cake

If there's one electronic dance music DJ who knows how to channel his hooligan instincts it's Steve Aoki, who may be among the world's most creative artists according to some music critics. That may be a bit of an exaggeration – after all the DJ-producer is still probably best known for his habit of throwing cakes at his fans. Some of them have sued. Nonetheless, Aoki is enormously loved for his virtuosity and seemingly boundless energy. His social platforms receive over 100 million views each month, and as one of the most sought-after headliners of music festivals in the world, he achieved the Guinness World Record for being the most travelled musician in a calendar year. Appropriately, there's a Netflix documentary about his life – it's called *I'll Sleep When I'm Dead* – and he has penned a memoir (*Blue: The Color of Noise*). He's also an entrepreneur with a hand in ventures ranging from fashion to gaming, plus there's a pizza chain, comic book series, podcast (*Aoki 'N Air*, which is about Japanese food, culture and music), and a fitness app, Aoki Bootcamp, which provides workout regimens and features streaming videos of Aoki working out (which he often does *after* finishing a set, which can be at three in the morning, or later). Mega-stardom didn't happen overnight. Aoki started out in the Los Angeles underground music scene back in the 1990s; as a vegan college student in Santa Barbara, he turned his tiny apartment into a quirky concert venue known as the 'Pickle Patch' which hosted some incredible musical talent. With four albums under his belt and around 200 shows a year, he'll be performing at **Ultra South Africa** for the first time. He's part of a massive line-up that includes Afrojack, Black Coffee, Dash Berlin, Jamie Jones and DJ Snake. Of course, the festival tends to cover most contemporary electronic music bases, and even if you're not into the music, you can still get hypnotised by the lasers and sheer endlessness of the crowds. The festival happens at the Cape Town Ostrich Ranch on 28 February and at Nasrec, Joburg on 29 February. ultrasouthafrica.com



February

08-09 **Rolex Arts Weekend, Cape Town.**
The Baxter hosts a series of talks, readings, exhibitions and performances, including two world premieres in a pairing of veterans with emerging artists. baxter.co.za

12-16 **International Public Art Festival, Cape Town.**
Gone are the days when graffiti was left to hooligans and trouble-makers – now it's legit. Read more about this festival that's designed to uplift neighbourhoods on page 93. ipafest.co.za

14-16 **Investec Cape Town Art Fair.**
Loads of work from contemporary artists, whether well-known or emerging – all under one roof at the CTICC. investeccapetownartfair.co.za

16 **Cape Town Folk 'n Acoustic Music Festival.**
It's part of the line-up for the Kirstenbosch Summer Sunset Concerts, so bring blankets and nibbles. webtickets.co.za

22 **Grande Provence Harvest Festival, Franschhoek.**
Tractor rides, grape picking, wine tasting and a cellar tour. Plus, plenty for children to do, and a harvest table laden with delicious fare in the vineyards. Booking is essential (021 876 8600) – it's R1 000 per couple. grandeprovence.co.za