



Independent COLORADO SPRINGS

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Sound advice



JD Malone & the Experts

Avalon

itsaboutmusic.com

Buy if you like: Steve Earle, Tom Petty

Combining bluesy East Coast muscle with a southerly nod toward Americana, JD Malone & the Experts provide appealingly pretense-free roots rock built on solid musicianship and seriously catchy melodies. Winners include the upbeat country-rocker "Silver From," mandolin-laden "Leave Us Alone," and blues-twanger "Still Love You," on which Malone goes from grit to grace — a terrific falsetto — in the blink of a note. But this is not, by any stretch, a one-man show. Avery Coffee adds killer electric guitar to "She Likes," while Tom Hampton plays, well, practically everything: lap and pedal steel, dobro, mandolin, acoustic, and the Byrdsy 12-string electric that gives "Just Like New" a special appeal. Their cover of "Fortunate Son" woks (and Tom Petty's "I Should Have Known It" on the companion DVD), though with originals this solid, there's no need to throw in covers. — *Lynne Margolis*