

The sold out Flow Festival kicked off on Friday with 28,000 attendees

Intriguing artists, favourite restaurants and the unique festival site drew party people to Suvilahti in Helsinki. There were some showers of rain at Suvilahti in the early evening, but the air cleared as the night went on. Flow Festival is sold out and 84,000 festival-goers are expected to visit Flow during three days.

Many of the most anticipated artists of Flow's Friday performed on the Main Stage. **Ms. Lauryn Hill** celebrated the 20th anniversary of her debut album *The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill*, **Patti Smith** charmed the crowd with her sincere performance in the glowing sunset, and, leaving their hearts to the stage, **Fleet Foxes** played their famous folk-inspired harmonies. The highly praised **Mura Masa** lifted the roof up, and the night reached its climax as Finland's own superstar **Alma** gave an ecstatic performance at Lapin Kulta Red Arena.

At Bright Balloon 360° stage, the folk got to enjoy **Karina, KOKOKO!** and various others. Highlights of The Other Sound at Voimala included the performance of notable minimalist **Terry Riley** and **Gyan Riley**, a father-son duo, and a rare gig by Finnish cult group **Paavoharju**. Electronic music enthusiasts were also in for a treat at Resident Advisor Front Yard, where e.g. **Young Marco** and **Peggy Gou** performed.

Flow has offered a wide selection of vegetarian and environmentally friendly dishes for years, and the festival has once again provided its restaurants with Sustainable Meal training in order to support sustainable development. This year each restaurant serves a special ecologic dish. Based on an ecologic evaluation and panel tasting, restaurant Shelter with their Flatbread dish was declared the winner of this year's Sustainable Meal competition.

Flow Festival continues in Suvilahti until Sunday. Saturday's spectacles include **Arctic Monkeys'** very first gig in Finland, as well as performances by **Grizzly Bear**, **Charlotte Gainsbourg**, Atlanta-based rapper **6lack**, and Chicago-based hip-hop artist **Noname**. Pulitzer-winning rapper **Kendrick Lamar**, pop sensation **Lykke Li**, intensive live performer **St. Vincent**, and legendary rap group **Brockhampton** will take the stage on Sunday.

[Flow 2018 Friday Highlights](#)

[Flow's Flickr stream](#)

Flow Festival's partners for 2018 are main partner Lapin Kulta, partners Aalto Yliopisto, Bright Finland, Norwegian Reward, Oatly, OP, Paulig, Plan B, SEAT, Stopteltat and Sun Effects, media partners Basso, Clear Channel, Helsingin Sanomat and Resident Advisor, as well as Sustainable Flow partners: main partner Neste and partners HSY and Mall of Tripla.

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