

Vintage Guitar[®]

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Gary Moore Essential Montreaux

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Gary Moore was a mainstay of the British hard-rock scene for 20 years before he dove into the blues in 1990. Playing electric blues with a generous dash of heavy-metal fire, Moore reinvigorated his career on the hit *Still Got the Blues* album and found a whole new audience.

To mark the era, this five-CD set documents the guitarist's live work at Montreaux in Switzerland from the early '90s to 2001. The set includes about 60 tracks, including originals (such as his ode to Albert King, "King of the Blues"), as well as classic covers by legends like Willie Dixon, Elmore James, and Otis Rush. Moore also brings out Tele-master Albert Collins to jam on "Cold, Cold Feeling" and "The Blues Is Alright."

Armed with the famous 1959 Les Paul once owned by his hero Peter Green, Moore charges through track after track with his high-speed blues solos, many of which pay homage to Greenie, Clapton, Rory Gallagher, Mick Taylor, and other stalwarts of the U.K. blues scene. He also

makes a nod to his stint in Thin Lizzy with the ballad "Parisiennes Walkways," a 1978 track that featured vocals by the late Lizzy frontman, Phil Lynott. The Irish guitarist even takes a stab at Jimi Hendrix's "Fire" and Roy Buchanan's epic guitar ballad "The Messiah Will Come Again." Admittedly, this isn't traditional Chicago blues. But you have to give Moore credit for creating his own brand, one that fuses hard rock roots with a genuine love for the I-IV-V progression. Better yet, if you need high-voltage blues for the road, this box might earn a place of honor in your car's CD changer. From end to end, it's rollicking, super-charged love letter to the blues. — **Pete Prown**