

# NIGHT+DAY LAS VEGAS

## Ins and Outs

Noteworthy Additions, Changes and Closures  
from publication date through March 31, 2008

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Underline indicates entry made in most recent calendar quarter.

### Key to Night+Day Symbols

#### Restaurants

*Singles-friendly*

- Communal table
- Food served at bar

(G) Gourmet destination

Venues followed by an \* are those we recommend as both a restaurant and a destination bar.

#### Nightlife

*Includes bars, clubs, and entertainment*

- Cover or ticket charge (otherwise, entry is free)

#### Restaurants + Nightlife

*Prime-time noise levels*

- Quiet
- A buzz, but still conversational
- Loud

### Key to Pricing

#### Hotels

*Best deluxe room*

\$	\$100-\$199
\$\$	\$200-\$299
\$\$\$	\$300-\$399
\$\$\$\$	\$400 and up

#### Restaurants

*Main course*

\$-	less than \$10
\$	\$10-\$19
\$\$	\$20-\$29
\$\$\$	\$30-\$39
\$\$\$\$	\$40 and up

#### Attractions

*Entry or service*

\$-	less than \$10
\$	\$10-\$19
\$\$	\$20-\$29
\$\$\$	\$30-\$39
\$\$\$\$	\$40 and up

### The Night+Day promise

Night+Day writers and editors use the same high standards in selecting and researching venues to be included in our Ins and Outs updates as we do for our books. Our local correspondents determine which new hot spots are the real deal and which are simply hype—just as you'd expect from Night+Day—to provide the kind of reliable information you need to make the best possible choices.

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## Cool Las Vegas Restaurants

### Corsa Cucina • North Strip • Italian

This swank Italian spot, best for a business meeting or romantic repast, is now under the direction of Michelin-starred chef Alessandro Stratta, who has taken the opportunity to create a more casual menu than the one at his eponymous, and impressively grown-up, restaurant down the hall and around the corner. Expect pizzas grilled in a wood-burning oven, hearty pastas, and northern Italian staples such as veal Parmigiana or chicken Milanese in a chic but cozy setting: Teak light fixtures made from 300-year old wood, iron and refurbished glass throughout, and a warm color palate of red, cream, and sepia. *Daily 5:30-10:30pm. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$* 📍 Wynn Las Vegas, 702-352-3463, [wynnlasvegas.com](http://wynnlasvegas.com)

### Cut • North Strip • Steak House

You'll see everyone from business execs to foodies (Joe Bastianich, for example) to the cast of the MTV hit show, *The Hills*, at Wolfgang Puck's latest Vegas outpost. Designed by local Las Vegas firm ABA, the bar (Rough Cuts) and restaurant (Cut) nonetheless feel very L.A.: A minimal color scheme gets a kick from textured elements such as a woven felt wall, acid-etched glass, and leather table tops, and the maritime photos, which have an industrial edge to them, are by L.A. artist John Millei. This is the place to come to get your fill of high-quality red meat. Try the steak tasting (including Nebraska dry-aged sirloin, American Kobe, and Japanese Wagyu) with a side of creamed spinach, mixed tableside with a fried egg on top. *Sun-Thu 5:30-10pm, Fri-Sat 5:30-11pm. \$\$\$\$* 📍 Palazzo, 702-607-6300, [palazzolasvegas.com](http://palazzolasvegas.com)

### David Burke Modern American Cuisine • Center Strip • American

David Burke's eponymous new restaurant at the Venetian is modern chic—all red, white, and dark wood—with a dash of whimsy in the form of Humpty-Dumpties (Burke is egg-obsessed). Dishes range from the playful and inventive—

pretzel-crusted crab cakes, angry lobster, and cheesecake lollipops—to the blissfully simple—dry-aged beef carpaccio, a massive plate of thinly sliced Kobe topped with pickled onions, Parmesan cheese, and olive oil. While the food is certainly the focal point, this is also a place for the young and stylish, despite a small representation of the ubiquitous T-shirt and jeans crowd (anything goes in Vegas). Even hipper than the restaurant is the onyx-lit bar, which stays open late night. *Sun-5-10 pm, Fri-Sat 5-11pm. \$\$\$* 📍 The Venetian, 702-414-7111, [davidburkelasvegas.net](http://davidburkelasvegas.net)

### Hachi • Outside of Town • Japanese

Nobu veterans and husband-wife team Martin Swift and Linda Rodriguez are the culinary brains behind the new sushi spot at the Red Rock Resort. It's a bit of a hike from the strip, but well worth it for the orange-and-hot-pink Pop-Art-inspired décor, fresh fish flown in daily from Japan, and standout dishes such as tempura shrimp with spicy chipotle aioli. Small groups will love the private tatami rooms, which seat up to 12, while revelers should check out the sake-screen-wall-enclosed bar, where more than 30 different sakes are offered. *Sun-Thu 5-10pm, Fri-Sat 5-11pm. \$\$\$* 📍 Red Rock Casino, 702-797-7576, [ilovehachi.com](http://ilovehachi.com)


### Koi • Center Strip • Japanese

The Vegas outpost of this L.A. hot spot is still low on the radar, thanks to its tucked-away location on the mezzanine level of the Planet Hollywood; in other words, it's still possible to get a reservation—at least for now. The menu is similar, if not identical, to that of its sister restaurants, with a combination of hot and cold plates such as miso black cod and hamachi with citrus and truffle oil; the crowd is very Hollywood—think black-on-black attire and horn-rimmed glasses—and the scene is thumping. Ask for a corner booth for optimal viewing of the sleek concrete room—where the sculptural ceiling brings to mind a school of fish and faux bamboo stalks line the walls—and order the Asian Pear martini. *Sun-Thu 5:30-11pm, Fri-Sat 5pm-midnight. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$* 📍 Planet Hollywood, 702-454-4555, [koirestaurant.com](http://koirestaurant.com)


### Morels • North Strip • French

A cross between next-door neighbor Bouchon (at the Venetian) and Drai's, the after-hours club at Bill's (formerly the Barbary Coast), this sultry newcomer is not your average brasserie: There are banquettes to be sure, but they're metallic blue, the periwinkle walls are adorned with giant-sized nudes, and black chandeliers add a touch of Starck to the mix. The edgy décor attracts an equally eclectic crowd, though it skews toward couples, especially on date nights. The menu, at least, stays true to brasserie form, with staples such as biftecks, moules-frites (served with truffled mayo), and tuna niçoise. For dessert, ask about the cheese board (there are nearly 60 different varieties, including the divine herb-and-spice-rubbed Tomme de Reçollets from Bordeaux, France), and be sure to sample one of the 55 wines by the glass, including rare vintages such as the 2001 Gaja Barbaresco. *Mon-Thu 11am-11pm, Fri 11am-midnight, Sat 10am-midnight, Sun 10am-10pm. \$\$\$\$* 📍 Palazzo, 702-607-6333, [palazzolasvegas.com](http://palazzolasvegas.com)

**Ra Sushi • Center Strip • Asian Fusion**

Get some rock with your roll at this hot sushi spot. As you walk in the Strip entrance, music pulses through the state-of-the-art sound system and the constant crowd at the indoor-outdoor bar makes for a merry mood. DJs spin nightly and a weekday happy hour 4-7pm offers a well-priced sampling of the menu. Snack on signature dishes like salmon carpaccio drizzled with wasabi oil, the crazy monkey roll, and smoked salmon and cream cheese with mango and cashews at the traditional sushi bar at the back of the vast restaurant. The climate-controlled dining patio and bar that overlooks the Strip is one of the best places in town to people-watch and party. Whether kicking off an evening of partying or wrapping up the night, this is where the 20- to 30-something crowd comes to find food and fun. *Daily 11am-2am; sushi bar closes at midnight.* \$\$  [Fashion Show Mall, 3200 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 702-696-0008, rasushi.com](#)


**Rao's Caesars Palace • Center Strip • Italian**

The Rao family recently opened this cavernous Italian eatery to replicate the legendary New York restaurant by the same name. To get a good table, make an early reservation in the main room—you'll be well-positioned to watch the arrival of the string of celebs who regularly dine here. The dark wood-paneled walls in the multiple rooms and the intimate areas for two to four people are filled with signed photos of friends, celebrities, family members, and past presidents. Rao's primarily caters to the suits and tourists, but the multisided dark oak bar is a great place for singles to grab a drink and watch the action in the main room. Other options for those not opting to dine are the 50-seat lounge and the enormously popular outdoor terrace with bocce ball court. *Daily 5-11pm.* \$\$\$  [Caesars Palace, 3570 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 702-731-7267, caesarspalace.com](#)

## Cool Las Vegas Nightlife


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**LAX • South Strip • Nightclub**


The latest nightclub from the Pure Management Group could not be more different from its all-white sister at Caesars Palace: The two-story 26,000-square-foot space has an almost bordello-like feel, with its décor of red leather, oversized mirrors, and shimmering candelabras. The club, the it spot for the 20s crowd, also boasts a state-of-the-art sound system, imported from Europe and the first of its kind in the United States. Go on Wednesday (locals' night) or Saturday, when resident DJ Vice spins, and go early to avoid long lines. Alternately, reserve one of seven decadent VIP lofts overlooking the dance floor. *Wed-Sat 10pm-4am.*  [The Luxor, 702-262-4529, laxthenightclub.com](#)

**Noir Bar • South Strip • Lounge**


This sumptuous subterranean lounge is reservations only. In fact, the crocodile leather and Swarovski crystal-clad Noir Bar is so exclusive, you probably can't get in. If you do secure a reservation, the party heats up around 2am and lasts until the wee hours. Try to act nonchalant as you rub elbows with celebs such as

the Hilton sisters and the cast of *The Hills* and sidle up to the bar for a cocktail by master mixologists: They'll conjure up a personalized concoction, made from fresh fruit, spices, and top-shelf alcohol, and specifically tailored to your likes and dislikes. *Wed-Sat 10pm-late.*  [The Luxor, 702-262-5257, luxor.com](#)


**The Pearl • Off-Strip • Concert Venue**

Artists are lining up to play at the newly opened, state-of-the-art Pearl concert hall. This intimate venue has only 2,500 seats and the stage is just four feet from the floor—the farthest seat is a mere 120 feet from the action. Another bonus for bands is that the Pearl is hardwired to the Studio at the Palms, so hit-makers such as Tool and Gwen Stefani can create a live album here. Get tickets as soon as you know you're coming to town as this popular place fills up fast. If you're with a group, try to snag one of the private boxes, which come complete with bars and lounge areas. It's such a hit that performers like Tool, Pink, Carlos Mencia, and others have extended their dates at this exciting new venue. *Varies.*  [The Palms, 4321 W. Flamingo Rd. \(Valley View\), 702-492-3960, palms.com](#)

**Revolution • Center Strip • Dance Club**

Step back in time to experience the Beatles like you never have before. Cirque du Soleil has just opened its first nightclub, and the entire venue is an extravagant multisensory shrine to the legendary band. The Abbey Road Bar, located just outside the entrance to the fabulous ultralounge, beckons passersby off the casino floor to come in for a little Rubber Soul and cocktails. In the lounge itself, lighted tables feature psychedelic images that float randomly on the tabletop screen—you can even make your own designs with the touch of your hand. The mood of this cozy 400-capacity club changes with the music, ranging from mellow in the early evening and cranking up to some serious dance grooves as the clock ticks past midnight. You'll find youngsters and Baby Boomers alike enjoying this wild retrospective. And no, the music isn't all Beatles tunes—you'll also find DJs playing a solid mix of Top 40. *The Abbey Road Bar daily noon-4am; the Revolution Lounge daily 6pm-4am.*  [The Mirage, 3400 S. Las Vegas Blvd., 702-791-7111, mirage.com](#)

**TAO Beach • Center Strip • Party**

The fad du jour in Vegas is to start partying during the day—or to carry on with the revelry from the night before (depending on who you are). In May, the nightlife impresarios behind TAO opened the rooftop TAO Beach, the daytime sister to the sultry Asian-themed restaurant, lounge, and nightclub. For the ultimate lounge experience, rent one of seven luxury cabanas, equipped with plasma TVs, Xbox consoles, minibars, and WiFi, and get a poolside massage. On "Sunset Sessions" Sunday nights, join the bronzed and the beautiful at the gilded Buddha-head bar, and watch scantily clad girls dance in the pool and fire pits glow atop the 14-foot columns. *Thu-Sat 10am-sunset, Sun 10am-10pm.*  [The Venetian, 702-388-8338, venetian.com](#)

## Cool Las Vegas Attractions

### Red Rock Lanes • Outside of Town • Bowling

Imagine your local bowling alley on speed and you might have some sense of Red Rock Lanes. The new venue has 72 lanes, as well as a deli and lounge-bar, billiards, dart boards, video games, and shuffleboards. Although the public lanes are fairly swish, high rollers should check out the private 12-lane VIP suite, equipped with 65-inch plasma TVs, high-def projection screens, and leather and suede couches for lounging. While the crowd is mostly local, due to its out-of-the-way locale, the place is packed on weekend nights with die-hard bowlers and novices alike who come for “Cosmic Bowling”: Think glow-in-the-dark lanes, strobe lights, and fog machines. *24 hours.* \$ [Red Rock Casino, 702-797-7467, redrocklanes.com](#)

## Bachelor(ette) Las Vegas Hotels

### Planet Hollywood • Center Strip • Trendy (>2500 rms)

This W-like casino-hotel bears almost no resemblance to its predecessor, the Arabian Nights-themed Aladdin—and that’s a good thing. With its soaring ceilings supported by black-and-white striped columns, crystal disco balls, and hue-changing lights, the Planet Hollywood seems poised to join the ranks of the Hard Rock and the Palms as the go-to spot for the younger (and cooler) Vegas set, not to mention the celeb crowd (Bruce Willis, Sophia Bush, and Pamela Anderson are among recent stars spotted here). Be sure to book one of the renovated rooms (lower floors are still woefully dated), which are filled with Hollywood memorabilia; Panorama suites have stunning views of neighboring Paris and the best seats in town to the Bellagio water show. \$ [3667 Las Vegas Boulevard South, 702-785-5555 / 866-517-3263, planethollywoodresort.com](#)

## Bachelor(ette) Las Vegas Restaurants

### CatHouse\* • South Strip • New American

From the faux-ostrich booths and vintage mirrors to lingerie-clad dancing coquettes and the peep-show-like “Dressing Mirror” (an opportunity for PG-rated voyeurism), the feel of this restaurant-cum-nightclub is reminiscent of a 19th-century bordello. After shareable portions of comfort foods, such as truffled mac-and-cheese and fried chicken and watermelon, in the more sedate, but still sexy, chandelier room, head next door to the all-red lounge, which is louder, rowdier, and younger in its clientele. See *Bachelor(ette) Nightlife*, p. 9, for details. *Mon-Thu, Sun 5:30-10pm, Fri-Sat 5:30-11:30pm.* \$\$\$\$ [Luxor, 702-262-4228, cathouselv.com](#)

### Diablo's Cantina • South Strip • Mexican

The décor at this Strip-front Mexican restaurant-cum-bar is kitschy-cool, with beaten-up tables, Christmas lights year-round, and adobe-like walls ornamented with tequila labels (Don Julio’s, Horritos, Corazon). Margaritas come strong

and cheap (pitchers start at \$35) and during the season, Monday Night Football is an occasion for blow horns and \$2 specials. Come for chips and salsa (a trio of roasted tomatillo, roasted tomato, and fresh tomatillo) or stay for dinner—the chicken fajitas and tequila baby-back ribs are excellent. Upstairs, there’s an open-air bar with live music and entertainers, ranging from dwarves to go-go girls, on weekend nights. The crowd is similarly eclectic—ranging from frat boys to hipsters to sport-fanatic seniors. *Sun-Wed 11am-2am, Thu-Sat 11am-3am.* \$ [Monte Carlo, 702-730-7979, lightgroup.com](#)

### Dos Caminos • North Strip • Mexican

The expansive Rockwell Group–designed restaurant and lounge manages to be thoroughly modern—and escape being kitschy—while incorporating traditional elements of Mexican culture: Vibrant colors such as tangerine, fuchsia, purple, and teal, rugs and artwork from Oaxaca and Jalisco, Day of the Dead–like faux-skulls, and a stone-carved Mayan temple all lend an authentic vibe to the place. Though you could come just for the guacamole and extensive tequila list (where flavors range from the “battered popcorn and cotton candy” Corazon to the “lime rind and “beef jerky” El Tesoro), it’s well worthwhile staying for dinner—or brunch, for that matter. Traditional dishes such as Dos Enchiladas or Camarones Al Ajillo make for great pre-partying or post-partying food. Come late and grab a seat in the Sala bar area to scope out the hipsters—or request a table in the main dining room for a quieter scene. *Sun-Thu 11am-11pm, Fri & Sat 11am-midnight.* \$\$ [Palazzo, 702-577-9600, palazzolasvegas.com](#)

### Stack • Center Strip • American

With polished, curved wood planks stacked along the walls, this modern restaurant oozes grown-up elegance, but sit down and it’s all about the delicious memories of yesteryear. The menu’s micro-dishes include pigs in a blanket, roasted tomato soup with a mini grilled-cheese sandwich, mini Kobe chili-cheese dogs, and cheese-stuffed tater tots. This is a great place to grab a bite before heading out to a show or to go clubbing. But it’s even better to end the evening here, surrounded by fellow partiers all tucking into gooey goodies such as jelly doughnut munchkins and mini cheesecakes. The high-energy bar and lounge attracts the singletons and sets the mood at this fun eatery. Sip Stack’s signature Smore’s Martini or try the Cantaloupe Mojito for a twist on the average cocktail. *Sun-Thu 5-11pm, Fri-Sat 5pm-midnight.* \$\$ [Mirage, 3400 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 702-791-7111, mirage.com](#)

### Strip House • Center Strip • Steak

The sultry new steakhouse at the re-vamped Planet Hollywood feels very much like a men’s club with its crimson décor—red brocade, red vinyl, red velvet—polished chrome, dark wood, and sepia photographs of women in the buff. Everyone from suits to pro athletes to bachelorettes come for old-school staples such as clams casino, Caesar salad, shrimp cocktail, excellent cuts of meat, such as the 20 oz. NY strip or the bone-in rib eye, decadent desserts, including a massive, share-sized portion of chocolate cake, and a wine list that’s heavy on big Cabs and Bordeaux. *Sun-Thu 5:30-11pm, Fri-Sat 5:30-11:30pm.* \$-\$\$\$\$ [Planet Hollywood, 702-737-5200, striphouse.net](#)

## Bachelor(ette) Las Vegas Nightlife

### CatHouse\* • South Strip • Restaurant Lounge

The all-red lounge is louder, rowdier, and younger in its clientele than the more sedate, but still sexy, restaurant—and an excellent post-dinner destination, or precursor to a night at neighboring club LAX. It's best to go around midnight, when the club starts to buzz (the club opens at 10:30pm). Monday nights are Madame Mondays, a locals night when ladies drink champagne for free and table service comes with chocolate dipped strawberries. See *Bachelor(ette) Restaurants*, p.7, for details. Mon, Fri, & Sat 10pm-4am. ☰ Luxor, 702-262-4228, [cathouselv.com](http://cathouselv.com)

### 40/40 Club • North Strip • Sports Bar

The third outpost of Jay Z's 40/40 club is first and foremost a sports bar, a fact that is apparent in the 85 flat screens—including a 105-inch plasma in the A. Rod suite—the massive (16-by-10 foot) projection screen with stadium seating, and man-friendly menu (mini burgers, Philly cheese steaks, and fried chicken). But on Fridays and Saturdays, the 24,000-square-foot space transforms from sports enthusiast-fantasy to blinged-out nightclub (though the vibe here is still distinctly masculine). Get your groove on to DJ Poun's hip-hop beats on the platinum- and 24-karat gold-tiled dance floor, or chill with your homeys in one of five VIP suites, all of which have private restrooms, lighting, and sound systems. Be warned on game nights: The club won't open its doors until the game is over (and that includes as many OTs as it takes). Daily 5pm-4am. ☑️ Palazzo, 702-638-4040, [the4040club.com](http://the4040club.com)

### Moon • Off-Strip • Dance Club

Take flight in this fanciful club 53 stories above terra firma in the Palms' Fantasy Tower. The space-age-themed boutique club features a glass-tiled floor that changes colors, but you won't be looking down for long. Topping the floor-to-ceiling windows is a retractable roof that offers phenomenal views of the desert night. When the roof is closed, you'll be graced with a fantastical laser and space show. Cocktail servers and go-go dancers in short, tight, metallic silver uniforms and black boots are sprinkled around the main dance floor, so it's easy to get a refill. This swinger crowd gets going late, so wait until after midnight to get down up here. Don't let the line at the elevators deter you—the people-watching makes it worth the wait. ☑️ The Palms, 4321 W. Flamingo Rd., 702-492-3960, [palms.com](http://palms.com)

### Polly Esther's • North Strip • Dance Club

This vast multigenerational club spans five full decades of memorabilia. The '60s-themed Polly Esther room features a lit dance floor with disco ball à la Saturday Night Fever and plays classic hits from ABBA, KC & The Sunshine Band, and Gloria Gaynor. A Brady Bunch shrine, a bus bar reminiscent of The Partridge Family, and a life-size Atari fill the cavernous '70s-style room. Nestled next door, the Culture Club highlights the '80s, complete with a suspended Delorean car made famous in the movie *Back to the Future*. Nerve Ana offers a tribute to the '90s, and the quad club comes full circle with Suite 2000, a modern spin-off of San Francisco's

premier nightclub Suite One80ne—with a Las Vegas twist, of course. Each room attracts the full range of young and old who show up in jeans and shirts or dressed to the nines. Those looking for the most elegant experience should seek out Suite 2000, which is a bit more sophisticated. Although you'll want to check out every room, you'll ultimately find yourself gravitating to the sound of your choice as each is completely different. The party doesn't get started until after 10pm, but the club's vast size means no waiting in line. Open nightly at 5pm. ☑️ The Stratosphere Tower, 2000 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 702-382-4446, [stratospherehotel.com](http://stratospherehotel.com)

## Bachelor(ette) Las Vegas Attractions

### Mandara Spa • Center Strip • Spa

The Aladdin's Elemis Spa has been reincarnated as Mandara, but it retains its Middle Eastern feel: Moroccan lamps, rugs, and tapestries adorn the 32,000-square-foot space, which includes men's and women's wet areas with hot tubs, saunas, and hammams (a.k.a. steam rooms). The most unique treatments are the float wraps, which include exfoliation, envelopment in a sleeping-bag-like wrap, semi-submersion into a water-filled tub, and a massage of your choice. Though the floats are not for the claustrophobic, you'll emerge radiantly smooth and detoxified. More indulgent is the signature four-handed massage, which involves 60 minutes of dual therapist action. Daily 7am-7pm. \$\$\$\$ Planet Hollywood, 702-785-5772, [mandaraspaspa.com](http://mandaraspaspa.com)

## Luxe Las Vegas Hotels

### Palazzo • North Strip • Classic (3066 rms)

Like its sister property, the Venetian, the newest addition to the Strip has a star-studded roster of restaurants, high-end shopping—including a three-story Barneys, and outposts of Catherine Malandrino, Michael Kors, and Christian Louboutin—and a super-sized spa. For now, it's the tallest hotel in Vegas (until Encore opens later this year) and its 75,000-square-foot Canyon Ranch Spa is the biggest in town. But, what really separates the Palazzo from the pack are its suites, classic and opulent in their decor, but kitted out with all the latest technology: The most basic Luxury Suite is palatial (approximately 720 square feet), with a sunken living room, plush chocolate couches, not one, but two flat-screen televisions, and a spacious five-fixture bathroom—making it appealing to business execs (who love the in-room printer) and bachelors looking for more bang for their buck. Pay the extra \$50 for a “view” room, for optimal Strip exposure. In spirit, the Palazzo definitely feels Italian—marble, marble, everywhere, with a winged statue, fountain, and soaring atrium in the main lobby—but it lacks the faux vibe of an artificial Piazza San Marco or gondola-navigated waterways (as the Venetian has). And while at the Wynn you get the feeling that you're privileged to be staying there, the Palazzo is shockingly devoid of snobbery. \$\$ Palazzo, 702-607-7777 / 877-883-6423, [palazzolasvegas.com](http://palazzolasvegas.com)

**Signature MGM • South Strip • Timeless (1728 rms)**

Just a quick walk (5 to 10 minutes, indoors) from the MGM Grand, the all-suite Signature towers are condos rented out as hotel rooms that are geared toward visitors who want to get away from Vegas' 24-hour soundtrack. They provide proximity without the noise—in other words, easy access, but also easy escape. Best for business execs, or families traveling with kids, the hotel is on the low end of upscale. Spacious, but somewhat bland rooms in neutral creams and beiges have well-stocked kitchenettes with top-notch appliances, roomy five-fixture bathrooms, wireless internet, and balconies—some with Strip views. Tower 3 is the newest (July 2007), but Tower 1 is the closest to the casino and has a Starbucks and fitness center (where access won't cost you \$25 a day). Tower 2 has an excellent sandwich and pizza shop called Delights, and all towers offer 24-hour room service. \$\$ [145 East Harmon Avenue, 702-797-6000 / 877-612-2121, signaturemgmgrand.com](#)

## Luxe Las Vegas Restaurants

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**B&B Ristorante • Center Strip • Italian**

Mario Batali and Joe Bastianich, the food and wine duo behind two of New York's top Italian restaurants (Babbo and Del Posto), opened their first Vegas outpost this past April. Tucked away at the end of the Venetian's Restaurant Row, the unpretentious, intimate space—dark wood, creamy yellow walls, Italian marble—sets the stage for signature dishes, such as mint and lamb sausage-stuffed “love letters,” hearty gnocchi with braised oxtail, and grilled veal chop, imported from Batali's own cattle ranch in Maine. Navigate the impressive (and sometimes overwhelming) wine list with help from knowledgeable sommeliers, and save room for the bombolini, ricotta doughnut holes served with dark chocolate dipping sauce. The restaurant's crowd leans toward the conservative; for a younger, livelier experience, grab a seat at the bar. *Daily 5-11pm.* \$\$\$ [The Venetian, 702-266-9977 banbristorante.com](#)

**Bubble Bar • Center Strip • French (G)**

The champagne lounge adjacent to French-heavy Guy Savoy's eponymous restaurant is less formal than its next-door neighbor and is fast becoming a favorite of foodies in the know: This may be the best place in town to sample haute cuisine without the haute price tag. A menu of “Bites and Bubbles” includes eight different types of bubbly by the glass, which are served alongside small, big, and sweet bites of caviar, foie gras, Kobe beef, and pots de crème. There's a communal table, as well as some two-tops for a more romantic experience. Try to snag a table by the retractable glass wall overlooking the Strip. *Wed-Sun 5:30-10:30pm.* \$\$\$ [Caesars Palace, 702-731-7110, harrahs.com](#)

**Carnevino • North Strip • Italian**

Soaring ceilings, a sumptuous color palette of rust, cream, and dark brown, and rich materials such as leather, marble, and walnut set the stage for Joe Bastianich and Mario Batali's third Vegas outpost. Here, you'll still find signature pasta dishes, such as cannelloni with duck and Amarone, and even some seafood offerings, but the emphasis, as the name implies, is on meat, hormone- and antibiotic-free beef, rubbed with sea salt, black pepper, and fresh rosemary. Old men with big bellies and a propensity for Barolos and excellent steaks share elbow room with a younger set who can finally get their Batali-fix and skip the carbs. *Daily 5-11pm.* \$\$\$ [Palazzo, 702-789-4141, carnevino.com](#)

**Payard Patisserie • Center Strip • Café/Dessert**

This brunch spot-cum-candy store is like an adult version of Willy Wonka's chocolate factory: In the circular restaurant, the focal point is the kitchen, which is surrounded by a buffet piled high with croissants and pains au chocolat. The chef whips up sinful concoctions such as fried-egg-topped croques monsieur on brioche and chocolate French toast with nutella and bananas. Next door, the confectionary shop sells assorted sweets for the grown-up palate. *Daily 6:30am-11:30pm.* \$ [Caesars Palace, 702-731-7292, payard.com](#)

## Luxe Las Vegas Nightlife

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**Blush • North Strip • Nightclub**

The lounge formerly known as Lure is now Blush, the self-proclaimed “boutique nightclub.” Indeed, the 4,500-square-foot space, with its plush sofas, low lantern-lit ceilings, and leafy outdoor patio, does manage to feel more like an intimate houseparty than a sweaty, throbbing discotheque. Expect an older (30s-plus), sophisticated crowd—think chic black dresses and Manolos, rather than minis and Steve Madden platforms—and a scene that transforms from low-key lounge to after-hours party. Arrive early to ensure you'll get in, or book a room at the hotel: Wynn guests get preferential treatment. *Daily 9pm-3am.* \$ [Wynn Las Vegas, 702-770-36333, wynnlasvegas.com](#)



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