

Coco Montoya



Festival appearances include:

Santa Cruz Blues Festival (CA); Harvest Time Blues Festival (Ireland); Blues in Hell (Norway); Great British Rhythm and Blues Festival (UK); Gaildorfer Blues Festival (Germany); Göteborg Blues Party (Sweden); Rio Das Ostras Festival (Brazil), Great Atlantic Blues and Beyond Festival (Canada); Festiblues International de Montreal (Canada); St Croix Blues Festival (Virgin Islands); Lucerne Blues Festival (Switzerland); Copenhagen Blues Festival (Denmark); Auditorio de Vila Nova de Gaia (Portugal); Getxo Blues Festival (Spain); The Great Southern Blues & Rockabilly Festival (Australia); Lakeside Blues Festival (Finland); Bumbershoot (Seattle, WA); Monterey Bay Blues Festival (CA); Natu Blues Festival (Brazil); Street Scene (San Diego, CA) and many more.

I Want It All Back

RUF RECORDS ::: MARCH 23, 2010

I Want It All Back, Coco's 7th solo album, was released March 23rd, 2010. The disc was produced by **Keb' Mo'** and **Jeff Paris**, who also play on the entire album: Keb' on rhythm guitar and Jeff on keyboards.

*Best New Blues Artist Winner at the **Blues Music Awards** (1996).

Mentored by legendary bluesman **Albert Collins**, Coco went on to become the guitarist for **John Mayall and the Bluesbreakers** for ten years before leading his own band. A self taught guitar slinger who plays with an emotional intensity few string benders possess, he plays left-handed and up side down in the style of **Albert King** and **Jimi Hendrix**.

"In a world of blues guitar pretenders, Coco Montoya is the real McCoy. Be prepared to get scorched."

Billboard

"The fiery blues that issue forth from Coco Montoya's guitar are awe-inspiring and boogie requiring."

The Village Voice

"Blistering contemporary blues... piercing attack, funky, shivery guitar tones and aggressive, soulful vocals."

Blues Revue

"He is one of the truly gifted blues artists of his generation."

Living Blues

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i want it all back

RUF RECORDS

Long ago, **Albert Collins** took a young **Coco Montoya** aside and told him, "Son, just play what's in your heart." That has been Coco's mantra as he's toured the world cultivating fans with his intense music and warm personality.

The advice for Coco's Ruf Records debut is, "Son, just sing what's in your heart." From the opening riffs, Coco Montoya has shed the familiar and is ready to challenge himself and his audience. His first words unveil a voice that possesses as much soul as his guitar. That leap of faith, to trust in his voice, came at suggestion of Coco's friend and three time Grammy winning artist **Keb' Mo'**.



Working together, Keb' encouraged Coco's intimate vocal delivery to articulate the story. The world knows Coco as the blazing guitarist who nightly transforms genuine human emotions into eloquent notes that connect with the hearts of his audience. By developing Coco's vocal vulnerability backed by his aching guitar for the emotional reference, these songs connect faster than any records Coco has previously recorded.

"People know where I'm at with the guitar, but here the vocals are being concentrated on," said Coco. "I think it's healthy to take chances. It's being able to humble myself and take direction and guidance. As co-producers, Keb' and **Jeff Paris** have been working extensively with my vocals. I'm very proud of the performance they're getting outta me. At first it was real difficult and even a little frustrating, but they were very patient. Now, I'm startin' to hear it and I'm looking at my instrument in a different way."

Keb's job in the studio as co-producer was to sharpen Coco's singing while keeping his human compassion and gracious touch. "I want to make a record where the audience can get to know Coco as more than just a guitar player," said Keb'. "I think he has a great voice, but in the past, he's used his voice as a way to get to his guitar playing. Here, the vocals have to be taken seriously for what they are, the most important part of the record."

Though Montoya's one of the best finding emotion on the fretboard, he also possesses a soulful and expressive voice. At times, the quivering vibrato he wraps around words breathes a heartfelt vulnerability into a song's fragile pleas; other times his voice will steam roll like a heavyweight's knock-out punch.

From that starting point, Coco and Keb' began to search out songs to best fit Coco's voice and spirit, songs that spotlight Montoya's distinctive, aching tenor. They started with tunes wrapped in nostalgia of 45 records. **Mary Wells'** "The One That Really Loves You," **The Penguins'** "Hey Senorita," and Coco's most daring song, **the Marvelettes'** stylish sixties soul tune "Forever." They called in **Rod and Honey Piazza** to deliver the blues Coco loves on **Buster Brown's** "Fannie Mae."

But at the same time, Coco lives in the musical verses of today's fresh experiences. And as an artist, he always searches for new ways to express his own personal growth in a way to reach people's hearts.

The opening song "I Want It All Back," by Coco's friend and writing partner **David Steen**, is a joyous showcase of this fresh outlook. Add two songs, "Cry Lonely" and "As Close As I Have Come," by Nashville's **Gary Nicholson**, another songster Coco has found an affinity with, two from Jeff Paris, and a modern take on **Jackson Browne's** bouncy "Somebody's Baby" and you'll hear Coco's pure voice and torrid guitar as never before.

"This is an exciting journey," said Coco. "To my fans who love my guitar, I say come to me with open ears. The guitar is still there, but it's not the only voice I have. Listen to me as an artist who is growing and grow with me."

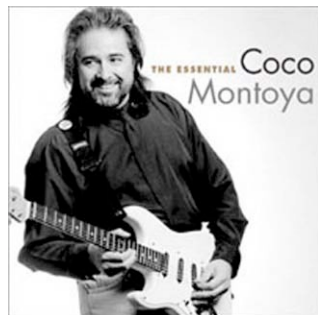
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discography



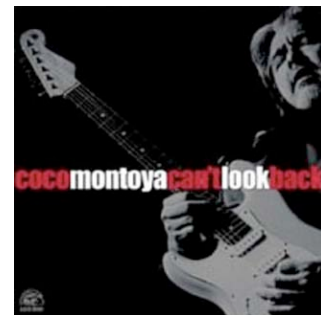
I Want It All Back
2010



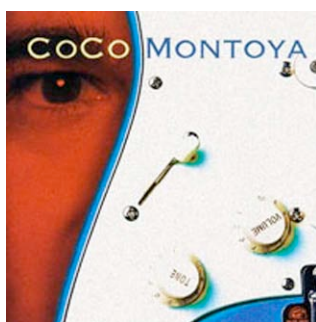
The Essential Coco Montoya
2009



Dirty Deal
2007



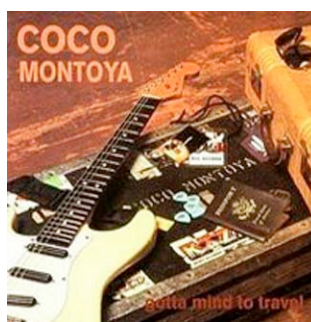
Can't Look Back
2002



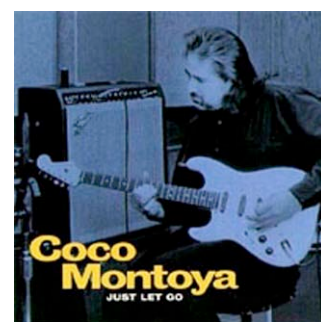
Suspicion
2000



Ya Think I'd Know Better
1996



Gotta Mind To Travel
1995



Just Let Go
1997

press

"With all the hallmarks of the classic rocky road to success as a blues musician, Coco Montoya's story is filled with its share of peaks and valleys. But no matter how you shake it, there always seemed to be a certain feeling of destiny attached to Montoya's rise to renown, as if he were placed on this earth to play the blues guitar whether he liked it or not. And so he does, bending those strings as though each bone-melting note could be his last."

Boulder Weekly, December 2009

"Few blues guitarists performing today can top the intensity of former John Mayall sideman Coco Montoya's torrid, Albert Collins-inspired attack. Shards of shivering, feedback-enhanced blue notes fly off the Southern California picker's ax and cut deep into the rhythm section's grooves on his sixth album."

San Francisco Chronicle, Review of Dirty Deal

"Coco Montoya doesn't exactly do things by the book. A southpaw who plays a right-handed Fender Stratocaster...the drummer-turned-guitarist has always preferred to feel his way through. And he does do with gusto on Dirty Deal, a feral, no-holds-barred blues-rock excursion...On the disc, Montoya...displays an aggressive attack and a soaring one, especially during his solos."

Guitar One, Review of Dirty Deal

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