

## Miles away

Onetime 'Rock 'N' Roll Pony' Gina Villalobos finally scratches out her own niche



**ROAD-TOUGHENED ALTO:** Villalobos toured the world and picked up an edgier sound along the way.

Unabashed LA rock 'n' roller Gina Villalobos, whose last album was 2004's "Rock 'N' Roll Pony," decided not to rest atop the sheaf of admiring reviews it garnered. Nor did she give in to numerous unforeseen complications arising from the loss of one eye during the recording sessions for "Pony"; what some would have regarded as a limitation, she chose to receive instead as creative inspiration.

Once that album was completed, she packed up her guitar — and, when she could, a sideman or two — and toured hard throughout the United Kingdom, Spain, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Australia, with tweener swings through the United States. Three years later, her road-toughened alto, already equal