

BUFFET HOTEL

African Nomads from the south of the Sahara, have a longstanding tradition of coming together for annual meetings in the Timbuktu region. These meetings allowed them to reconnect with each other, have fun, resolve conflicts between individuals or groups and to exchange ideas about the challenges that they were facing at the moment. These encounters are what "Le Festival au Désert" is built upon. (Please see Meeting Of The Minds in this issue for an amazing similarity.)

The organization of the Festival, with its focus on combining modernity and tradition, is driven by a strong desire to open its doors to the outside world, while still preserving the cultures and traditions of the desert; for some this signifies being listened to and then recognized, for others it is a way to discover the desert through the inhabitants' values of hospitality and tolerance.

Jimmy accompanied a group of fellow music lovers, self-adorned-the Buktu Brothers, on a journey to the heart of West African music-Mali. "It was on this trip to the ancient city of Timbuktu, where I realized there just might be some kind of melodic piece of monofilament, that was reeling me towards the desert like a fish on a long line. It was an oasis on the banks of the Niger river, not on an island or a boat, where this group of songs started spinning around in my brain just like those storms in the desert."

It was in Bamako that Jimmy discovered Buffet Hotel, an old colonial era train station/hotel, which was where the music scene flourished in Mali in the 60's. The Super Rail Band, or the Super Rail Band of the Buffet Hotel de la Gare, Bamako, to give them their full name, might be Mali's best-kept secret. Loved by world music cognoscenti, they've never found a general audience, due in large part to having only a few, poorly-distributed records. But as well as being an incubator for some of the country's great singing talent, they've also become an institution and a legend. Jimmy told Rolling Stone Magazine, "It was one of the best musical experiences of my life." The African-influenced title track to the CD was written and recorded in Bamako, Mali.

> He also worked on the album's 12 songs in London, Nashville, Chicago, Long Island and Muscle Shoals, Ala., with songwriting contributions by Will Kimbrough, Roger Guth, Jesse Winchester and others, as well as a cover of Bruce Cockburn's "Life's Short." Buffett and company previewed several of the songs during his 2009 concerts, notably "Summerzcool" and "Surfing in a Hurricane," the first surf rock song he's ever written.

Guest artists on the album include Sonny Landreth, Jake Shimabukuro, Cedric Burnside, Steve "Lightnin" Malcolm and Toumani Diabate, and was

> produced by long-time Coral Reefers Mike Utley and Mac McAnally

We highly discourage trying to reach the Festival Au Desert on your own, as it can be difficult and potentially hazardous traveling alone without an expert guide or driver. Let Jimmy show you the way.

"I realized that I was not only at a unique musical gathering; I was also on a treasure hunt, which was right down the alley of this son of a sailor. Along the way from the Malian desert to the Crooked Island Passage and beyond, I have gathered some interesting artifacts and it is now time to share them with the crew. Welcome to my treasure chest. Here is a list of what's inside."

> buffethotel.margaritaville.com PHOTO: Pamela Jones Photography

Buffet Hotel Song Commentaries

Nobody From Nowhere

I had asked Will Kimbrough to send me some things he was working on. I asked him where the song idea came from. His inspiration was far from my interpretation, which is a wonderful thing about a good song. It can inspire many different thoughts in many different people.

Wings

Let's face it, I like my wings – the ones you can see on my plane and the ones you can't see in my brain. The flights to, from and around Africa were as much a part of the adventure as my time in the dessert.

Big Top

I have always thought of our touring entourage as being as close to the circus as one can get without having to buy and feed lions and elephants, though I have heard about sightings of a few wild animals out on the lawn on occasion. If we are indeed a circus then we need a big top, so here's yours Parrot Heads.

Beautiful Swimmers

It might strike some folks odd that one could write a song that is based on blue crabs and Marilyn Monroe naked in a pool. Actually, they are two of my favorite inspirations.

Turn Up The Heat & Chill The Rosé

For travelers who profess to be writers, we all know that listening and remembering are necessary attributes, but follow-through is the key.

Summerzcool

Labor Day has once again done its guillotine-like job of ending summer with a sudden thud. The tourists are gone, school is back in session and the big top has folded its tent.

Rhumba Man / Life Short Call Now

When it comes to songs and songwriters, it seems the region from which my melodic meteors arrive is just across the border in Canada, where when album creation times comes due, the words and melodies of Jesse Winchester and Bruce Cockburn come flashing my way.

We Learned To Be Cool From You

To my fellow travelers and some others you will probably figure out, here are a few people I have hopefully learned to be cool from.

Surfing In A Hurricane

Living on the Alabama shore in my early performing years, California, the Mecca of songwriters and surf culture, was the place I really wanted to be.

Buffet Hotel

I actually didn't go to the dessert with the preconceived notion of returning with an album. I went looking for stories. And stories are still the things good songs are made of.

A Lot To Drink About

My favorite old hipster beatnik poet, Lord Richard Buckley must have seen this coming. He masterfully wrapped the way to deal with the thought of Armageddon around these two sentences: "Terror is the absence of humor" and, "Humor is the absence of terror."

Complete list of song lyrics and commentaries are included with CD.



"I'Rish you were Beautiful" Collectible 2010 design in Kelly Green. S #43745, M #43746, L #43747, XL #43748 \$24.95 XXL #43749 \$25.95 3XL #43750 \$26.95

B ST PATRICK'S DAY GO CUP Plastic cup will help you celebrate anywhere! Front and back print. Back reads: Weather is here, Irish you were beautiful, St Patricks Day 2010. #19661 \$1.95 (each)

C MARGARITAVILLE GET LUCKY T' St Patrick's Day T' for the ladies. Distressed print, Heather Green. S #44003. M #44004. L #44005. XL #44006 \$22.95 XXL #44007 \$23.95

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© Don't Know the Reason T' I stayed here all season.... Wasabi Green. S #44199, M #44200, L #44201, XL #44202 \$21.95 XXL #44203 \$22.95

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- Boat Drinks Crossing Sign "I Gotta Go Where It's Warm" Distressed print metal sign measures 12" x 12". #42147 \$16.95
- F Old Towne Key West Visor Embroidery on front and bill. Embroidered patch on side. Khaki. #42449 \$15.00
- G Boat Drinks Cap 100% cotton cap in faded Brick Red. Frayed front patch. Slide buckle closure, buckle embossed with "Jimmy Buffett" #42966 \$18.95
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A Tie Dye Ladies T'

"Live, Laugh, Margaritas" Glitter print, 100% cotton, contour junior cut. Basil Green. S #44078, M #44079, L #44080, XL #44081 \$24.95

B Paradise Living Ladies T' "Key West, The Original Margaritaville. Party All Nite" Distressed print, 100% cotton, relaxed classic fit S #44155, M #44156, L #44157, XL #44158 \$25.95

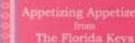
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E License To Chill Travel Mug 16 oz. Stainless Acrylic Travel Mug with License To Chill design. Lime Green. #15736 \$15.00

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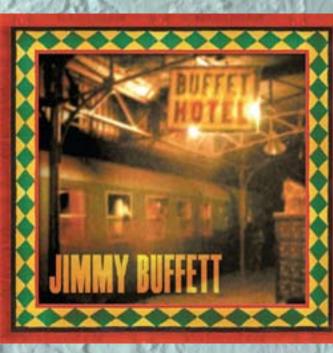


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(B) Margaritaville "Surfing" Sign. Wood sign measures 23" x 39". Mostly indoor use, can go outside if protected from rain and direct sunlight (it is UV protected) Hardware for hanging is included. One part is screwed to the wall and the other is already attached to the sign. All you have to do is put the interlocking piece on the wall and slide the sign on. This is a custom item, drop shipped directly from the manufacturer. Normal shipping is 2-3 weeks. Federal EXPRESS delivery not available. A \$25.00 shipping charge will be applied to ship this oversized item separately. Delivery to physical address within the continental U.S. only. #43790 \$175.00 (hlus \$25.00 shipping)

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Party With A Purpose Indeed Meeting Of The Minds 2009

Thirty-five years ago a young singer-songwriter with a dull guitar and a sharp wit arrived at the end of the road in Key West. Hemingway had gone hunting, Tennessee Williams traded paper for canvas and pre-iconic boat captains and treasure hunters still had day jobs. Key West in the early 70's was much different than today. Smugglers, servicemen, and shrimpers populated the island that had a reputation for harboring those seeking a lifestyle somewhat to the left of norm. Boarded store fronts dotted Duval St., and any dilapidated building that housed a business invariably served alcohol; over or under the counter. The proverbial end of the rainbow carried pot, but no gold. This was the cultural "melting pot" that was to inspire Jimmy Buffett to write "The Wino and I Granted, our curvaceous Key can be a little coy, sprucing up at the appropriate time, a little cleaning and landscaping to lure the tourists like a languid lady in waiting, the mythical mistress with a heart of gold welcoming with open...ahem, arms, those who use and abuse.

But each fall, after a steamy September, when the seas subside and the sun sets a little slower, fresh faced fans of a local legend descend upon our fair island. They call themselves Parrot Heads, and they are smitten with our city. They're here to court her and build on an 18-year relationship, to wine and dine her and treat her like a lady.

Their Meeting Of The Minds attracts over 3000 annually. They hold auctions for charities, offer fundraising seminars during the day, and enjoy top-notch entertainment such as Jerry Jeff Walker and Little Feat at night. Hotels and guesthouses, bars and



Know", "My Head Hurts, My Feet Stink, and I Don't Love Jesus", "Tin Cup Chalice", and "I Have Found Me A Home" among others Jimmy lyrically documented the lives of his friends and

followed fame up A1A fostering a fanatical fan base while offering them a lifestyle to pursue. These same fans come to Key West on an annual Margaritaville Mecca, to meet with likeminded friends, mellow in the fading tropical glow that we take for granted, and leave in their wake thousands of dollars in charitable donations, restaurant and ATM receipts, and a bloated bloodmobile.

There are many groups that vacation in Key West, from by the hour cruise ship passenger to the rainbow jacketed powerboat racers to our regular rainbow visitors. They soak up our water, weather and accepting ways, leave the money on the table and return to their northern existence. restaurants, grocers and gas stations all benefit from the yearly Buffett bump.

So I thank you Parrot Heads, as do all Margaritians, for your lanyard leis and your generous ways. And while I'm at it, the Wesley House appreciates the \$7500 donation, and I'm sure that the Police Athletic League is thankful to receive \$7500 as well. Womankind, Heron House, the Florida Keys Children Shelter, Boys & Girls club, and The Florida Keys SPCA gratefully share the \$10,000 raised. And thanks to Parrot Heads who joined locals in the early Saturday morning 5K Walk to benefit the Zonta Club of Key West. Party with a purpose indeed. See you Gypsies In The Palace next year.



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