



BEAR FAMILY RECORDS

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ARTIST Rosemary Clooney & Perez Prado
TITLE A Touch Of Tabasco, plus
The Velvet Lounge

LABEL Bear Family Records
CATALOG # BCD 17144
PRICE-CODE AH
EAN-CODE



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ISBN-CODE 978-3-89916-603-3
FORMAT 1 CD digipac with 28-page booklet
GENRE Pop Culture / Lounge
TRACKS 17
PLAYING TIME 51:25



INFORMATION

'Opposites attract' may be a familiar, worn-out saying but it's often true, even in artistic and professional circumstances. It applies to certain unlikely collaborations in popular music precisely because the participants' differences lead to striking combined results. It's especially true in the case of Rosemary Clooney and Perez Prado.

During three Hollywood sessions in July and August 1959, two different musical worlds collided. Over here was the current star Rosemary Clooney, from Kentucky, a woman who shaped the popular music of the 1950s with hits like *Come On-a My House*, *Hey There*, *This Ole House* and others. Over there was the mambo king from Cuba, Perez Prado, older by twelve years, whose super hits *Cherry Pink And Apple Blossom White* and *Patricia* had become evergreens in music history.

Their collaboration resulted in 'A Touch Of Tabasco,' an album merging Latin standards and all-American songs. At the start, the language issues between the two stars and their musicians did not help the project move ahead smoothly but Clooney's husband, Jose 'Joe' Ferrer, from Puerto Rico, helped break down the barriers. He taught his wife the required Spanish articulation enabling her to sing Latin classics like *Corazon De Melon*, *Adios* and *Cu-Cu-Rru-Cu-Cu Paloma*.

The two singers were accompanied in the studio by first-rate musicians, some who had already made their name on records or in various bands and others who were just emerging. The list includes ace cats like horn players Ollie Mitchell and Paul J. Horn, and drummers Leo Acosta and Earl Cyril Palmer. They made sure that the Clooney/Prado versions of legendary tunes like *Mack The Knife* (from Berthold Brecht's 'The Threepenny Opera'), *In A Little Spanish Town*, Cole Porter's *You Do Something To Me*, and *Bali Ha'i* (from the top musical 'South Pacific') received a personal, original treatment.

Here we have fifty minutes of enthusiastic yet mellow, positively good-spirited music. There is an infectious playfulness between the two leading characters that comes across strongly in this one-of-a-kind project.

We have included three extra tracks to enhance the original 'A Touch Of Tabasco': *Summertime Love*, *Amor*, and *Sania* (without Rosemary Clooney), recorded at the same studio in February 1960. Even so, this album is over far too quickly. That just underlines how inspiring and exceptional this musical partnership was!



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TRACK LISTING

Mack The Knife • Corazon De Melon • Like A Woman • Sway • Magic Is The Moonlight • You Do Something To Me • Adios • In A Little Spanish Town • I Only Have Eyes For You • I Got Plenty O' Nuttin' • Bali Ha'i • Cu-Cu-Rru-Cu-Cu Paloma • Summertime Love • Amor • Sania • Bonus: Amor (Session) • Summertime Love (Session)

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