



Thursday, Aug. 04, 2011

## 'Avalon,' JD Malone & The Experts (ItsAboutMusic.com, $\star \star \star \star 1/2$ )

This July 12 CD/DVD comes from It's About Music, and there's a sticker on the outside of the shrink wrap with a "Great Music Guarantee," stating that consumers who don't think the album is great can return it, along with further information about a free download from the website's 300-plus recordings for those same purchasers. However, in my opinion, you won't need to because this is a great album.

Malone's "Experts" are Tom Hampton on various guitars plus dobro, mandolin and backing vocals; drummer Tommy Geddes; electric guitarist Avery Coffee; and bassist Miades. Jayda Hampton provides cool backing vocals on several songs. Highlights include the Steve Earle-ish "Silver From," the haunting "Sweet Evil Things," the celebratory "She Likes" and the lengthy "Emmit Meets a Demon," but this is just the tip of the iceberg. Fans of artists such as The Jayhawks, Tom Petty and country-flavored Ryan Adams will dig this album.

- Ricky Flake