

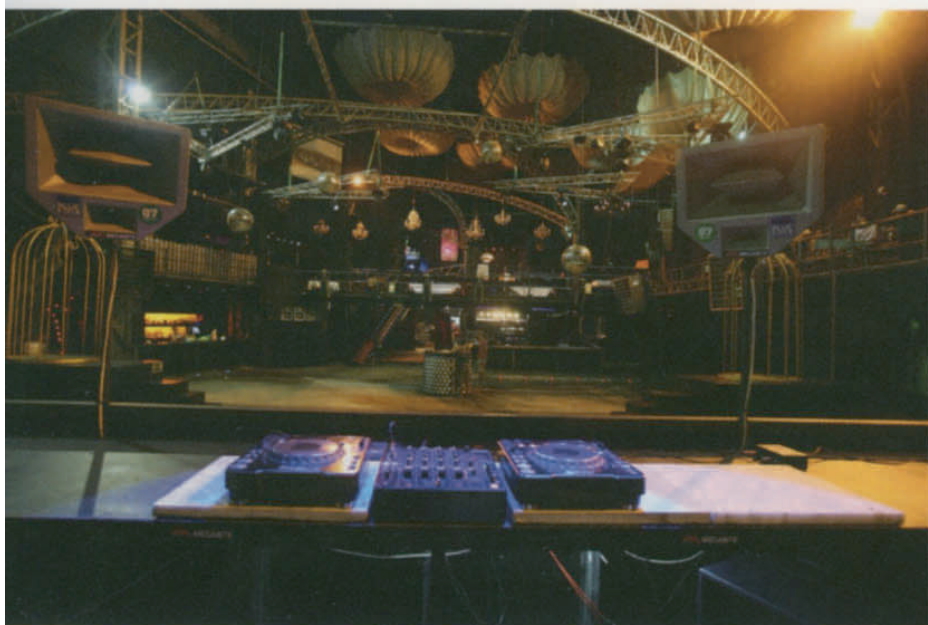
Venue Review



MADE UP LTD

Privilege

GM of Ibiza's 'biggest club', Manuel Lopez, gives his opinion on the government, Funktion One and operating on the island



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: View from the central DJ booth; general manager Manuel Lopez; the DJ booth is suspended over the pool in the centre of the huge club

A far cry from its original incarnation as a restaurant in the '70s, Privilege now wears the label of the largest club in the world. Standing at one end of the empty club, looking across the 6,500 sq metres of dancefloor and central swimming pool within the 25-metre high space, one would find it hard to disagree. Made famous by the theatrical and sexually flamboyant shows at Manumission for 14 years, the club now hosts a variety of techno and house DJs.

Privilege launched on 31 May this summer with Mauro Picotto, who played through an upgraded Funktion One sound system. The club has not had to adapt to the change in licensing laws this year, because it has always closed at 6am. In fact, general manager Manuel Lopez even believes the modification will animate the island's nightlife. "People can no longer go partying for 24 hours without stopping,

which will result in more people going out earlier in the night. So for us it will be a good thing," he said. Manuel is also positive about the new sound system they have installed at the club. Not satisfied with the previous

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season's line-array system, Manuel noted the Funktion One system that Blue Box had installed at Space. Manuel took up the story: "I'm a DJ so I know how important a good sound system is. The previous manager didn't understand that, so the first thing I did when I got this job was to do some research. I went to the Miami conference and Blue Box got me into a showroom. For me it was clear – Funktion

One was the way." This year saw a full Funktion One system installed in the main room and VIP area. They also have a Blue Box 'standard' format DJ monitor system. Manuel said: "I trusted the right guys because this is

the first system that makes the whole venue sound good. Investing in the sound system for me is a bit like investing in a marriage. Of course we are going to continue working with Blue Box because we are happy and as long as these guys continue to give the service they are giving now, why should we change?" Shortly before NIGHT met Manuel, he had taken part in a panel at the International

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Music Summit, along with other key venue operators on the island and a member of the government, to discuss the change in licensing laws and how clubs can work together with Ibiza officials in the future. Manuel assures us that Priviledge is willing to work closely with other operators for the sake of the public. He said: "It's good that the government, after all these years, cares about the importance of music to this island and the whole of clubbing culture. I guess they may still have the wrong type of people working there - I personally don't think they understand that much about nightlife and clubbing culture. Going forward they should form some sort of committee including people from the industry who know how it works. They have good ideas but there are far more things that need to be regulated and promoted." Manuel knows the late night economy of

SOUND STATS

MAIN ROOM: 20 x Funktion One Res 5 mid highs, 12 x Funktion One F218A bass speakers, 12 x Funktion One F218 bass speakers, 12 x Funktion One E25's, 4 x Funktion One AX88 mid highs, 1 x Funktion One E25, 2 x XTA DP226, 2 x Funktion One X01, 1 x XTA D2 VIP FILLS: 3 x Funktion One AX88 mid highs, 2 x Funktion One F218 bass speakers, 3 x QSC PL236's, 1 x Funktion One X01 DJ BOOTH: 2 x Res 2SH mid highs, 2 x F118 bass speakers, 2 x Funktion One E25, 1 x XTA DP224, 2 x Pioneer CDJ-1000 MK3, 1 x Pioneer DJM-800, 2 x Technics SL1210s

the island like the back of his hand, but when NIGHT asked what advice he would give to British operators wanting to start a club in Ibiza, he replied: "It's simple, don't do it, because the clubbing culture in the big clubs is something that has grown up a lot over the years. The club owners are like a community and for foreign people coming over here with all the laws we have and the connections you need with governments, it's much better to bring some money, and have a good holiday and that's it." He added: "Several years ago they opened China White in the port. It's a lot easier with bars, but if you were to buy Priviledge, for example, the existing license

which was given - I don't know how many years ago - doesn't exist anymore, so it would be harder to get." Mark spoke of his experience of working in Ibiza: "Our four years in Ibiza has been a learning curve; working here requires a different mind set to the UK and it can be frustrating if you don't go with the flow. Things still get done (often better than in England), just at a Spanish pace, which, when you get in sync with it, actually makes a lot of sense, is less stressful and more rewarding. Our work is appreciated here and the positive feedback we have had from friends and friends of friends who visit the clubs is very gratifying."

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FUNKTION-ONE

T H E S O U N D

Blue Box-London Blue Box-Ibiza

Mark + 44 7785 730442 David + 44 7768 328426 Hugo +34 677 158237