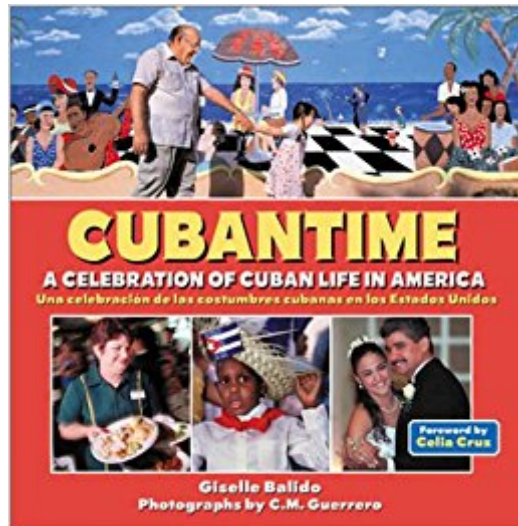




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CubanTime: A Celebration Of Cuban Life In America



Synopsis

For the first time, the Cuban American community is being celebrated in a lavishly photographed book that will be talked about and treasured for years to come. Written by Giselle Balido, a renowned Cuban-American writer, and photographed by the award-winning Carlos Guerrero, the exuberant *CubanTime* shows the amazing achievements of the Cuban exile community. Essentially nonpolitical, this account describes with joy and pride a vibrant exile population of more than 1.5 million people who have succeeded in re-creating the Cuban experience in a free country. Striking photographs present Cuban cooking, celebrations, traditions, pastimes, sports (especially baseball!), music and dance, literature and the arts, entertainment and nightlife. Firsthand, poignant stories told by Cubans young and old make this extra-special; not only does it cover the lives of ordinary people, but also celebrities like Gloria Estefan, Andy Garcia, El Duque, Jose Canseco, and Celia Cruz. And the bilingual text allows English and Spanish speakers in a household to enjoy it equally. In every sense, *CubanTime* commemorates the vital importance of freedom in the lives of Cuban exiles, and the need to keep Cuban culture alive and well. Published at just the right time for the exile community, it will be read with great interest by Cuban Americans and by everyone fascinated to learn more about their friends and neighbors.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

From cowboys to baseball players to women dancing or praying in church, this collection of

photographs ably demonstrates the richness of Cuban life in America. The text is breezy and accessible, and there are even recipes for Cuban treats like roast pork and black beans. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Text: English, Spanish

"Cubantime" lives up to its subtitle of being a celebration of Cuban Life in America. With an intro by the one and only Celia Cruz, and unforgettable photographs, the book avoids becoming yet another political statement by the Cuban Exile community, and that's a good thing! Author Giselle Balido has taken great pains to present a joyful assessment of the exile experience in the USA, where Cubans rank as one of the most successful minorities in terms of affluence, education and quality of life. The reasons for their success here may lie in the pages of this informative and charming book. Cubans are notoriously proud of their heritage and take great pains to promote their family and faith. Like other immigrants, they've had to prove themselves in a new country; yet unlike many other minority groups, their passion is often driven by a deep desire to return to their island - hence, they are exiles first, and immigrants second. Balido and Guerrero achieve a nice balance between fact and fancy, with recipes for incredible Cuban dishes and drinks mixed throughout first person accounts of life in these United States. The photos are uniformly rich and telling - from the quinceaños era parties to the "cafecitos" at Versailles - the camera captures everyday life for a group whose lives literally stopped in 1959 when their worlds collapsed under the weight of communism. This is - for a change - a joyful take on the meaning of being Cuban, neither overly political nor religious, and that's a welcome relief! A terrific bilingual effort that deserves a place in every Cuban household!

I wanted to be the first person to review this book however the first reviewer wrote a wonderful review so I will gladly take second place. "Cuban time" is a wonderful tribute to Cubans and the Cuban culture that has been maintained by the exile community predominately in Miami. This book captures the essence of what Cubans left behind in search of a "free" life outside of Cuba. The book is tribute to their music, food, dance, language, soul and spirit. If you don't know about Cuban Americans purchase this book, which will enlighten you about the beautiful aspects (that we don't hear enough about) of Cuban culture. The book is bilingual side-by-side therefore you can choose to read it in English or Spanish. This book is truly a celebration of Cuban Life in America as the title states and for once it's the positive side that is portrayed of a community that has contributed tremendously to the city of Miami and to the USA in general. Pa'lante mis hermanos cubanos.

My husband is a Cuban Exile who collects books on Cuban history & culture. I just purchased this for his birthday. My main attraction, at first, was the foreword written by Celia Cruz. We are both admire her and are still saddened by her passing. When the book arrived, I had to peer at it before I wrapped it and I was very happy with what I saw. It does a wonderful job of showing the lives of a vibrant, patriotic, passionate people and how they adjusted and became part of the U.S. My husband loved the book. And since it is written in English & Spanish we shared it with my in-laws, who can not read all that much English. They loved it too. We show the pictures to our 3 yr old daughter, and she loves when we tell her stories about it. Only thing is, she is so excited about having a quincenera one day, I think we need to start saving now! This is an excellent addition to any book collection.

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