

Ry Cooder
Paradise And Lunch

180g vinyl

HOT PICK

Speakers Corner/Reprise

**OVER THE YEARS**

Ry Cooder has made many great records that cross the blues/Americana/rock divide, but 1974's *Paradise And Lunch* is arguably one of the best. It features

a diverse range of songs from Bobby Womack's *It's All Over Now* to blues favourite *Married Man's A Fool* and even a Burt Bacharach classic in the shape of *Mexican Divorce*, but Cooder pulls them all together and makes them his own. It certainly helps that he has a killer band behind him that includes the talents of drummers Jim Keltner and

Milt Holland, Chris Ethridge on bass and Earl Hines playing piano on *Ditty Wah Ditty*, not to mention eight backing singers with some notables among them.

Ultimately it comes down to Cooder's superb sense of feel, the way that he can get to the heart of each song and imbue it with his own, honest but intensely rich tone.

This is also a rich-sounding release, in fact it sounds gorgeous. The opener *Tamp 'Em Up Solid* sets the bar high and it stays that way throughout all nine tracks. Its sound is in no small part due to the immense skills of producers Russ Titelman and Lenny Waronker, who managed to capture a vibe that few have matched. **JK**