

Spotlight shining on deSol

METRO INTERVIEW

Jersey Shore-based rockers deSol take good, old American rock 'n' roll and infuse it with Latin rhythms, not unlike early Carlos Santana. The band's seven members trace their roots to Cuba, El Salvador, Mexico, Peru, Portugal and Puerto Rico, and that melange of musical influences is evident on its self-titled debut album, which came out Tuesday on Curb Records. Lead singer and primary songwriter Albie Monterrosa spoke with Metro the morning after the CD release show at the Mercury Lounge in New York.

▶ How was the CD release show last night?

▶▶ We worked a couple years trying to put out a major release, which a lot of bands work so hard for. A lot of people came out to support us ... a lot of the people who saw us start from scratch. We had this big idea, I would say, to stir the pot here in Jersey, because a lot of stuff is still the same, redundant in a way.

▶ What sets you apart from those other bands?

▶▶ Representing our roots. It's really the core of it, the Afro-Cuban, the Spanish stuff, which is the most



Name: Albie Monterrosa
Age: 28
Gig: lead singer, deSol
Favorite Philly hang: "There are a lot of little pubs that we go to."

DE SOL COMBINES American rock 'n' roll with Latin rhythms. The band released its self-titled debut CD on Tuesday.

important for me, being a first-generation Latino-American. We mix both cultures, Latino culture and American culture, which is what I experienced growing up in Queens, and is what I'm experiencing now.

▶ What do you think of comparisons to Carlos Santana?

▶▶ I love it. He was one of the guys that did it first, made it popular to the American audience, and continues to have great success. We're actually going off to see him in Los Angeles. There's a party for him, so we're going to go chill and watch the show and hopefully get to talk to the guy. One of my dreams, and

of a lot of the guys in the group, is to play with him, do a track with him. We're just starting out, just beginning, and hopefully we get to play with a lot of our idols.

▶ Do you get pretty diverse crowds?

▶▶ There's always all walks of life (at our shows), different shades of people, different beliefs, creeds, philosophies, and nationalities, heritages, ancestry, which is awesome. I couldn't ask for a better thing. **MATT SMITH**

"deSol" is available from Curb Records: www.curbrecords.com. deSol plays Grape Street Philadelphia, 4100 Main St., Sept. 17, 8:30 p.m. For information, call 215.483.7084. On the Web: www.grapestreet.com. deSol on the Web: www.desolmusic.com