

3900 Paradise Road

(702) 369-3971

fireflylv.com

11:30 a.m.-2 a.m., daily

Plaza Casino

(702) 380-1352

Sun.-Thurs., 5-10:30 p.m., Fri.-Sat., 5 p.m.-midnight

NOMINATED BY MANCINI

The original Firefly location on Paradise Road has long been a Las Vegas institution. The crowd is generally young and artsy, the tapas are tasty and reasonably priced, the sangria is strong, and the outdoor patio is great when the weather is right. Firefly's second location shares much of the same menu, but is located in the second-story saucer of the admittedly past-its-prime Plaza Hotel and Casino downtown. The room (featured in the film *Casino* when it was a fine-dining restaurant) offers the best view in town of the Fremont Street Experience. And the place has become the most popular downtown dining spot for local artists and hipsters, as well as the budget-conscious families who opt to stay in the Fremont area. John's inability to relate to either crowd doesn't surprise me. So it's no shock he vetoed the place.

VETOED BY CURTAS

I'm not going to waste a lot of time on Firefly, because the management doesn't waste a lot of time trying to make the food any good. This place is popular with the under-40 crowd for one reason: It's cheap. You'll taste that cheapness in the stale bread, limp shrimp, and tepid meatballs that come to your table, and you'll gaze around the crowded place and wonder what in the world is bringing people here. They call it a tapas bar, but the bartenders (and the management) have neither a sherry on the list nor a clue what fresh-made Spanish food is about. If you must, the food at the downtown location is marginally better than the one on Paradise Road. You've been warned.