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## Glastonbury special

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Reviews, news and festival style

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## News

### Festival special

Alexis Petridis on the music, plus best-dressed of the fest **In G2**



# Best ever? Maybe this time it really was

After a 40-year wait, Rolling Stones' Glastonbury debut lives up to expectations - and the sun came out

Josh Halliday  
Alexandra Topping

Glastonbury founder Michael Eavis does not touch a drop of alcohol for two months before hosting the world's biggest green-field festival on his dairy farm in Somerset. But last night the 77-year-old was raising a champagne toast to another vintage year which brought sunshine, Prince Harry - and, of course, the Rolling Stones.

Speaking at his farmhouse on a hill overlooking the Pyramid stage as the festival drew to a close, Eavis declared himself "absolutely thrilled" and made his ritual declaration that "this really is the best festival we've ever done".

"It's the best thing. It has to be doesn't it? Forty-three years of me; 50 years of them and we've finally come together. We're on the same page at last. Isn't that brilliant?"

The Pilton farmer spoke of finally securing the Stones as if they were lovers attempting to mend a broken relationship: "The whole razzamatazz and the whole occasion of us two finally getting together at long last. I had to prove myself to them," he said. "But the Stones wanted to be here. That was the point. We've always wanted them."

More than 100,000 people heaved in front of the Pyramid stage to catch a glimpse of the band's two-hour Saturday night set. Strutting around on stage in a green sequined jacket, Sir Mick Jagger joked: "After all these years they finally got round to asking us."

A huge fire-breathing phoenix rose over the stage during *Sympathy for the Devil*, to the delight of the crowds.

Rumours of surprise sets by Daft Punk and David Bowie never materialised, and reports that US country singer Taylor Swift would join the Stones for part of their set turned out to be unfounded.

After a soggy end to Thursday, temperatures soared above 26C on Saturday and Sunday. The sun dried out the mud and umbrellas were used only used as parasols. Prince Harry was spotted in the backstage bar of the John Peel stage on Saturday night, after Eavis recommended he stay for the night.

By yesterday, many punters were declaring 2013 a classic year. David Anstice and his son Luke, both huge Stones fans, have been coming to the festival together for 12 years and said this was the best they had ever experienced. David, 50, set his alarm at 7am on Saturday to make sure they got a good spot at the Pyramid stage - and ended up around four rows from the front when the Stones took to the stage. "When you needed the loo, it wasn't that great but it was worth it - it's the best thing I've ever seen at Glastonbury."

The pair were also treated to a special performance in a secret spot known as the Rabbit Hole by the Park stage on Friday - none other than Eavis performing a karaoke version of Elvis Presley's *Suspicious Minds*. "It's just the best festival in the world," said Luke, 28.

One of the few voices of discontent came from grime star Wiley, who cancelled his show after moaning on Twitter that the weather was terrible and he wasn't



**A cardboard replica of Glastonbury tower is toppled with the help of the audience; Sir Mick Jagger on stage on Saturday; ecstatic crowds watch Nile Rodgers and Chic; festival organisers Michael Eavis and his daughter Emily**  
Main photograph: Christian Sinibaldi for the Guardian

being paid enough. In a tweet, which was later deleted, he said: "Glastonbury ain't paying me enough to leave my comfort zone ... tight bastards". But even this was used to positive effect.

On Sunday whimsical strummers Stornaway, who played on the Other stage in the afternoon sunshine, departed from their usual songs about hiking and seabirds and performed a bluegrass cover of Wiley's biggest hit, *Wearing My Rolex*. "We thought he might need the royalties," said lead singer Brian Briggs.

In a departure from the past, the task of organising and co-ordinating this year's festival was taken back into Glastonbury's hands after Eavis decided to part company with long-time licence-holders, Festival Republic.

Crime was down 33% compared to 2011, with about 150 arrests by Sunday afternoon.

As Worthy Farm's usual residents - 350 dairy cows - replaced Glastonbury's 170,000 bedraggled festival-goers, Eavis cannily set the rumour mill rolling for next year's headliners.

He said he had already secured three top acts, but declined to confirm rumours that Led Zeppelin might top the Pyramid stage following talk of a 2014 reunion. "I hope people will want to come next year," he said.



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