nolosé

PRESS KIT 2026

A 16-piece Cuban salsa orchestra, founded in Switzerland in 2004

Montreux Jazz Festival · Havana · Bogotá · Athens

▶ Watch ‘Alegría Hoy’, live at JazzAscona

JazzAscona, 2025

NOLOSÉ SALSA IN BRIEF

On stage since 2004, from Lausanne to Havana

Nolosé's sixteen musicians come from Cuba, Venezuela, Peru, Bolivia, Poland and Switzerland. They write their own songs, borrowing their harmonies from jazz and their tumbao from salsa, and took them to Havana to record.

16
musicians from six countries

500
concerts since 2004

8
records since 2007, one of them cut in Havana

2007-2018
at the Montreux Jazz Festival, plus the Havana Jazz Festival, Bogotá Timba Fest, JazzAscona and Caliente!

3
awards and a nomination, from Havana to Cali

8 to 16
musicians on stage, to suit the venue

Nolosé Salsa · Press kit 2026
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The D! Club dance floor, Lausanne · © Nolosé Salsa

THE LONG STORY, SHORT

Nolosé, an urban salsa *picante* that sends a shiver down your spine

Casked in Lausanne in 2004: amber music distilled in jazz cellars, with devilishly fine legs. Nolosé did not grow up, like the heroes of salsa, in Havana or the Bronx: the Bronx grew up in Nolosé. Havana has since opened its studios to the band all the same.

The band has found a style, a sound, handbooks of bewitchment; it has its rhythms, its harmonies, its warmth. Everything in all the right places: a rhythm section, voices and horns. Sixteen musicians, sixteen arsonists. After a well-behaved childhood, the band fell, ever so gently, into bad company, dropping the nice little tune to armour-plate its *corazón*. Jazz had made itself at home there, bringing its retinue of freedoms and a hell of a groove: everyone gives, nobody takes, and the salsa takes fire. Spiced with soul, hip-hop or R&B, this music in mutation, this *mutazic*, sends a shiver down your spine. You may lose your Latin, but you'll gain your Latino.

Its homeland lays on its finest stages: the Montreux Jazz Festival from 2007 to 2018, JazzAscona, Caliente! in Zurich. And it did take flight: eight vintages, one of them laid down at the Radio Progreso studios in Havana and crowned with the Premio Internacional at Cubadisco 2014; eight concerts in seven days in Bogotá; the clubs of Athens. Nolosé (*No lo sé*, literally 'I don't know') is, in no particular order: a Puerto Rican night, a sonic orchid, a colossal wedding party, a pirate algorithm, an *algoblues*. A hypersonic freighter, now boarding. Further even than Cuba, it takes you to the land of Frenzy.

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JazzAscona

THE SOUND

A repertoire the colour of Havana

The band plays its own songs alongside Cuban standards, all arranged for sixteen musicians, and has released eight records since 2007. It takes its cue from Havana D'Primera and Los Van Van. Live, it also plays salsa's great classics and shapes the set to the occasion, whether a dance night, a sit-down concert or a village fête.

Son cubano

Everything the band plays grows out of it.

Salsa & timba

Most of the night lives here: horns up front and a montuno that builds and builds.

Rumba & guajira

'Soy la Rumba' and 'Guajira: Sous le Vent' strike an earthier note.

Danzón & Latin jazz

'Danzón en Primavera' keeps faith with tradition. The jazz runs all the way from the band's first demo, cut at Lausanne's jazz school, to Montreux.

Four voices; two trumpets, two trombones and a saxophone; piano, bass and tres; bongos, guiro, congas, drums and timbales.

8	**10**	**12**	**12 to 16**
Compact line-up	Full line-up	Salsa orchestra	Big Band Salsa

The horns at JazzAscona

Trombones in the smoke · © Stefanie Gilgen

© Stefanie Gilgen

Tech riders for every line-up: nolosesalsa.com/en/pro-area

Montreux Jazz Festival · © Cuénoud

Haila Mompié, 2018

ON STAGE

Home and away

ABROAD

Havana, 2013
Five weeks in Cuba, playing the Havana Jazz Festival and recording an album at the Radio Progreso studios.

Athens, 2015
The Half Note jazz club first, then two weeks touring the Greek islands, from Spetses to Zakynthos.

Colombia, 2018
An eight-concert tour that took in the Bogotá Timba Fest, where Haila Mompié joined the band on stage.

IN SWITZERLAND

Montreux Jazz Festival
2007, 2009, 2013, 2015, 2017 and 2018.

JazzAscona
Played in 2023, invited back in 2025.

Caliente!, Zurich
On the 2024 bill.

LakeLive, Biel/Bienne
2023.

Stimmen Festival, Ettiswil
2026.

Chorus, Lausanne
The jazz club where Nolosé got its name has booked the band every year since 2004.

Geneva, 2014
Opening for El Gran Combo de Puerto Rico.

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THEY'VE PLAYED WITH NOLOSÉ

More than 60 musicians since 2004, some of them among the finest players of their instrument

Hector Martignon

PIANO

Twice Grammy-nominated as a bandleader, he spent eight years as Ray Barretto's pianist and arranger. He has composed for Nolosé and toured Greece with the band in 2015.

Juan Munguía

TRUMPET

He held the lead trumpet chair in Irakere, Chucho Valdés's orchestra, for fifteen years, then went on to play across Europe.

Haila Mompié

VOCALS

Once a singer with Bamboleo and the voice of Azúcar Negra, she sings on 'La rumba soy yo', winner of the 2001 Latin Grammy for Best Folk Album. At the 2018 Bogotá Timba Fest she sang fifteen of her songs with Nolosé.

Christos Rafalides

VIBRAPHONE

A New York vibraphonist whose credits include Wynton Marsalis at Lincoln Center. He wrote pieces for Nolosé and joined Hector Martignon on the band's 2015 tour of Greece.

Mambi Eulogio Arguelles

CONGAS

Born in Havana, he trained on the batá drums. According to the Montreux Jazz Festival, he toured Europe with Chucho Valdés and Adalberto Álvarez.

Maykel Blanco y su Salsa Mayor

TIMBA ORCHESTRA

Maykel Blanco, founder of Havana's Festival de la Salsa, leads this band from the Cuban capital. Nolosé shared the stage with them when they came to Switzerland in 2017.

SHARED THE BILL WITH El Gran Combo de Puerto Rico (Geneva, 2014) · Havana D'Primera · Lázaro Valdés y Bamboleo · La 33

AWARDS

Three awards and a nomination

2014

Premio Internacional, Cubadisco, Havana

For the album '¿Qué Cuenta La Habana?', recorded in Havana the year before. Cubadisco is Cuba's answer to the Grammys.

2016

Best production of the year, Cali, Colombia

For 'White Night Mambo', spotted by DJ Yami Perlaza; the city's salsa stations kept it on air for months.

2009

Best live album in Switzerland, Top Trock association

For 'Live at Chorus', recorded over two nights at the Lausanne club.

2018

Nomination, best Swiss salsa composition

For the EP 'Amanecer'.

ON AIR

'Tres Palabras', sung by the Cuban vocalist Doris Lavin, made the Salsa Magistral countdown on Cali's Javeriana 107.5 FM in September 2016.

IN THE PRESS

'Nolosé a fait briller sa salsa jazzy à Cuba'

Swiss daily *24 Heures*, 2014 ('Nolosé's jazzy salsa shone in Cuba')

Also covered by Cuba's *Granma* and, at home, by *Le Matin*, *Tribune de Genève*, *L'Hebdo* and *La Liberté*.

Press cuttings and the Cubadisco jury's verdict: nolosesalsa.com/en/press

BOOKING

¡Ponle fuego con Nolosé!

Laurent Cuénoud

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WATCH

‘Alegría Hoy’, live at JazzAscona · youtube.com/NoloseSalsa

TECH RIDERS, STAGE PLANS, HD PHOTOS

nolosesalsa.com/en/pro-area

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