

VETIVER
TIGHT KNIT

★★★★

SUB POP

Fourth album by a lulling band named after exotic grass

Vetiver build a monument to mellowness: a mix of kick-back groove, bearded balladry and back-porch psychedelia that, like vintage Neil Young, soothes without being sappy. But for Andy Cabic, whose honeyed vocals are completely self-assured, mellow is also a source of strength. Everything here, from the restrained pedal steel and drifty organ to the lyrics, reflects a gentle

informality that has nothing to do with laziness and everything to do with following the flow. "I roll easy/I step light," Cabic sings over the dropout bop of "On the Other Side." While most of these songs are rootsy, some ascend into hippie heaven: "At Forest Edge" is a diaphanous jewel, a vision of infatuation that fades like the setting sun.

ERIK DAVIS

DOWNLOAD "Rolling Sea," "At Forest Edge"