



# Zucchero

## Sugar Fornaciari



### SHORT BIO

Adelmo Fornaciari was born in Roncesesi on 25th September 1955. He later moved to Forte dei Marmi in Tuscany where, between 1970 & 1978 he formed his first R&B bands: 'Le Nuove Luci', 'Sugar & Daniel' and 'Sugar & Candies'. By this time he was already known as Zucchero, a nickname given to him by one of his school teachers.

In 1981 he won the top prize at the Castrocaro Festival for 'Canto Te'. In 1983 he recorded his first studio album entitled 'Un Po di Zucchero'. He travelled to San Francisco to visit Corrado Rustici who introduced him to Randy Jackson. He returned to Italy in 1985 with a new band featuring Randy Jackson on bass, Corrado Rustici on guitar, Walter Afanatieff on keyboards and Giorjo Francis Perry on drums. He competed at the San Remo Festival with the song 'Donne' followed by the release of 'Zucchero & The Randy Jackson Band'. The album which followed, 'Rispetto' topped the charts upon release. Zucchero triumphantly competed at the Festival again the following year with 'Canzone Triste'.

In 1987 Zucchero recorded 'Blue's' with Corrado Rustici and David Sancious who teamed up for the sessions with Clarence Clemmons and the Memphis Horns. The result was over 1.3 million copies sold in Italy the highest commercial breakthrough ever reached by a rock music album in Italy. Zucchero followed the release by touring with Joe Cocker & Miles Davis.

In 1988 he wrote a musical score for the movie 'Snack Bar Budapest', directed by Tinto Brass. During the same year Zucchero recorded a new version of 'Dune Mosse' with Miles Davis.

In 1989 Zucchero's fifth studio album, 'Oro Incenso e Birra' was released. This featured the musicians who had collaborated on 'Blue's' together with Eric Clapton, whose guitar solo on 'Wonderful World' makes this song so unique. This album sold over 1.7 million copies in Italy alone breaking the record set by 'Blue's'.

1990 saw 'Oro Incenso e Birra' released in England and to promote it Zucchero went on a double-bill European tour with Eric Clapton. He became the first rock artist to perform at the Kremlin in Moscow. During the set which was broadcast all over Europe he duetted with Randy Crawford on 'Imagine' and with Toni Childs on 'Many Rivers to Cross'.

In 1991 Zucchero recorded 'Senza Una Donna' (Without a Woman) with Paul Young. This single topped the charts in almost all European countries and the United States. The next single, 'Diamante' also topped all the European charts. Zucchero wrote the lyrics & sang on the Italian version of 'Mad About You', (Muio per te) featured on Sting's 'The Soul Cages' album. This same year, Brian May invited Zucchero to join him and the other members of Queen to perform at Wembley Stadium in London at the 'Freddie Mercury Tribute' where he performed 'Las Palabras de Amor'.

'Miserere' the sixth studio album was released internationally on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 1992 in both English and Italian. The title track is a duet with the Maestro, Luciano Pavarotti. For the English version of the album the lyrics were adapted by Bono of U2.

Also in 1992 Zucchero & Luciano Pavarotti together devised the concept of the Pavarotti & Friends charity gala. The first one, broadcast live around the world was the first in a series of benefit concerts which are now held annually.

On the 25th of January 1993 'Miserere' went multiple platinum and Zucchero was awarded the prize for the 'Year's Most Successful Italian Singer' at the World Music Awards.

In 1994 Zucchero released 'Diamante' a South American version of his greatest hits with translations by Fito Paez. In the Summer he was the only European artist to appear at the second Woodstock festival & feature in the movie of the event 'My Generation'.

'Spirito Di Vino' was released worldwide on 27th May 1995. The album concept came about by Zucchero's desire to immerse himself in the musical scene of New Orleans, where the album was recorded. It succeeds in capturing the sounds and atmosphere of the Mississippi Delta.

In the middle of his 1996 European tour, he stops off in Monte Carlo to collect the prize for 'World's Best Selling Italian Artist of the Year 1995' at the World Music Awards. In July of the same year 'Spirito di Vino' was awarded the IFPI's Million Seller award and later that month he performed at the Montreux Jazz Festival, where he played with Little Richard. He performed also with Buddy Guy at the benefit concert for Liberia which was held in Milan at the San Siro Stadium.

The 'Best of Zucchero' greatest hits album was released worldwide in November 1996. Upon release the album took the top spot in Europe with hits like 'Il Volo/My Love', 'Menta e Rosmarino / I Wont Be Lonely Tonight' as well as some old favourites like 'Diamante', 'Senza Una Donna' and 'Diavolo in Me'. The 'Best of...' album has sold close to 3 million copies to date.

The touring in 1997 kicked off in New York at the Carnegie Hall where he performed at the Rainforest Benefit, participating with such artistes as Sting, Elton John and Stevie Wonder amongst others. 'Best of...' was re-released at Christmas and included the single 'Va Pensiero' a famous classical chorus from Giuseppe Verdi's 'Nabucco'. The original lyrics have been modified by Zucchero who turned the song into a lullaby; the aim was to raise children's awareness of the problem of deforestation in the Amazon.

The 1998 'Annual Grammy Awards' in New York feature Zucchero singing Va Pensiero by invitation from Pavarotti. Later this year he was invited by Roman Polanski and Gerard Depardieu to perform at the 'Cinemus International Festival' in Gstaad with Vangelis and his orchestra. 'Bluesugar' was released in Italian and English versions on October 30th, the title track 'Blue' with lyrics by U2's Bono.

In February 1999 the Bluesugar World Tour started in Italy and during the course of this year Zucchero appeared at the Pavarotti Charity Gala in Modena playing with B.B.King, at the IMST Festival in Austria where he was special guest to The Rolling Stones playing in front of 200,000 people and in Munich he appeared with Michael Jackson at the Red Cross charity concert. Later, Zucchero was invited by Bono of U2 to play at the New York Net Aid charity which was broadcast worldwide. November saw the release of Tom Jones 'Reload' album featuring Zucchero duetting on 'She Drives Me Crazy'.

The year 2000 saw Zucchero once again at the Pavarotti International Charity Gala and as part of the Millennium celebrations he made a special guest appearance with the Scorpions and the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra in Hannover. In Paris, he joined among others, fellow musicians Johnny Hallyday, Peter Gabriel and YoussouN'Dour to take part in a cd project called 'Solidays L'Album', to raise money for AIDS victims in Africa.

2001 started in the Napa Valley, California where Zucchero and Corrado Rustici with DJ John O'Brien were working on the backing tracks of the new album. Soon after they were at the Plant Studios in Sausalito recording with Polo Jones on Bass & Zach Alford on drums and where one of the highlights was an appearance by the legendary bluesman John Lee Hooker, this sadly being one of the last sessions he was to perform on. From California Zucchero returned to Italy to complete recording at Umbi Studios in Rovigo and from there to Peter Gabriel's Real World studios in England to mix the album with U2 mix engineer Richard Rainey and finally to master at Metropolis studios in London.

'Baila (sexy thing)' the first single from the new album went #1 in Italy upon release (July 2001). Topped #1 in Switzerland (GOLD) and in Spain (for the first time ever!). The new album 'Shake' recorded in the US Sausalito, UK Real World studios and completed in Italy, was released in September in Europe and has now been awarded IFPI PLATINUM for sales exceeding 1 million copies in Europe only. The album includes an incredible duet with John Lee Hooker to whom the record was dedicated. A long SOLD OUT SHAKE TOUR followed.

In November 2003 Zucchero was invited by Brian May and Dave Stewart to take part in the mega-concert "46664 give 1 minute of your life to AIDS" an event organised by Dave Stewart and Queen to support Nelson Mandela's campaign. Zucchero sang "Everybody's got to learn sometime" accompanied by Brian May, Roger Taylor, Sharon Corr and then, he took part in Queen's marvellous medley "I want it all" and "We are the Champions" with Anastasia. And finally, he was one of the artists involved in the grand finale when they sang "46664 (long walk of freedom)"

Zucchero was also the only 46664 Ambassador to appear at the "Festival 46664 Comunidad de Madrid" event which took place in the Spanish capital. He also performed at the "46664 Arctic" concert which took place in Tromsø, Norway in June 2004.

Zucchero's 2004 international hit album "Zu & Co." featured duets with many music greats, including [Miles Davis](#), [Paul Young](#), [Ronan Keating](#), [Sheryl Crow](#), [The Cranberries's Dolores O'Riordan](#), [B.B. King](#), [John Lee Hooker](#), [Maná](#), [Brian May](#), and [Solomon Burke](#). The international launch of the album took place at London's Royal Albert Hall with a special concert featuring Brian May, Mousse T., Jenny Bae, Tina Arena, Fher from Mana, Paul Young, Dolores O'Riordan, Solomon Burke, Cheb Mami, Ronan Keating, Luciano Pavarotti, Eric Clapton, and Irene Fornaciari. The album has sold millions of copies throughout Europe and the rest of the world and entered the Billboard charts after its release in the U.S. in the summer of 2005.

In July [2005](#), Zucchero took part in the [Live 8](#) concerts in both [Rome](#) and [Paris](#).

In September [2006](#) his latest album, entitled "Fly", was released. Produced by [Don Was](#), it includes the singles "Bacco perbacco", "Cuba Libre" and "Occhi" and features collaborations with artists such as [Ivano Fossati](#) and [Jovanotti](#). The album's track "L'amore è nell'aria" ("The Love Is In The Air"), borrows the instrumental backing to the b-side "Broken" by UK rock band [Feeder](#), but it is a new recording based on the Feeder original rather than a sample taken directly from the recording. The album immediately entered all European charts debuting at No. 1 in many countries.

Sam Moore's record "Overnight Sensational" is released, on which Zucchero duets "You Are So Beautiful" with the legendary soul man, accompanied by Billy Preston (Hammond organ), Eric Clapton (guitar) and Robert Randolph (pedal steel) The version of "You Are So Beautiful" included on Sam Moore's new record is nominated for the 49th Grammy Awards in the "Traditional R & B Vocal" category.

The beginning of [2007](#) saw Zucchero promoting "Fly", throughout Europe guesting on major television and radio shows. This will be followed by a Worldwide tour which opens in Paris and runs until the end of the year.

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