

It's not only French wines that are served up are polished and complex. AWEK, a stellar French blues band, delivers a similar complexity in their music when it pops the cork on traditional American blues. Gritty Chicago harmonica, assertive yet stylish guitaring, and up to date originals which accurately cover American blues styles from Chicago's South side to earthy Texas shuffles to West coast jump make AWEK's *Rich And Famous* an international winner. Like the finest American blues bands, AWEK features a two fisted guitar and harmonica attack. The skilled guitar, strong singing, and competent song writing of Bernard Sellam pairs perfectly with Stephane Bertolino's varied electric harp techniques. Add in the sturdy bass playing of Joel Ferron and the beautifully understated drums of Olivier Trebel and you almost need four ears to appreciate how this expert rhythm section supports Sellam and Bertolino. On this record, recorded at Kid Andersen's Greaseland Studios in San Jose, California, AWEK has called upon blues masters like guitarists Andersen and Little Charlie, harmonica ace and vocalist Mark Hummel (who also produced this), keyboard player Bob Welsh, and vocalist Lisa Andersen to augment these 15 originals and one Percy Mayfield tune. And like those premium wines of France, AWEK's music here only gets better with every play.

*Art Tipaldi – Editor, Blues Revue Magazine*