

WARIO LAND

(VIRTUAL BOY)

The worst thing about the Virtual Boy is that you can't show your mates what you're doing. Actually, scrub that. The worst thing about the Virtual Boy is that you look a complete berk while you're playing it. Luckily, *Wario Land* is worth sacrificing your pride for.

The VB was the most ignored and slated of all Nintendo consoles, yet

Wario Land is a typical slice of Nintendo excellence and should have sold the machine by the million.



You play the part of Wario (obviously) in

this typical *Mario*-style platformer. Unlike one-dimensional games, however, it lets you jump between several levels, so you hop both into and out of the screen to reach new treasures and secret sections.

This game has everything: bonus levels; end-of-level treasure-gambling games; underwater levels; creatures as vehicles, even special weapons in the guise of Wario hats. The end-of-level boss sections switch the perspective, so you see the back of Wario as he fights with his foe.

The 3D is used to excellent effect, the stereo soundtrack is just about the best on the machine, and there's even an impressive intro. If you have a VB, make sure you get this game (which is being sold off in Japan for the ludicrous price of 98¥ – about 50p!).

RETROCRATING

93%