

The Observer

Festival

Exit in Serbia

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With Glastonbury off the map in 2006, Serbia's Exit Festival is set to fill the gap. Some of Exit's elements - face paint as formal wear, for instance - are in keeping with the grand tradition of music festivals, but Exit, founded in 2000 as a student protest against President Milosevic, has a stronger rationale than most when it comes to the partying-with-a-conscience element.

Last year, when Fatboy Slim headlined, with back-up from the White Stripes and Carl Cox, 150,000 revellers took in everything from extreme sports to extremely avant garde cinema. Beer is cheap (as are tickets), the backdrop - the medieval fortress of Novi Sad - is unique and the climate cheerfully Mediterranean.

As Annie Mac of Radio 1 put it: 'The setting is spectacular, the line-up massive and the people completely inspiring. It's a truly special festival.'

• Exit Festival (www.exitfest.org)