

= Mi Chico Latino =

" Mi Chico Latino " ( English : " My Latin Boy " ) , is a song recorded by English singer Geri Halliwell for her debut solo album Schizophonic ( 1999 ) . It was written by Halliwell , Andy Watkins and Paul Wilson , whilst produced by the latter two , who are known collectively as Absolute . " Mi Chico Latino " was released as the album 's second single on 16 August 1999 , by EMI . It is a Latin pop song which is centred on a lost love theme . The song was written by Halliwell in order to pay homage to her mother , who has Spanish background , whilst it also has a number of Spanish lyrics .

" Mi Chico Latino " received mixed reviews from music critics , who noted it was a contribution to the Latin pop phenom at the time , while others criticized Halliwell 's Spanish pronunciation . The song was a commercial success in the United Kingdom , debuting at number one on the UK Singles Chart , becoming Halliwell 's first number @-@ one solo single in the country . The song also attracted moderate success worldwide . " Mi Chico Latino " ' s accompanying music video was directed by Doug Nichol and filmed in Sardinia . It depicts the singer wearing a black bikini and dancing with semi @-@ nude male dancers . In order to promote the single , Halliwell performed the song on Top of the Pops and Party in the Park in 1999 .

= = Background and development = =

" Mi Chico Latino " was written by Halliwell , Andy Watkins and Paul Wilson in the autumn of 1998 . The singer wanted to make a song with Spanish influences , in order to pay homage for her Spanish mother . During a day in the studio , they came up with a melody but did not have any words . Then she called her mother for help . Halliwell recalled asking her , " Mum , what do you say to a bloke in Spanish if you fancy him and are being romantic ? " Her mother then said she did not remember that . So she asked her look at her library of Spanish language romances , and she read the titles out to Halliwell . Eventually she came out with " ¿ Dónde está el hombre con fuego en la sangre ? " ( " Where is the man with fire in his blood ? " in English ) , and she liked the way it sounded , and included the line at the beginning of the song . After " Look at Me " peaked only at number two , her record company wanted her to release " Lift Me Up " , while the Absolute team wanted " Bag It Up " , but she chose to release " Mi Chico Latino " after receiving good reception from children . She also thought ,

" First and foremost I thought it was a good record . It was poppy and catchy and perfect for the summer . I think my core audience is young teenage girls and gay guys . Both of those groups tend to like pure pop music and I think that 's what ' Chico ' was . It was very different from the slightly leftfield style of ' Look at Me ' . [ ... ] The other thing that ' Chico ' had going for it was that the music was Latin @-@ based , I had written the song back in 1998 but by the time the summer of 1999 came around Latin @-@ influenced music was ruling the charts . Ricky Martin had recently had a number one and there were others on the way . So it was a strange example of synchronicity that I should be ready to go with a Latin track which I had written almost a year before " .

= = Composition = =

" Mi Chico Latino " is a Latin pop song which moves at a moderate tempo of 104 beats per minute . At the beginning of the song , Halliwell chants the spoken word line " ¿ Dónde está el hombre con fuego en la sangre ? " . The lyrics to the song are centred on a lost love theme , with castanets in the background . During the song , the singer also sings in Italian on its chorus , when everything else is Spanish . According to biographer David Sinclair in his book Spice Girls Revisited : How The Spice Girls Reinvented Pop , Halliwell continued to explore the Riviera @-@ pop theme of the Spice Girls ' song , " Viva Forever " , whilst " murmuring sweet nothings in a peculiar brand of estuary Spanish while castanets and timbales clattered alongside a cod @-@ flamenco guitar " .

= = = Controversy = = =

In 1999 , Israeli singer Alabina said " Mi Chico Latino " was a plagiarism from her song " Alabina ( De La Noche A La Manana ) " , released the year before . A spokesman for Alabina 's French record label Atal said that they were " anxiously contacting " Halliwell 's record label about the songs ' similarities . However , no legal actions were made .

= = Critical reception = =

" Mi Chico Latino " received mixed reviews from music critics . Jon Perks , whilst reviewing Schizophonic for Sunday Mercury , gave a positive review , stating , " Okay , so it sounds like a hybrid of La Vida Loca and Madonna 's La Isla Bonita , but with a swimming @-@ costumed Geri on the cover and a summery tune , it 's a winning combination " . Chris Charles from BBC News commented that " Mi Chico Latino " could be mistaken with " Spice Up Your Life " , Halliwell 's previous hit with the Spice Girls . For Russell Baillie from The New Zealand Herald , Halliwell spends time on the album " flashing her eyelashes at [ menfolk ] , especially if they 're foreign " , calling the song " glutinous " . According to Rolling Stone , " Mi Chico Latino " was her " impeccably timed contribution to the Latin @-@ pop phenom , complete with awkwardly pronounced Spanglish " . Jonathan O 'Brien from Hot Press magazine was negative , stating that " Mi Chico Latino " was " a dreadful pastiche of Madonna 's ' La Isla Bonita ' " .

= = Chart performance = =

" Mi Chico Latino " debuted at number one on the UK Singles Chart on 22 August 1999 , becoming Halliwell 's first number @-@ one solo single in the country . It also was the beginning of a sequence of four consecutive Halliwell singles reaching number one in the United Kingdom . It spent fifteen weeks in the charts , and went on to sell almost 380 @,@ 000 copies in the UK and was certified Gold by the British Phonographic Industry ( BPI ) . " Mi Chico Latino " experienced moderate success in other European markets . In Austria , it entered the singles chart at number 34 , eventually peaking at number 27 and spending a total of eight weeks on the chart . In France , the song peaked at number 40 , remaining on the chart for ten weeks in total . On the Swiss Singles Chart dated 19 September 1999 , it peaked at number 26 . In Australia , " Mi Chico Latino " debuted at its peak of number 43 on the issue dated 5 September 1999 . The song also experienced success in the United States , peaking at number 19 on Billboard 's Hot Dance Club Songs chart .

= = Music video = =

The accompanying music video for " Mi Chico Latino " was directed by Doug Nichol and filmed in Sardinia from 5 @-@ 8 July 1999 . Halliwell wanted the video for the song to be very different in style to her previous single " Look At Me " , as that one was filmed in Prague in the freezing cold , and she wanted something to connect with her fans . According to her , the video was also pretty easy to get : " a yacht , a girl in a bikini and some sexy boy dancers to keep both sets of fans [ gay guys and teenage girls ] happy " . After the video was released , the singer got a huge amount of attention from it . " People came up to me and told me how great and how sexy it was . They also told me I looked really healthy , but how wrong they were . I wasn 't healthy because I wasn 't eating properly and although I was slim at the time , that was a mirage too because the tough regime of the diet was always going to lead me to binge and put the weight back on " , and later , she began taking recovery meetings for bulimia .

= = Live performances = =

Halliwell first performed " Mi Chico Latino " as the opening number at her show held at G @-@ A @-@ Y nightclub . According to Brian Logan from The Guardian , the performance " served only to stress " her certain brand of pop , referring to it as " Madonna @-@ lite . " Halliwell also performed

the single in front of 100 @, @ 000 fans at Party in the Park event in early July 1999 . On 26 August 1999 , the singer performed the song on Top of the Pops .

= = Credits and personnel = =

Geri Halliwell ? songwriter

Absolute ? songwriters , producers , instruments

Tracey Ackerman ? backing vocalist

Milton McDonald ? guitar

Karlos Edwards ? percussion

Mike Higham ? programming

Paul " P " Dub Walton ? audio engineer

Mark " Spike " Stent ? mixing

Wayne Wilkins ? mixing assistant

Stylorouge ? design , art direction

Dean Freeman ? photographer

Credits and personnel adapted from Schizophonic album liner notes .

= = Formats and track listings = =

= = Charts and certifications = =

= = = Weekly charts = = =