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The Killers' second album, "Sam's Town," debuted at No. 2 this week. From left are Dave Keuning, Brandon Flowers, Mark Stoermer and Ronnie Vannucci.

## Killers' second album strikes higher chord

By JASON BRACELIN

REVIEW-JOURNAL

The Killers live up to their name on this week's Billboard album chart, knockin' 'em dead by selling 315,000 copies of their sophomore album, "Sam's Town."

The disc debuted at No. 2, behind Evanescence's "The Open Door," marking the band's highest position on the chart yet.

The Killers' triple platinum debut, "Hot Fuss," peaked at No. 7.

"It feels great that it's out," Killers frontman Brandon Flowers said. "There just seems, like, such an excitement about it. The world's hungry."

The disc debuted strong in the United Kingdom as well, where it premiered at No. 1 on the album chart, selling 268,000 copies.

The big first week for "Sam's Town" comes in the wake of mixed reviews for the

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disc, with the New York Times and Rolling Stone panning it, and Entertainment Weekly dismissing it as "pure arena rock circa 1987."

But none of that seems to have deterred the band's fans.

Months in the making, "Sam's Town" was recorded in Las Vegas at the new Studio

at the Palms, which offered plenty of distractions.

"You're excited about your album, but then you hear that there's a party about 100 feet from where you are," Flowers said. "It's difficult, but it was fun. George (Maloof, Palms head) throws a lot of parties."

The album was produced by Brits Flood and Alan Moulder, the pair behind such discs

as the Smashing Pumpkins' "Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness" and U2's "Pop."

"Those poor guys came from England, and they would go sometimes two weeks without leaving the Palms," Flowers said of the time-intensive recording sessions for "Sam's Town." "They needed to get out. There were big talks about going to Red Rock and

going to Hoover Dam, but it never happened. We just didn't realize what we were getting into making this album, I don't think."

But now that "Sam's Town" is finally in stores, you can hear the relief in Flowers' voice. "I'm so proud that people want to hear what we're doing," he said. "We just couldn't ask for anything more."