

The timing of Cosmic Crooners' second album, *European Vacation*, could not be more seasonable. Capturing the golden hush of summer, its very name becomes a portal to that exact, sun-dappled reverie.

The 11-track album opens with *Never Wear Your Own Merch*, a five-minute song that sets the tone with its soul-soaked composition, stirring the spirit of a bygone era.

The Amsterdam-based singer drew inspiration from Brazilian music, '70s progressive soul, and jazz; threads the listener can feel are woven into this album's tapestry.

The first few tracks meld vivid, recurring instrumental motifs, creating a trancelike atmosphere, where the rich, layered composition often leaves the lyrics in a passive role.

However, track 8, *J. Bonanza*, marks a distinguishable shift, taking on a more resounding mood. Bass, strings, electric guitar, and backing vocals take centre stage, evoking the transition from a sunlit afternoon to the cool embrace of evening.

Tugging at the heartstrings as the final tracks unfold, the Brazilian influence fades, giving way to a more '70s-inspired, slow and light atmosphere. The final track, *In Love*, delivers a bittersweet love song that lingers with a poignant sense of longing and loss.

*European Vacation* embarks on a captivating journey, effortlessly transporting and mesmerising the listener.