



Miami Carnival 2019 Reviews

Fete 1: Entice - 6/10

I think if you're a concert person you'll like this event more than me. I don't know why I thought it was drinks inclusive - it wasn't- but it is what it is. The venue gave me city grunge... probably good for shoots in the day because of the graffiti art but meh overall at night. It was interesting when we drove up because Tribe's party was across the street and we all were like wait we want to be there instead... I don't think I'd do Entice again if I'm being honest. To start off carnival weekend I want pure vibes! I want bacchanal, I want wotlessness, I want jungalessness and it wasn't giving me and my crew that - or maybe it was us...

Fete 2: Soak'ah n Sweat - 8/10

I like to workout (duh) so this was a must go for me. I liked the mix of artists performances and workout instructors. It was a good time. I would say they should have 2/3 instructors in between performances to keep the flow and energy. It was a vibe, especially if you like to workout. I've been to a lot of fitness events like this so I think they did a good job overall. Shoutout for them having Motto there. I'd def do it again. If you think working out and cardio is fun this should be a must do for you.

Fete 3: Soca Brainwash - 6.5/10

I'm going to Trinidad for the first time and I'm not gonna lie... SBW in Miami has me rethinking going to Brainwash in Trinidad. Why? Well... to be fair I went around 7 but I don't think that should matter and to their credit the venue was gorgeous - I love a theme, I liked my cup, music great ok cool... HOWEVER A BIIIIIG minus for me is running out of alcohol. \$100 is a bit too much to be spending for me to not have alcohol running over and abundant. Sorry not sorry. I am happy I attended to say that I did and I think the overall vibe was good but I like bang for my buck and I can't say in all honesty I got that from SBW, especially considering how great a time i had a jouvert spending less.

Jouvert: Red Antz Miami Jouvert - 9.9/10

I can't think of one bad thing to say about them. The 0.1 is for the wait at the gate (lol). This was VIBES. And at \$85 I cannot complain. Firstly, pickup was 10 mins in and out (not exaggerating). I got a nice backpack (not a drawstring bag woo!), a mug, a whistle, a waterproof cell phone holder, my shirt, and a towel. VALUE FOR MONEY HONEY!!! We got there. Got our breakfast, they had many choices but I went with a corn soup and a salt fish sandwich. They also gave me plantain chips. We ate the soup and put the chips and sandwich in the backpacks because why? THEY HAD BUN AND CHEESE!!!! So we got some bun and cheese and got our drinks and started to vibe. And yes I was eating bun and cheese all day. They did run out of the breakfast items after a while but they did not run out of bun and cheese or turkey sandwiches. My biggest accomplishment was getting my best friend who is not a carnival or soca person to admit that it was the most fun she's ever had in a LONG LONG LONG time. BIG WIN. Next year Miami I'm playing Red Antz again. No question. Take my money.

Band: Revel Nation & Experience Nyrvana - 10/10

Revel. For. The. Road. OKAY?! After some interesting carnival experiences this year *cough* Hypnotic, and seeing the trend continue to other carnivals I was worried about Miami and PRAYING that it would be seamless. I always pay my costumes off beforehand because I don't want any problems picking up so I followed suit with Revel. Walked in. Someone showed us where to go. We reviewed the sheet, she saw that I paid, she gave me my bands, we went to the other room they found our bags, we reviewed our items. Done. Overall pickup time probably 20 minutes (Yayayayayay). Shoutout to Experience Nyrvana!!!! I knew from Bahamas carnival that they had it together since they were one of the few section leaders that seemed to have zero issues so we were pretty solid with choosing them but it's great to experience such professionalism *snaps*.

On to the road. Revel was vibes. No problem getting snacks or liquor. The bartenders were gracious and quick. I am not a fan of the venue. I like open road HOWEVER I am a fan of minimal stormers so yay to the tradeoff. The multiple wristband checkpoints was a bit annoying but not aggravating. We did, at one point, walk through all the other bands so I saw everyone (or almost everyone) else and I can say with confidence that Revel had some of the best costumes. And my costume and backpack lasted all day and night (yayayayayay for quality products). VALUE FOR MONEY. I may consider playing with Gen X or Freaks Mas another year but the professionalism of Revel Nation and Experience Nyrvana has me spoiled and I will be even more upset if I choose someone else and miss out of an easy experience. Hoping for the same PROFESSIONALISM ALL 2020.

Band: Revel Nation Carnival

Miami Carnival 2019 where do I start 🤔 EPIC!!!! I've been going to Miami for Carnival since 2008 and never experienced it this way. I honestly think 2019 is the best year for Soca music! 2015 was good too but 2019 has an energy. I played with Revel and the costume pick was less than 15 minutes. No long lines and I was in & out. I wish they

had multiple distribution centers so I didn't have to travel to Fort Lauderdale. Miami Carnival 2019 had over 100 Fetes so it made it difficult to select the best fetes. Sometimes having too many options isn't a good thing. Regardless, my crew and I attended Duck Work, Runway, BlockO, Vale, Viva and Brainwash. We had a blast!! We're already crazy and love to fete so we turned up! J'ouvert was amazing, it's my favorite part! On the road with Revel was awesome! Seeing so many familiar faces and catching a whine made it all worth wild. The drinks kept flowing, the costumes looked great and the food was endless. Having a great crew made everything worth it!! Thank you Global Carnivalist for being a invaluable resource for everything Carnival related. Love your spirit and energy!! Can't wait to catch another whine with you on the road!!

Band: Freaks mas

Miami Carnival was the best ! First time playing Mas in Miami and I played with the winning band , Freaks Mas! Loved everything about them , from distribution to the road !

Miami Carnival Committee Review

First let me say, I have been doing Miami carnival for years now and one thing I can count on is for the carnival committee to never get it right. This year, somebody "smart" thought it would be a great idea to have masqueraders to go through a fence to gain entrance to the road. That's how it is normally done, however this year they decided it would be good to have ONE man checking wristbands and barely cracking the fence open for people to get through. There are multiple problems with this: 1. PEOPLE HAVE LARGE FEATHERS! How do you expect someone with an individual type backpack to squeeze through this fence?! I'm in confusion. My frontline backpack barely got through. 2. There was no order! Instead of having a staff member have the masqueraders line up in a proper order, they just had everybody mobbing. Once you factor in disorderly and rude people, things are bound to happen. This one rude guy (I shoulda box him!) pushed through me to try to get to the front and next thing I see, he pushed through a girl so hard her backpack broke apart!!!! I felt so bad I even tried to fix it but it was no use, the cardboard was already done off. She legit started crying and said she was going home 🏠

Next, the bus situation! Now granted, this bus system was a huge step up from last year, so I will give them that. We parked at Tropical Park and were bused to the beginning of the road. However, when it came to the end of the night, it was mass confusion. We were told BY STAFF to go back to the same street the bus dropped us off. So we walking, when we get there to ask when the next bus coming, this man really fix his mouth to say they just moved the stop to the other side of the park and the last bus is at 12a. Mind you, it was already 11:40p and my feet screaming at me, so there was no way we were going to get there in time. We ended up having to take a Lyft,

which we still had to walk another 3 blocks for because police had everywhere blocked off.

Overall, I give them a C- because the intent was great but the execution was terrible. I need them to find a system that works and stick to it!

Band: Revel Nation Carnival

This year was my first time playing with Revel Nation (shout out to GlobalCarnivalist & Bahamianista for getting me out the ghetto and onto nice tings)! The experience from top to bottom was amazing!

Communication

From the launch, Revel's communication was impeccable. Any time I had a question I was able to send a quick DM and get a response back within minutes. Even when I inquired about a bigger backpack (I'm sick like that), they let me down gently lol but made up for it by giving me a bigger head piece.

Distribution

Distribution took all of 5mins, I couldn't believe how fast it went. It took me longer to give my car to valet! They have a well-organized 3 step process for verification and explanation, then you are called into the next room for pick up. The attendant went through each piece of my costume and the goody bag to make sure everything was perfect, then I was out the door. The costume was perfection, nothing broke and every gem is still in place.

Parade

The road was nothing short of amazing! I pulled up just as our truck was ready to move off and got a drink soon after. The drink menu was so cute, Revel created a cocktail based on each section. I didn't get a chance to taste all of them but the ones I did have were lit! Revel even had legitimate snacks: patty, chips, all that! This is a huge step up from the band I played with last year that tried to kill me with they pork and peanuts!

Overall, Revel Nation is it, they get an A+! I have been converted, no other band will ever see me again. We may have gotten 6th place (which I don't understand), but Revel is 1st in my book!

Band: One Island

I played with One island this year and let me tell you I had one of the best times on the road in Miami. Costume pickup for my section was a bit frustrating. My section changed their pickup times twice. I authorized someone to pickup for me and she was told she had to come the following day because my costume wasn't ready. When she did pick it up, my costume was ready and she was in and out quickly. My costume was even more beautiful in person and well-constructed. Jouvert was good but the Dj's kept playing the same songs. On the road, Sunday, I had the time of my life. The food was tasty, there was a good variety of music, and the band was just nonstop vibes! Before we crossed the stage, one island gave out glow sticks to masqueraders and we had our own glow in the dark party. I've been a one island masquerader for a few years and I'm glad to see that the band is improving in many aspects when it comes to masquerader concerns.

Band: Revel Nation Carnival

So this was my second year playing mas in Miami but first time with Revel. After reading your review with them and my friends played with them before, it was an easy decision. Especially after the band launched the costumes - OMG. I already knew what section I wanted when they first launched. My friends and I easily agreed on the same section - Fae Driel. (Aviant was my second choice)

Registration opened on my birthday and the process was very easy and straight forward. I was drunk as hell registering so yes it was that easy lol. After a couple of weeks, I decided to change my wire bra size so I DM'd them on IG to make sure it wasn't too late. They told me to email them. They responded within 4 days with my updated confirmation order with the size change! I was able to put down my deposit and by September, I paid off my costume.

Distribution schedule was announced a week and some change before arrival so my friends and I planned accordingly. We decided to go get our costumes the day we arrive to save any headaches. Got there between 7-8 pm on Wednesday night. I swear we were there for 15 mins max (including the time for valet to get our car). There wasn't much people getting their costumes at that time but we definitely beat the rush because more people came as we left. I was amazed at the organization though. Signed a document with one person then the next person gave us our wristbands along with instructions for Carnival Day and since my costume was paid in full, I was immediately sent to the other room to collect my costume. I loved how they had every section's bag color coordinated which makes total sense. The woman explained each piece and showed us everything that came in the bag, gave us our backpacks and was on our way!

Carnival Day

Putting on the costume is actually the most annoying part of carnival to me lol only because there's so many pieces and not being able to do it all by myself. I was the only

one out of my crew that ordered the wire bra and this was my first one ever. Now I'm a part of the itty titty committee so I ordered a size down from my bra size so it would look better. At first, my friend tied it way too tight but we were able to fix it. Only 2 little jewels fell off before we left the crib but they were easy fixes. Other than that, everything was great. They gave us glitter, a towel, and a cup in our goody bag. Left the towel thinking I didn't need it - dumb mistake. We arrived around 1:30 PM and the trucks were still parked so it was easy to find. By then, my friend's tiara was literally falling apart but thankfully they was a small truck for people to get their costumes fixed! They fixed her tiara within 10-15 mins. Then there was the food truck - snacks on snacks on snacks! I had a beef patty before I really started drinking and my friend grabbed lunch because she was hungry. She got the jerk chicken which looked good. Now the sun was already beaming at this point (definitely needed that towel lol) and I started feeling really miserable because my wire bra started getting really uncomfortable. I think I got a bad bra because the sequins were lined on the inside rim of the bra and it was literally scratching me all day. I have plenty of bruises from just the bra. My thong was slightly bigger than expected but no big deal. And I chose to wear boots again - it's not for me. I'm back to sneakers for the next time I play mas.

I only went to the drink truck like twice because grown ass men kept pushing to get liquor so I gave up. They had a drink menu that had drinks inspired by each section which was dope. I only tried the Fae Driel drink which was good but I only got it once because I'm not a vodka drinker. I grabbed the BBQ chicken for lunch and it was decent. Definitely a good amount of food.

The vibes were definitely there - I was just in so much pain and extremely hot that my energy was low. DJs were on point! I do feel like a lot more soca songs were completely missed though. There's certain songs I don't mind hearing on repeat and there's some that I'm completely over. It was dark by the time we hit the stage and I love that each section got their own song to cross to! Our section got "Call My Mother" and I was so hype. Still can't believe we got 6th place. I don't care what nobody says, Revel had the best costumes period lol

Overall, Revel Nation is a great band and I will definitely play with them again next year!

Band: One Island

This was my first Miami carnival and I decided to jump with oneislandband this year. The responsiveness of customer service was amazing and helped every bit of the way when registering. However, the staff at the mas camp was trash. Waiting 5 hours to pick up a costume and behind the scenes no one was doing anything. Then they had everything prepackaged and didn't want you to review it before signing for it. The costume I received was made well I didn't lose any part of it all my gems stayed. The food they provided was amazing. The drinks were made well but yet again costumer service trash only from two particular women. Everyone has

attitudes. Jouvart was amazing!! We received a big bottle of paint and powder plus the drink cups were dope because they were flip top. The Dj was great and the energy was amazing. Overall it was a good time on the road with them one you get over the costumer service. I honestly would play mas with them again. Jouvart is definitely a must

Band: Bajan Fuh Evah Mas

This is my 5th year playing mas with BFE and I can say that each year they are getting bigger and better. Their theme this year was The Hunt, and each of the 7 sections they presented on the road were so cute! I played frontline in the Praying Mantis section, and I was absolutely in love with this costume. I felt like the most beautiful gem on the road.

I didn't experience any hiccups at distribution and was very glad that there different vendors set up there as well. Everything Cropover and Carnival Stop were selling affordable stockings in lots of colors, including skin tones, as well as pasties and face gems and other things. It was like a one stop shop for all carnival accessory needs. Mr. Delicious was also offering free samples of Rum Punch and had a special on bottles of it as well. The ladies at distribution were very mannerly and thorough in the pickup process and did their best to make sure you were in and out with your package in a timely fashion, they also showed me how to put on the costume.

Onto the road experience, Jouvart morning was a blast! The DJs kept the vibes pumping from start to finish! Shoutout to Hutchy, Blank, Dooley and Warlock, they really did a phenomenal job and I'm blaming them for my lack of behavior the whole weekend! Somebody should have call my mudda for me! My only issue with the road was the drinks truck experience, it was too hard and took too long in my opinion to get a drink from the truck. Other than that, I was happy with the Bajan Fuh Evah Experience. The Boatride that night was a great vibe, again shoutout to the DJs because they had the boat rocking all night long, and they never played the same songs over and over again, they hit some of every genre for every age group, dub and all!

Carnival Sunday, the road was bess! Again my only damper would be the drinks truck service, but the vibes on the road were free and not stush in the least! From the time, we touch road, and the music truck start cranking it was good vibes all the way. The runners were very efficient the whole day and were always there with drinks, ice and snacks all throughout the jump. We pump in lil rain and all. At the end of the jump, food was served, I think there could have been more order in the way it was served, but I get my food and I was happy.

Overall, I was happy with the experience I had with them, and I can say I'll keep going back! They continue to improve themselves each year, the support staff, bandleaders and everyone right down to the masqueraders are courteous and personable and very helpful. Being on the road with them is like bringing a piece of Cropover to Miami, you leave feeling like a Bajan! I just want them ti rectify the drinks truck issue and we on de road again in 2020!!!!