

Vetiver ★★½

Tight Knit *Sub Pop*

San Francisco songwriter puts folk back in freak folk



ANDY CABIC, mastermind behind San Francisco's Vetiver, made his name

collaborating with Devendra Banhart, but his own tunes are less freaky and pure folk. The Virginia-raised songwriter's third album of original material is divided between lolling fingerpicked acoustic stunners like opener "Rolling Sea" and tight pop like the Shins-meets-Spoon blooper "More of This." Horns provide a bit of grit to the slow-rolling boogie of "Another Reason to Go," and a light synth pulse underscores "On the Other Side," which boasts some truly laid-back lyrics: "No pressure, not a worry, I do what comes naturally." He could just be the thinking man's Jack Johnson: Cabic's clean playing and Cali vibe are pure mellow. This is, after all, a guy who named his band after a type of grass.

CARYN GANZ

Key Tracks: "Another Reason to Go," "On the Other Side"

