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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Rock Lives: Beyond Springsteen and Bon Jovi

ALBUM REVIEWS

From
Asbury Park

DeSol

"DeSol" (Curb Records)

Asbury Park, where Bruce Springsteen got his start, has one of the strongest pop identities of any city in New Jersey. That's a burden for any new band from the area to overcome, but for DeSol, a new Latin group that has been making a splash not only down the Shore but across the country, it's just one aspect of a diverse and intriguing heritage: the six-piece band has members of Cuban, Puerto Rican, Mexican, Peruvian and Portuguese descent.

On its debut album, the group sings in English, Spanish and "Spanglish": from its first notes, the band makes it clear that it seeks to provide the soundtrack to a Latin-themed world party where any language will suffice as long as it leads to some dirty dancing.

Playing a mix of salsa, funk and rock riffs, the band has the formation of Santana's classic Latin rock band, with guitars, keyboards, a drum set and some congas and other percussion. Albie Monterrosa, the singer, is conscious of Mr. Santana's influence, and in "Spanish Radio" pinpoints his appeal. "Everybody loves a man/They can relate to," he sings, and proudly sees his band as part of the march of Latin music into the mainstream: "Little by little the Spanish garden grows."

Ben Sisario
