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Featured Artist: Bryan Lubeck

CD Title: Acoustic Vineyard

Year: 2004

Record Label: Independent

Style: Latin Jazz / Latin Funk

Musicians: Bryan Lubeck, Dave Maki, Nate Lacny, Ed Sjkorkal, Chuck Hartzel, Tim King.

Review: Bryan Lubeck is well known throughout the Chicago jazz scene as one of the sharpest flamenco guitarists around, and his schedule reflects the fact. On his latest full length album entitled "Acoustic Vineyard", Lubeck explores a more sensual and lighthearted smooth jazz style with these new compositions, all of this heavily smoked with his celebrated Latin flavor. Complete will full Latin orchestral arrangements, Lubeck's nylon and steel-stringed fretwork is spotlighted by the album's fantastic production work.

Acoustic Vineyard begins with the percussion heavy groove of "Harlequin" that features not only Lubeck's strings, but also Tim King's smooth Sax work. The playful melody of "Take Me" gives way to more subtly seductive grooves such as "My Desire", "Port Aventura", and "Flamenco Island" (the latter written by Dave Maki). On "A New Romance", Lubeck's guitar bounces joyously along the rocking Latin rhythms; then in a turn of momentum, the artist's buzzing steel strings share the balled of "Rhett Relents". "You've Got This Way" is another melodic story released through a catchy folk'ish arrangement. The final cut is "A Mother's Smile", in which Lubeck's strings pop along the top of Maki's synthetic strings and electric piano.

The album is an extraordinary example of Bryan Lubeck's skill and technique as a guitarist and composer, as well as his talent as a producer; Dave Maki can also be proud of the work featured here.

Tracks: Harlequin, Take Me, My Desire, Port Aventura, Flamenco Island, A New Romance, Rhett Relents, You've Got This Way, A Mother's Smile.

Artist's Website: <http://www.bryanlubeck.com>

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