

Salsa Africa

A f r o - C u b a n S a l s a M u s i c

Available Now from The "Salsa Mundo" Series

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SALSA HAS CONQUERED THE WORLD!

"Salsa Africa," the second album in the "Salsa Mundo Series." Features scorching Afro-Cuban music from some of Africa's greats: Papa Wemba, Starband, Bantous de la Capital, Boncana Africando and more...

Salsa has its roots in Africa, and whether you are into **GUAGUANCO**, **SON MONTUNO**, **SABROSO** OR **PACHANGA**, "Salsa Africa" has the rhythms that are guaranteed to make you move... A showcase of **AFRO-LATINO** sounds from the Motherland. Sizzling with scorching tracks and favorites from the top names in African Salsa...

A must have succulent tropical dance party album... **SABOR CALIENTE!**

T r a c k L i s t i n g

artist: **Various Artists** title: **Salsa Africa**
item number: **42859442** format: **Compact Disc**
label: **Candela**



1) Bantous de la Capitale

[Brazzaville, Congo]

El Coco

6) Papa Wemba & Viva La Musica

[Congo]

Jeancy

2) Super Cayor de Dakar [Senegal]

Xamsa Bopp

7) Boncana Maiga [Mali]

Africa Cha-Onda

3) Africando [an African / New York /

Afro-Cuban project]

Trovador

8) Etoile De Dakar [Senegal]

Esta China

4) Gnonnas Pedro [Benin]

Azo n'kplan Doun Nde

9) Jose Missamou [Brazzaville, Congo]

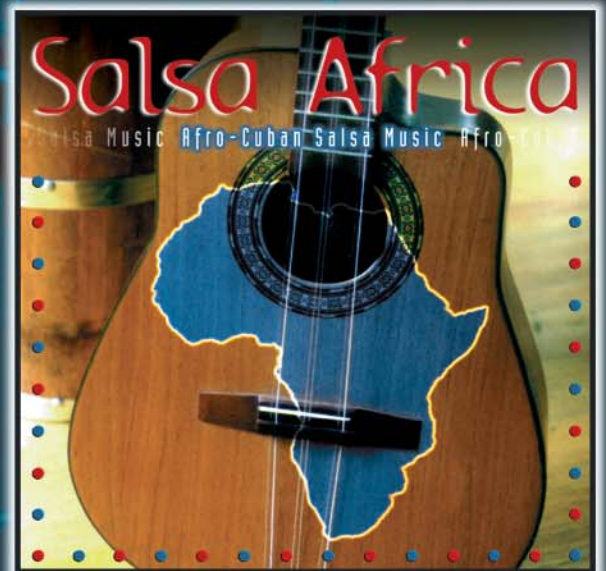
Son Sabrosito

5) Djeli Moussa Diawara [Guinee]

Salsa Hora

10) Star Band No. 1 [Senegal]

Guajira Ven



Salsa Africa

Afro-Cuban Salsa Music

from the Salsa Mundo series

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Welcome to **Salsa Africa**, the follow up album to the **Salsa Mundo** compilation which reunited all styles of Salsa music from all regions of the globe. Candela is pleased to present '**Salsa Africa**,' a compilation assembling some of the premier salsa bands and artists from Africa. Salsa music is directly linked to Afro-Cuban music. The history of Afro-Cuban music, is an intricate web of culture and religion itself. It began with the arrival of the African natives from the Congo, central Africa and the Calabar coast of West Africa. Each group brought various aspects of African culture, religion and dance. Cuban music was born out of the merging of African percussion and European musical elements. In the 70's New York based Latin musicians fusing elements of American jazz and R&B concocted their own brand of latin dance sound and called it salsa. Although, the term is broadly used in referring to latin music, the resurgence of Cuban music fueled by the release of the **Buena Vista Social Club** recordings and documentary, provided a different perspective on the genre.

For over 6 decades, Africans have been listening to and playing Afro-Cuban music. All of the various genre and styles of cuban music have been popular in West Africa. *Cuban son, charanga, pachanga, mambo* and *rumba* have impacted the popular music of countries like Cote d'Ivoire, Guinee, Mali, Senegal, Benin, Congo and Togo. It is no wonder that the original idea of the **Buena Vista Social Club** project was to team up with African musicians from Mali and Cuba to explore the Afro-Cuban connection. Around the mid 60's Cuban music reached the height of popularity in these countries. Social clubs bearing cuban names mushroomed throughout the neighborhoods. Names such as Alvarez club, Arsenio, Che, Afro-Cubanos, Pachanga, Agozar etc. were fashionable. At parties in places like Abidjan, Bamako, Lome, Porto Novo, Dakar, Brazaville, Lumumbashi and Conakry, the most popular social clubs in town were the ones that boasted the largest afro-cuban music collection.

During the same period many African bands sprang up playing strictly afro-cuban music with distinctive local and regional sounds, adding percussion instruments indigenous to their home countries. The improvisations of cuban music by these groups, referred to as orchestre Afro-Cubaine were very interesting. As you will hear on **Salsa Africa**, the combination of African rhythms with cuban sound gave a whole new flavor and unique texture to salsa music in Africa. One could say it is the re-Africanization of salsa music. The songs are sung in either the popular spoken languages of the country or that of the artists native language. In some cases the languages are mixed together with patois and often the Spanish is phonetic as most of these artists come from French speaking Africa. In the 70's, many Afro-Cuban artists and other New York latin musicians went on a pilgrimage to West Africa to discover the birth place of their rhythms. Among them were **Ray Bareto, Chivirico Davila, Johnny Pacheco, Pete Conde, Orquesta Broadway, Monguito** and many others. When Johnny Pacheco and his group arrived in Abidjan Cote d'Ivoire, they were greeted at the airport by the music community and delirious fans with the same honor reserved to foreign VIP's. Subsequently, many African and latin artists came together on several recording projects. The Senegalese singer Labba Sosseh collaborated with singer Monguito and other New York salsa musicians, thus leading the way to many other kinds of musical association. In the 90's **Africando**, (track#3) a group uniting three Senegalese artists, revived African salsa music in stunning recordings and brilliant productions, in many cases inviting New York based latin musicians to guest on their albums. One notable musician on the new African salsa scene is **Bocana Maiga** (track #7). In the 60's the government of Mali sent a group of aspiring musicians to Cuba on a student exchange program to study music in Havana. Upon their return to Mali 8 years after, they formed the 'Maravillas De Mali' (Marvels of Mali) with Bocana Maiga as composer, arranger and leader of the band. 'Maravillas De Mali' was the jewel of Afro-Cuban music in West Africa then. Unfortunately, the group disbanded during the political turmoil in that country and many of the musicians left for other countries.

The Africans have recognized in Afro-Cuban and salsa music something of their own rhythms that was transported across the Atlantic Ocean to Cuba. It should be noted that the Cuban son, which was exported to central Africa as rumba, is the basis of Congolese soukous music, the most popular dance music in all Africa. Cuban composers and songwriters did not forget their African heritage, in the lyrics of many of Afro-Cuban classics, artists such as Abelardo Barroso, Arsenio Rodriguez, Benny More, Miguelito Cuini, Ignacio Pineiro and Antonio Machin often made references to their African ancestry. The music has come full circle. As you listen to **Gnonas Pedro** of Benin, **Bocana Maiga** of Mali, **Bantous de la Capitale** of Congo, **Africando** of Senegal, and the other extraordinary artists on **Salsa Africa**, you will discover the Africa-Latin America connection and understand why the Afro-Cuban musical impact still lingers.

