

## Fest FM

### **IN THE STYLE OF A POP TOP TWENTY COUNTDOWN**

**Jez:** You're listening to Festival FM, with Jez and Mika and Culture Club. This week we're in Cheltenham Spa to discover the top 100 things to see and do in and around this historic Gloucestershire town, and we're now just about to enter the Top 20.

**Mika:** At number 20, it's the easy access to Oxford, Bristol, Stratford-upon-Avon, Birmingham, the South West and Wales...

**Jez:** At number 19, there's the world-famous cheese rolling at nearby Coopers Hill.

**Mika:** At 18, the famous Cheltenham Ladies College...

**Jez:** And at 17, the stunning Sandford Parks Lido, fun for all.

**Mika:** At 16, we have loads of blooming gardens. Described as the garden town of England, Cheltenham's a regular winner of 'Britain in Bloom'.

**Jez:** Here's one for Mika. Retail therapy is at 15, with one of the UK's finest collection of shopping emporiums in the Promenade, while the Montpellier quarter offers couture design, jewellery and antiques.

**Mika:** At 14 it's eating out – or in Jez's case, pigging out – with brasseries, wine-bars and pavement cafés, and a cosmopolitan choice of restaurants.

### **F/X belch**

**Jez:** And at 13 for all you 'luvvies' out there, it's drama, with the Playhouse, Everyman and Pittville Pump Room theatres.

**Mika:** Sticking with drama at number 12, Cheltenham's architecture can be spotted in films such as Harry Potter, The Libertine and The Remains of the Day, and TV series including Pride and Prejudice and Emma.

**Jez:** For those who prefer their drama on the pitch, at 11 there's professional rugby in Gloucester and football with Cheltenham Town FC – otherwise known as the Robins.

**Mika:** Keeping with sport, at number 10, you'll find them all nearby, from kayaking and dry slope skiing, to horse-riding, golf and croquet...

**Jez:** At number 9, The Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway will take you steaming through some of the most breathtaking views in the Cotswolds.

**Mika:** The 'Romantic Road' does the same – by car – at 8. Sounds lovely.

**Jez:** At number 7, there's the Cotswolds themselves, not to mention the nearby Forest of Dean and Malvern Hills.

**Mika:** Cheltenham's nightlife comes in at 6, with dozens of bars and clubs making for a lively scene.

**Jez:** Entering the top 5, there's the Cheltonian architecture, which with the tree-lined avenues and parks, gives Cheltenham the reputation as the most complete Regency town in England. Very posh.

**Mika:** At number 4 are the Spa facilities... visited by King George III, Charles Dickens and Jane Austen among others, you can still enjoy them today.

**Jez:** For the top 3, we start our festival countdown. Did you know, one in every four days is a festival day, with everything from cricket and food and drink to science and screenwriting... but at number 3, we have the Literature Festival in October. Book in.

**Mika:** At number 2 it's music time, with all tastes catered for with festivals covering everything from folk to jazz, classical to rock, dance to pop.

**Jez:** And at number 1 there's the biggest one of all... the Cheltenham horse-racing festival every March at the magnificent Prestbury Park. Place those bets! So that's the top 20 of Cheltenham's cultural things to see and do, I hope we've given all our listeners out there something to whet their taste buds, whatever their interests may be. See you next week, when we'll be in Cornwall and Yorkshire, where GCHQ also has key locations. In the meantime, let's leave you with some new sounds, and one of my favourites right now...

*Outro music loop*