

Las Vegas Shows and Restaurants

General- The September 2007 National Geographic Adventure issue listed Las Vegas as the # 1 town in the USA as the place to live and play and said “It’s not just for high stakes and low morals anymore”. Matter of fact, a Las Vegas visitor survey conducted last year showed most visitors come here now not for gambling and “Sin City” stuff, but for the big show entertainment, great restaurants, unique shopping venues, neon glitz and golf. (This attachment will concentrate on shows and restaurants. Another attachment will discuss shopping, Strip walking tours and indoor/outdoor attractions).

Shows-suggest making at least one show reservation such as the Cirque du Soleil Mystere at Treasure Island (\$65 to 100) or the Lance Burton-Master Magician show at the Monte Carlo (\$67 to 80) as soon as possible for one of the nights in Las Vegas except for our Saturday night Class dinner. You could also make a late show Wednesday night after the Benny Havens reception. You can get your show tickets through the www.vegas.com or www.vegas4visitors.com websites, which have more info on the shows, restaurants and casinos listed below. (**Recommend getting seats for the Cirque du Soleil shows in the front third section not the front row so that you can see the overhead attractions**).

Military IDs-currently various MGM properties offer retired military with proof of ID 50% off for the Cirque du Soleil “Ka” show price of \$76 to 165 at the MGM Grand and the “Mystere” show at Treasure Island. You can also get 25% off with military ID for the “Love/Beatles” show price of \$109 to 165 at the Mirage. Call the MGM at (800) 929-1111, tell them you are retired military and want to place a reservation for one of the shows just mentioned. Ask if there is a dinner package available with the show. Make sure you have your military ID, the credit card and confirmation/reservation number with you when you pick up your tickets at any MGM property.

Tickets4Tonight outlets-Once in Las Vegas, you could go to the Gameworks Mall, which is located outside the MGM Grand on the Strip between the M&M and Coca-Cola shops for the Tickets4Tonight outlet, which opens daily at 11 AM. Here you can get in line with everyone else and get same day tickets at half price for most Las Vegas shows except the Cirque du Soleil shows. (Park at the Tropicana casino or Excalibur and take the pedestrian walkways over to Gameworks). There is another less crowded Tickets4Tonight outlet at the Strip entrance in front of Neiman Marcus at the Fashion Show Mall across the street from the Wynn.

Las Vegas Tourist Magazines- In your hotel room at the Orleans or in floor racks at any casino you can pick up the bi-weekly Las Vegas “What’s On” magazine for pullout maps and some great show, restaurant and exhibit coupons that can be redeemed at the respective box offices. The Vegas.com magazine has great coupons also.

Restaurants-Some of the restaurant reservations should be made at least a month out. Restaurant (service and food) and show ratings listed below are based on the local Las Vegas Review Journal Neon entertainment section resident ratings. The four star restaurants may cost \$50 or more for entrees here in Las Vegas. (Call the phone numbers listed by the casino for dinner reservations). Most casino buffets are also good, reasonably priced and listed with their respective casinos. One trick we locals use is to go into buffets a half hour before the lunch buffet period is over for the dinner buffets

that start right after the lunch period without paying the dinner price. Those buffets are indicated by [buffet].

Golf-Surrounded by the towering Spring Mountain Range for the Class golf outing, the Siena Golf Club (www.sienagolfclub.com) features gently rolling fairways and artful bunkering-plus dazzling views of the Las Vegas skyline. The Siena community and golf club is renowned for its natural beauty and unprecedented serenity. One locals' rumor is that most putting greens slope toward the Stratosphere casino tower in the distance.

Orleans-Our host casino/hotel has one of the best breakfast buffets in town including the Army breakfast favorite SOS for \$9 and a great seafood dinner buffet on Fridays with all the shrimp and crab legs you can eat for only \$18. You can't beat the **99c Margaritas** at the Orleans' **Don Miguel Mexican restaurant 2-6 PM daily** next to the Alligator Bar. The **Prime Rib Loft** and **Canal Street restaurants** in the Orleans are excellent alternatives to the pricier restaurants on the Strip.

Dress-Men's slacks and dress shirts and women's skirts or pants and blouses would be appropriate for most of the shows and restaurants. The **** restaurants may require more dressy attire. Bring a light jacket or sweater for the very well air conditioned restaurants, shows, some casino floors and windy evenings. Last year the first week of June temperatures were in the mid-80s, but it could be in the 90s.

Listed below are some suggested nights out on the Strip with shows and nearby restaurants and the Fremont Street Experience as well as afternoon and impressionists shows based on local newsprint May 11, 2008 listings:

Nights Out

MGM Grand (800) 929-1111

Cirque du Soleil "Ka" (A minus rating) is their first attempt at linear storytelling which ditches the dreamy surrealism in favor of darkly textured atmosphere through a series of wondrous set pieces on a rotating, spinning stage; 7 and 9:30 PM, Tuesdays through Saturdays; \$76 to 165. (Possible military ID discounts)

Restaurants- Emeril's New Orleans Fish House, A rating; Fiamma Trattoria****; Sea Blue****; Craftsteak****; Nobhill****; Pearl****; Shibuya****

Buffet-Lunch, 11 AM to 2:30 PM, Monday through Friday/\$17:50; Dinner, 4:30 to 10 PM, Sunday through Thursday/\$25 or Friday and Saturday/\$28

Mirage (800) 627-6667

Cirque du Soleil's "Love" (A minus rating) partnership with the Beatles offers the incredible sonic experience of hearing the Beatles' catalog remixed and reimagined through a state-of-the-art sound system; 7 and 10 PM, Thursdays through Mondays; \$110-165. (Possible military ID discount)

Danny Gans (B Plus rating)- First time visitors will probably be bowled over by this versatile impressionist who revived a faded genre and harkens back to classic Vegas headliners. 8 PM, Fridays, Saturdays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, \$110.

Restaurants-Samba, B minus rating; Stack, B plus rating, Fin, Onda, Kokomo's and Samba Brazilian Steakhouse

[Buffet]-Lunch-11 AM to 3 PM, Monday through Friday/\$18; Dinner-3 to 10 PM, daily/\$25.

Treasure Island (800) 944-7444

Cirque du Soleil's first show "Mystere" (A rating). The giant stage and 36-foot turntable is one that serves to showcase rather than compete with the acrobats; 7 and 9:30 PM, Saturdays through Wednesdays, \$66 to 105. (Possible military ID discount)

Restaurants-Isla Mexican, B rating; Kahunaville Restaurant and Francesco
[Cravings Buffet] Lunch, 11 AM to 4 PM, Monday through Friday/\$16; Dinner, 4 to 10:30 PM, Sunday through Thursday/\$21 or gourmet dinner, Friday and Saturday/\$26.

Bellagio (888)987-7111

The Cirque du Soleil's "O" (A rating) aquatic spectacular blends outstanding acrobatics and surreal theater into an overwhelming visual feast, in which human performers battle for attention with the wondrous staging in and above a 150-by-100 foot pool; 7:30 and 10:30 PM Wednesdays through Sundays; \$103 to 165.

Restaurants-Michael Mina, A rating; Fix, A minus rating; Picasso****, Jasmine****; Sensi****

[Buffet]- Lunch, 11 AM to 4 PM, Monday through Fridays/\$20; Dinner, 4 to 10 PM, Sunday through Thursday/\$28 or gourmet dinner, Friday and Saturday/\$36.

Mandalay Bay (877) 632-7700

Mama Mia (B plus rating) The Broadway blockbuster is the stage equivalent of a chick flick, thrilling grown-up disco gals with a plot that combines romance, a wedding and a best friends reunion set to show-tune versions of ABBA hits. 7:30 PM Sunday through Thursday and 6 and 10 PM Saturday/\$50 to 110

Restaurants-Red Square, B rating; Mix****; Fleur de Lys****; Aureole****; Stripsteak**** Wolfgang Puck Trattoria Del Lupo, Border Grill (Good Mexican)
Bayside Buffet (very good seafood)-Lunch, 11 AM to 2:30 PM, Monday through Saturday/\$20; Dinner, 5 to 10 PM, daily/\$27.

Planet Hollywood (877) 333-9474

Steve Wyrick-Real Magic (B rating) The magician's "do-it-yourself" approach to Las Vegas stardom created a custom theater where the stage seems huge in proportion to the cozy seating allowing deft shifts from helicopters to card tricks. 7 and 9 PM Saturdays through Thursdays in the Steve Wyrick Theater at the Miracle Mile shops/\$69 to 100.

V-The Ultimate Variety Show (B rating) This is the new old Vegas with a whole revue of the acts that once spelled the big production numbers in the old-fashioned floor shows. Time has been kind to most of the jugglers, magicians, acrobats and prop comics who rotate segments. The show is packed with entertainment value and juggling host Wally Eastwood unifies the whole thing with his comic personality. 7 and 8:30 PM daily/\$64 to 74.

Restaurants-P.F. Chang's, Trader Vic's, Koi, Lombardi's Romanqna Mia and Aromi D'Italia

Spice Market Buffet (very good) Lunch-10 AM to 3 PM, Monday through Friday/\$17; Dinner-4 to 10 PM, daily/\$25

Caesar's Palace (800) 634-6661

Beth Midler "The Showgirl Must Go On", Reopens June 24th

Cher-Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, 7:30 PM; \$100 to 255, (702) 731-7333 .

Elton John-daily, \$115 to 250, (702)731-7110

Restaurants-Joe's Seafood, Steak and Stone Crab, A rating; Rao's, B rating; Spago's, A rating; Bradley Ogden, A rating; Mesa Grill, A rating

[Buffet] Lunch-11:30 AM to 3 PM/\$16; Dinner-3 to 11PM, daily/\$23 (prefer Bellagio buffet).

Wynn (888) 320-9966

Le Reve (B rating) An aquatic spectacle in-the-round as the mythic Morpheus leads a dreamer through a sensual world. 7 and 9:30 PM, Thursdays through Mondays, \$109 to 175.

Monty Python's Spamalot (A rating) Eric Idle's stage spin-off of "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" worked in the Las Vegas references long before it came here. No wonder it lives up to the Vegas tradition of investing tremendous money and talent to create 90 minutes of the in-the-moment comedy you struggle to remember the next day. 7 and 10 PM, Saturday; 8 PM Sunday through Wednesday and Friday/ \$76-175.

Restaurants-Daniel Boulud Brasserie, A rating; Bartlotta Ristorante Di More****; SW Steakhouse****; Okada****; Wing Lei****

[Buffet] Lunch, 11 AM to 3:30 PM, Monday through Friday/\$22; Dinner, 3:30 to 10 PM, Sunday through Thursday/\$34 or Friday and Saturday/\$38

Venetian (877) 583-6423

The Blue Men Group (A rating) They do incorporate some of the "The Complex" rock tour and spruce up older segments with impressive light effects. 8 PM, Wednesdays through Fridays, Sunday and Monday; 7 and 10 PM, Tuesdays and Saturdays; \$76 to 126.

Phantom, The Las Vegas Spectacular (A rating) The 95 minute version is not so much a drastic rethinking of Andrew Lloyd Weber's blockbuster as one that transplants the Broadway megahit to a custom designed theater. The trims get to the heart of the romance and prune away peripheral silliness. 7 and 9:30 PM Monday and Saturday and 7 PM, Tuesday through Friday/\$76 to 165

Restaurants-Pinot Brasserie, A rating, Bouchon, A rating, B and B Ristorante, A minus rating, Zeffrino and Enoteca San Marco

Buffet-prefer Mirage buffet

Hilton (800) 732-7117

Menopause, The Musical (B rating) This riche-marketed show isn't well-written enough to appeal far beyond its target audience of women who can relate to "the change".

However, anyone can appreciate the jubilant performance level, the fact that it's a perfect fit for the Las Vegas Hilton's cozy Shimmer Cabaret. 7 PM daily, 2 PM on Wednesdays or 4 PM Saturdays and Sundays/\$60

Barry Manilow (B rating)-8 PM, \$110 to 250

Star Trek:The Experience There are two interactive rides-the Klingon Encounter and the Borg Invasion 4D, 11 AM to 10 PM daily, \$36 for both rides.

Restaurants-Benihana, B minus rating; TJ's Steakhouse, Casa Nicola and Teru Sushi.

Buffet-prefer Wynn or Mirage buffet

Rio (888) 746-7482

(Off Strip on Flamingo-take Orleans shuttle bus to Gold Coast, every half hour)

Penn and Teller (A minus rating) Their show is unlike any other magic production in Las Vegas. The tall, lanky Penn serves as a narrator, providing a running comedic commentary on just about everything they do, while the diminutive Teller provides a lot of the show's action, all without saying a word. The pair manages to reveal a few tricks of their trade along the way, while turning around and completely stumping you with others. 9 PM, Wednesdays through Sundays/\$86 to 96.

Masquerade Show In The Sky-a **free** indoor entertainment experience featuring a cast of 36 performers, five floats, elaborate costumes and four different themed parades is presented at 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10 and 11PM.

Restaurants-Buzio's, Antonio's Ristorante and Gaylord (India)

[Buffet, very good]-Lunch, 11 AM to 3:30PM, Monday through Friday/\$17; Dinner, 3:30 to 10 PM, nightly/\$23.

Ballys (800) 634-3434

Jubilee (B rating) This classic "feather show" is simultaneously one of the Strip's greatest treasures and the silliest reminder of its excessiveness. 7:30 and 10:30 PM, Saturdays through Thursdays; \$50 to 112.

Restaurants-al Dente, Asia, Ichibon, Bally's Steakhouse

Buffet-prefer the Spice Market buffet at Planet Hollywood or the buffet at the Bellagio.

Monte Carlo (800) 311-8999

Lance Burton: Master Magician (B Plus rating) This nice guy Kentucky magician has built an amazing 15-minute "dove Act" into a consistently colorful and fun revue. 7 and 10 PM, Tuesdays and Saturdays, 7 PM Wednesdays through Fridays, \$67 to 73.

Restaurants-Andre's, Diablo's Cantina, Monte Carlo Pub and Brewery

Buffet-prefer Mandalay Bay or Planet Hollywood buffets.

Paris (888) 266-5687

(New Main Show not announced yet).

Restaurants-Le Provencal, A rating; Mon Ami Gabio with LV Blvd sidewalk café, B rating (good lunch spot); Eiffel Tower restaurant****; Le Burger Brasserie, B rating [Buffet] Lunch, 11 AM 3:30 PM, Monday through Friday/\$18; Dinner, 3:30 to 10 PM, daily/\$25 (Prefer Bellagio or Planet Hollywood buffets).

Freemont Street Experience (Downtown)-Free shows nightly on the four block long 90-foot high VivaVision display system featuring "A Tribute to Queen" with "We Will Rock You" and "We Are The Champions". Shows begin at dusk and play on the hour until midnight. Underneath the Visa Vision there are retail kiosks, street performers, free live entertainment and showgirls.

Downtown shows-Country Superstars Tribute @ Fitzgerald's, 7 PM, Thursdays through Mondays/\$39 (B minus rating); Defending The Caveman @ the Golden Nugget, 8 PM-nightly and 3 PM-Saturdays and Sundays/\$47-63 for evening shows or \$41 to 58 for afternoon shows (B rating).

Restaurants-Vic and Anthony's and Grotto Ristorante @ Golden Nugget; Don B's Steakhouse @ Fitzgerald's; Roberta's Steak House @ El Cortez and Hugo's Cellar @ The Four Queens and Pullman Grille @ Main Street Station. Tryout the famous 99c shrimp cocktail at the Golden Gate or the \$8 prime rib dinner at the California.

The Garden Court Buffet @ Main Street Station-Lunch, 11 AM to 3 PM, Monday through Friday/\$8; Dinner, 4 to 10 PM/\$11 except Tuesday steak night/\$13-Thursday filet and scampi/\$14 and Friday seafood dinner/\$16.

Las Vegas Shows (Afternoons)

(Log onto www.vegas.com or www.vegas4visitors.com for more info).

Mac King Comedy Show @ Harrahs-A rating- (800) 392-9002-The Strip's best entertainment bargain happens to be as good as the incentives to see it. 1 & 3 PM, Tuesdays through Saturdays, \$28.

Xtreme Magic @ Tropicana- B rating-(800) 634-4000-Exotic animals elicit more oohs and aahs than the human star of this afternoon magic show. 2 & 4 PM, Saturdays through Thursdays. \$34-40.

Popovich Comedy Pet Theater @ V Theater, Miracle Mile/Planet Hollywood-B rating-(877) 333-9474-Gregory Popovich, a veteran of the Moscow Sate Circus, offers a throwback to European circus acts. The human cast is upstaged by trained dogs and cats in a show that's musty but somehow irresistible. 4 PM, Fridays through Mondays and 4 & 5:30 PM Thursdays, \$40 to 54.

The 250,000 Game Show @ LV Hilton- (800) 732-7117-a chance to win real money and ample shots at dinners, show tickets or \$100 bills.1:30 & 3:30 PM, Saturdays and 3 PM Mondays through Wednesdays, \$51.

The Price Is Right @ Ballys- (800) 634-3434-Why buy a ticket for a non-televised version of this game show favorite? Because every member gets a wireless keypad for a chance to "come on down" and play favorite games like Cliffhanger and Plinko on a look alike set. 2:30 PM-Tuesdays through Thursdays and Saturdays; 7:30 PM-Fridays/ \$50.

Viva Las Vegas@ Plaza downtown- (702) 386-2110-This revue refined afternoon shows and continues to offer old-Vegas variety showgirls, magic and comedy, C Plus rating; 2 and 4 PM Mondays through Saturdays;\$11 or \$16 with buffet.

Great Impressionist/ Tribute Shows

Jersey Boys@Palazzo-A Rating-(702) 967-4567, 7 PM Thursdays, Fridays, Sundays and Mondays; 7 and 10 PM Saturdays and Tuesdays; \$71 to 250.

Legends In Concert @ Imperial Palace-B minus rating- (800) 634-6441 7:30 & 10 PM, Mondays to Saturdays / \$50-60 includes one drink.

The Platters, Cornell Gunter's Drifters The Legendary Lead Singers of The Coasters @ Sahara-B minus rating-(888) 696-2121; 7:30 PM/ \$47-60 Daily.

Trent Carlini:The Dream King@ Sahara-B rating-(888) 696-2121, 9 PM, Mondays to Saturdays, \$61-92.

America's Neil Diamond Tribute @ Riviera-C plus rating-(800) 634-6753 7 PM, Sundays to Thursdays, \$59-69.

Barbara and Frank, The Concert That Never Was @ Riviera-B minus rating-(800) 634-6753, 8:30 PM, Tuesdays through Fridays and Sundays, \$51 to 61.

Country Superstars Tribute @ Fitzgeralds-B minus rating-(800) 274-5825 7 PM, Thursdays through Mondays, \$39