

## Cesaria Evora - La Diva Aux Pieds Nus (1988)

Written by bluelover

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1. *Bia Lulucha* 2. *Destino Negro* [play](#) 3. *Passeio Samba* 4. *Frutu Proibido* 5. *Lucy* 6. *Traz D'Horizonte* [play](#) 7. *Despidida De Immigrante* 8. *Cabo Verde Terra Estimada*

Personnel: Ze Antonio Cavaquinho, Guitar Césaria Évora Vocals Manu Lima Arranger, Keyboards, Programming Martinez Trumpet Louis Morais Arranger, Clarinet, Saxophone João Motta Guitar Armando Tito Guitar Ventura Violin Paulino Vieira Arranger, Choir, Chorus, Piano Toy Vieira Cavaquinho

Originally recorded in 1988 when the Cape Verde-born singer-icon was 47, this CD refers in its title to Cesaria Evora's moniker as the Barefoot Diva. With this disc, she put morna and coladeira--her country's mournful, Creole-Portuguese musical genres--on the map. Underneath Evora's plaintive and soulful strains about her difficult loves, the music, which is related to Brazil's samba and Portugal's fado, is driven by guitar, cavaquinho violin, accordion, clarinet, and percussion. The selections on this offering reveal Evora's musical and emotional range, from the traditional-pop dance treatment of "Bia Lulucha" and her riveting reading of the orchestrated Vinícius de Moraes and Antonio Carlos Jobim song "Passeio Samba" to her heart-tugging rendition of "Cabo Verde Terra Estimada." Think of Cesaria Evora as Cape Verde's version of Billie Holliday. ---Eugene Holley, Jr. Editorial Reviews

Césaria Évora is the barefoot diva, as the title of her debut album says. When the queen of Cape Verdean music takes the stage, she does so barefoot in support of poor women around the world. The opening track of *La Diva Aux Pieds Nus*, "Bia Lulucha" is a traditional song gussied up by a disco dancefloor treatment. The track steams right along, buoyed by Manu Lima's synthetic wizardry, and was a huge hit in the Cape Verdean community. Évora's

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rendition of a Vinicius de Moraes and Antonio Carlos Jobim samba also swings and her voice soars from its guttural depths. As always, her mornas on this album are very soulful and strong. She has since made much finer albums and this should not be the starting point for the novice. However, the album does have some strong tracks and the musicians are the best in Cape Verdean music circles. For fans of the diva, the album is worth adding to their collection. It was her first. Recommended. ---Marc Romano, allmusic.com

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