



Las Vegas Advisor

July 2026 Vol. 43 Issue 7

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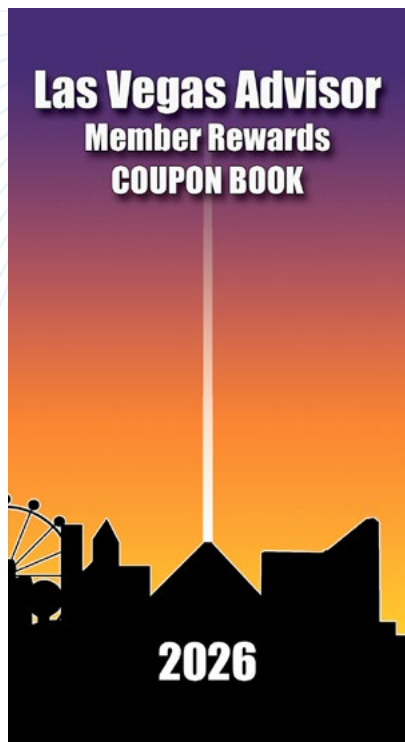
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*The 2026 LVA Member Rewards coupon book is available ONLY with a paid one-year subscription to the Las Vegas Advisor newsletter. No exceptions.

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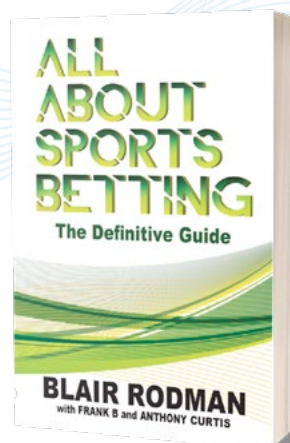
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Arizona Charlie's Decatur.....	258-5200	800-342-2695
Bellagio.....	693-7111	888-987-7111
Binion's.....	382-1600	800-937-6537
Boulder Station.....	432-7777	800-683-7777
Caesars Palace.....	731-7110	866-227-5938
California.....	385-1222	800-634-6505
Cannery.....	507-5700	866-999-4899
Casino Royale (Best Western Plus).....	737-3500	800-854-7666
Circa.....	247-2258	833-247-2258
Circus Circus.....	734-0410	800-634-3450
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Downtown Grand.....	719-5100	855-384-7263
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El Cortez.....	385-5200	800-634-6703
Ellis Island.....	733-8901	800-800-8000
Encore.....	770-7100	877-321-9966
Excalibur.....	597-7777	800-937-7777
Flamingo.....	733-3111	800-732-2111
Fontainebleau.....	678-7777	833-702-7272
Four Queens.....	385-4011	800-634-6045
Fremont.....	385-3232	800-634-6460
Gold Coast.....	367-7111	800-331-5334
Golden Gate.....	385-1906	800-426-1906
Golden Nugget.....	385-7111	844-468-4438
Green Valley Ranch.....	617-7777	866-782-9487
Harrah's.....	369-5000	800-392-9002
Horseshoe.....	739-4111	877-603-4390
Longhorn.....	435-9170	800-800-8000
Luxor.....	262-4000	800-288-1000
M Resort.....	797-1000	877-673-7678
Mandalay Bay.....	632-7777	877-632-7800
MGM Grand.....	891-1111	800-929-1111
New York-New York.....	740-6969	800-693-6763
NoMad.....	730-7000	888-706-6623
Orleans.....	365-7111	800-675-3267
OYO.....	739-9000	866-584-6687
Palace Station.....	367-2411	800-634-3101
Palazzo.....	607-7777	866-263-3001
Palms.....	942-7777	866-752-2236
Paris.....	946-7000	888-266-5687
Park MGM.....	730-7777	800-311-8999
Planet Hollywood.....	785-5555	866-919-7472
Plaza.....	386-2110	800-634-6575
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Red Rock Resort.....	797-7777	866-767-7773
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Resorts World.....	676-7000	800-774-1500
Sahara Las Vegas.....	761-7000	855-761-7757
Sam's Town.....	456-7777	800-634-6371
Santa Fe Station.....	658-4900	866-767-7771
Silver Sevens.....	733-7000	800-640-9777
Silverton.....	263-7777	800-588-7111
South Point.....	796-7111	866-791-7626
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Sunset Station.....	547-7777	888-786-7389
The Cromwell.....	777-3777	844-426-2766
the D.....	388-2400	800-274-5825
The LINQ.....	731-3311	866-328-1888
The STRAT.....	380-7777	800-998-6937
Treasure Island (TI).....	894-7111	800-944-7444
Tuscany.....	893-8933	877-887-2261
Vdara.....	590-2767	866-745-7767
Venetian.....	414-1000	877-883-6423
Virgin.....	693-5000	800-693-7625
Waldorf Astoria.....	590-8888	800-925-3673
Westin Lake Las Vegas.....	567-6000	
Westin Las Vegas.....	836-5900	800-937-8461
Westgate Las Vegas.....	732-5111	800-732-7117
Wildfire.....	648-3801	
Wynn Las Vegas.....	770-7000	866-770-7077

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COUPONOMY

July Room Rates Go Low

It's July, so it's time for another city-wide room-rate survey that we conduct for the December and July issues every year. Once again, I was looking forward to this year's results based on several months of declining visitation in Las Vegas. Declining visitation leads to lower rates.

There were 90 casinos in the survey. The listed quotes are base rates and don't include resort fees. All are weekday rates; weekends are usually appreciably higher.

Last year, 34 casinos had base rates of \$50 or below. This year it's 35. So essentially no change, right? Not exactly. We ran into a glitch this year: Caesars Entertainment properties were offering deeply discounted rates, but only when booking by July 3. They wouldn't have been available after the release of this survey; hence, we didn't include them. The CET base rates not included were as follows: Flamingo \$7, Harrah's \$7, The LINQ \$7, Planet Hollywood \$14, Paris \$27, Horseshoe Las Vegas \$33, Caesars Palace \$84, Nobu \$95, and Vanderpump Hotel \$111. Had the booking window been longer, and it may be extended, the \$50-or-below total would have been 41.

The eight in the "\$20 and under" group compare with four last year and Excalibur and OYO take lowest-rate honors at \$7 each. Including the CET properties, there would have been 11, with Flamingo, Harrah's, and The LINQ joining in for lowest.

In reality, if the CET properties were counted, rates would have been down significantly, but even as tabulated, they're on a par with what they were last year.

Can you get these rates? Sometimes. They were available to anyone who wanted to book them when we checked, but rates are fluid and can change at any time. If you can't duplicate them, you should be able to get close and these results give you a good starting point.

\$20 and under—Circus Circus, Excalibur, Luxor, OYO, Rio, Sahara, Silver Sevens, The STRAT

\$30 and under—Arizona Charlie's Boulder, Arizona Charlie's Decatur, California, the D, Ellis Island, Fremont, Golden Gate, Main Street Station, New York-New York

\$40 and under—Gold Spike, Golden Nugget, Orleans, Palace Station, Paris, Park MGM, Treasure Island, Virgin

\$50 and under—Binion's, Boulder Station, Downtown Grand, Gold Coast, Longhorn, MGM Grand, Plaza, Sam's Town, Tuscany, Westgate

High End—Palms \$63, Palms Place \$69, Aria \$88, Vdara \$92, Signature \$98, Mandalay Bay \$100, Trump \$109, Circa \$119, M Resort \$119, Resorts World \$119, W Hotel \$119, Westin Lake Las Vegas \$122, Palazzo \$127, Venetian \$127, Cosmopolitan \$151, Bellagio \$161, Platinum \$179, Red Rock \$179, English Hotel \$184, Green Valley Ranch \$206, Fontainebleau \$209

As always, adding resort fees changes the numbers in a big way. Going back to those CET rates, those hotels all have RFs of \$50 or \$55, so that range of "real rates" actually runs from \$57 to \$166 (before taxes). After RFs, OYO comes in at \$58 and Excalibur \$53.

Binion's doesn't charge resort fees, so the \$44 base rate that was available on its website is the real rate and comes in best overall for the third year in a row (and it's better yet with the MRB discount). Four Queens also doesn't charge RFs and comes in at \$55.

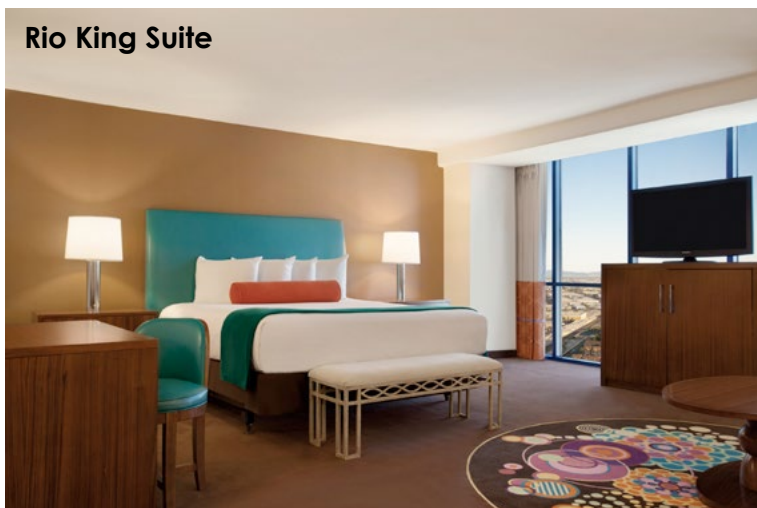
Beating all of these is booking with the discounts in the Member Rewards Book. Applying the room discounts in the MRB, we got the following real rates: Downtown Grand \$49, Binion's \$37.40,

and the monster play of all for a second consecutive year, the Rio at \$13.19 per night with the MRB discount and waived resort fee.

Remember also that depending on what you want to include in your vacation itinerary, the all-inclusive packages that run through the summer could be your best route. We analyzed those in the [May LVA](#).

All in all, the survey indicates that the casinos are still in major marketing mode—a necessary move whether the accountants like it or not.

Rio King Suite



Slot Slayers is Rockin’

After only one month, our SlotSlayers.com advantage slots website has 250 members. It’s growing fast.

The website displays and explains in text, photos, and videos nearly 200 different advantage games and adds more every week. The message boards give you direct access to our *Breaking the Slot Code* author, Ben Rosenthal, for questions and discussions, not to mention input from other members, which gets more valuable as membership rises.

Monthly access is a recurring \$30 per. If you opt for a year’s membership, it’s \$270, which equates to three months free and it comes with a copy of *Breaking the Slot Code*. Get more information and watch some [sample videos here](#).



PLAY SMART. WIN BIG!

NEWS

Vanderpump Hotel—The Vanderpump Hotel held its grand opening ceremony last month. As expected given the resort's namesake, it was a fancy affair, with Lisa Vanderpump arriving in a custom Rolls-Royce and escorted into the resort by a phalanx of bellmen. The interior décor is a shrine to Vanderpump's British heritage, family life, and famous friends. Gigolo, the lounge named after Vanderpump's dog, "Giggy," and The Bar at The Vanderpump Hotel are new, while Giada, Drai's After Hours, Soleia (the rooftop pool), Starbucks, and Caesars Sportsbook are Cromwell holdovers. Additionally, the last vestiges of the former Barbary Coast (1979-2007) are now gone; according to a report, "the red Tiffany lamps that had survived on the casino's main walkway from front to back have been changed out."



Bally's/Baseball Stadium—At an appearance in front of the Nevada Gaming Control Board, a Bally's lawyer stated that the casino complex that's planned to surround the A's stadium will definitely not be ready by opening day of the 2028 MLB season. Regardless, Bally's is obligated to complete infrastructure tasks—parking garages, utilities, and the plaza—in time for that opening date. Meanwhile, the stadium is taking shape, with the whole bowl outlined, three levels of grandstands constructed, and one of the massive roof trusses in place. You can get a look via the [stadium webcam here](#).



Henderson/North Las Vegas—There's been a shuffle in ownership of Henderson casinos. The Pass casino has been sold to the owners of Emerald Island and Rainbow Club. It will close Aug. 1 for remodeling. Meanwhile, the seller of The Pass, Joe DiSimone, has acquired the Longhorn Hotel-Casino on Boulder Highway and the Bighorn Casino in North Las Vegas. Plans include an expansion of the Bighorn and a renovation of the Longhorn's 150-room hotel.

Club Fortune North—The Club Fortune North watch continues with no new information. The last word about the impending casino at the site of the former Poker Palace was that the opening would take place in "late June." That deadline has come and gone and since the announcement, crickets.

Gold Spike—Downtown's Gold Spike has been sold again to two local real estate investors for \$11.4 million, around 40% of what Tony Hsieh paid for it in 2013. The sale includes the Gold Spike "entertainment complex," the adjacent Oasis hotel, and the parking lot. No word on what the developers' plans might be for the property that was once a full-service casino.

Chinatown—Treat this as a public-safety announcement. A report on local "8NewsNow" warns about a rash of car break-ins in parking lots throughout Chinatown. The thieves pull up close to the target car, break a window, steal valuables, and are gone "within 20 seconds." The police have

received 597 reports of car thefts in Chinatown so far this year, nearly double the number of other precincts. You can't prevent the window smashing, but you can minimize the theft. Business owners in the Chinatown plazas strongly advise that patrons bring luggage and smaller bags into the stores and restaurants with them.

Zoox—If you've been in Las Vegas over the past year or so, you've no doubt seen the Zoox robotaxis plying the Strip. Fully electric autonomous vehicles, they look like futuristic symmetrical pods and have neither a front nor back, so they can drive in either direction seamlessly, with lighting that changes color to indicate which way they're heading. All four seats are for passengers; they face each other, with no driver's seat or steering wheel. Zoox is an Amazon-owned driverless robotaxi service. Las Vegas, along with San Francisco, is currently testing free rides and you can order up your cab via an app. What's the experience like? The editor-in-chief of UpgradedPoints.com tried it out and you can [read the review here](#).

Primm—On the brink of extinction a month ago, Primm, the first casino stop for many visitors traveling to Las Vegas on I-15 from Los Angeles, has new life. The Primm family has inked a deal with Las Vegas-based Terrible's to operate its hotel-casinos and related properties there. It wasn't a complete stay of execution for the Primm Valley Hotel-Casino, which has now closed, but Terrible's indicates it intends to reopen Primm Valley as soon as possible with plans for Buffalo Bill's and Whiskey Pete's pending.

Illinois—The Hollywood Casino Aurora riverboat has closed after 30 years of operation and the land-based casino of the same name has opened. The \$360 million Hollywood Casino Aurora has a combined 1,200 slots and table games and a 226-room hotel.

Statistics—Nevada's statewide gambling win was up 5.3% in April compared to the same month last year, taking in \$1.3 billion. The Strip win was up 6.6% while downtown followed last month's big increase with a .6% decline. The Laughlin win was up 16.9%. Along with downtown, only Wendover reported a decline (-3.4%).

Las Vegas visitation ended its two-month run of increases, posting a 1.8% decline, with 3.5 million coming to town. Hotel occupancy was down slightly from March at 83.1%, with 92.7% weekends and 79.5% weekdays. International visitation to Las Vegas was 4.7 million travelers in 2025, down 4.8%. The drop was due mostly to a decrease from Canada (-17.4%), which accounted for 1.2 million visitors. Mexico was next with 1.9 million (+1.0%), then United Kingdom with 522,000 (-1.4%).

Airline traffic was down again at -7.1%, with 4.4 million travelers. Less than a year after discontinuing Las Vegas service, Avelo Airlines will fly here again beginning in November, but only from Dallas for now. In news that will affect mostly locals, parking fees at Reid International have been raised. Long-term parking at the airport and economy parking at the remote lots have both increased by \$2 per day to \$20 and \$14, respectively. The first two hours of short-term parking is \$4 per hour, \$5 per hour after that, with a daily maximum of \$38; that's up \$1 per hour and \$2 on the max. Reservation parking is \$16-\$30 per day, depending on time and location.

SPORTS BETTING SCORECARD

Efforts are underway to legalize online sports betting in New Mexico. Sports betting is legal in the state, but only in person at tribal casinos.

Follow the progress of sports betting legalization across the country and track developments as they occur via our map at LasVegasAdvisor.com.

TOP 10

1	Room Rates - Rio et al. \$13.19 and up	6	Shrimp Cocktail - Slots A Fun Daily - \$2
2	Steak Dinner - Ellis Island Daily - \$9.99	7	Prime Rib - Ellis Island Daily - \$17.50
3	Cheeseburger & Fries - Station Casinos Daily - \$5.99	8	Breakfast - Emerald Island Daily - \$5.99
4	Hot Dog/Beer - Downtown Grand Daily - \$3	9	Jimmy Kimmel Comedy Club LINQ Prom. - Daily - Free (for 2)
5	Beer - Stagedoor Daily - \$2	10	Frozen Margarita - Station Casinos 24 hrs. - \$1.99

Taking the #1 spot this month are the traditional low summer room rates, which come in impressively low for the second year in a row. Get the best deal by taking advantage of the Member Rewards discounts. The Ellis Island complete steak dinner moves to the #2 spot to make room for the rates. Served 24/7 in the Café, get the \$9.99 price by playing at least \$5 in any machine with your club card inserted, then downloading the required discount coupon from an EI kiosk. If you don't want to play, you can get it for \$12.99 (\$3 off the listed price) just by downloading a coupon from the kiosk that's available to everyone with a club card. A cheeseburger & fries is \$5.99 all day at several Station Casinos locations (#3). It's available in the Brass Forks at Palace, Sunset, and Santa Fe Stations, the Lucky Pennys at Green Valley Ranch and Red Rock, and Game On at Boulder Station when you show a Boarding Pass players card. The \$3 hot dog and beer at Downtown Grand comes in at #4. The dog comes with kraut (there's also an excellent taco alternative) and the beer is PBR; it's served from the Lucky's snack bar daily from 11 am till about 10 pm. Heineken or Dos Equis in the bottle is \$2 at the Stage Door (#5) on Flamingo, just east of the Strip. Las Vegas' best-deal shrimp cocktail is at Slots A Fun (#6). It's available 24/7 at the bar, along with \$2 hot dogs, popcorn, and beer (park at Circus Circus and walk over). Ellis Island continues to serve the best prime rib dinner in town (#7). It's available from 11 am to 11 pm daily in the Café (listed price reflects LVA discount). The \$5.99 breakfast at Emerald Island (#8) is served in the Emerald Island Grille, daily from 11 pm to 3 pm and comes with two eggs; bacon, sausage, or hot link; hash browns or home fries; a slice of fruit; choice of toast, English muffin, or biscuits & gravy; add coffee for \$2.49. Our pick for the best show value in town is two free tickets to the "Jimmy Kimmel Comedy Club" (#9), that comes via our coupon in the Member Rewards Book and includes 20% off your food/drink. The frozen margarita (#10) is sold at the major Station casinos bars.

Buffet Update

The buffet situation is getting muddier—the casinos don't want them, but they seem to be attempting to mimic them. The most recent is Master Kim's at Palace Station that features an all-you-can-eat option (see "Openings/Closings"). Another that we have on our to-do list is a \$99 seafood and A-5 Wagyu hot pot in X-Pot at the Venetian. Hot pots are another AYCE spinoff that's available in several non-casino restaurants around town and may start moving into the casino space. The new Museum of Ice Cream at AREA15 has an ice cream buffet (see ENTERTAINMENT). And there's a new option listed in "[Spot Buffets](#)".

There were no significant changes at the casino buffets in the list below. Earn 100 points at the Resort at Summerlin July 7, 14, 21, and 28 and get a BOGO buffet. The Gospel Brunch at House of Blues runs July 19.

We update our casino buffet listing with a call-around every month and input the changes. Check the listing for [current prices](#) and see all of [this month's changes here](#).

Following is the list of the 10 operating buffets in order of overall pricing, from lowest to highest: South Point, Circus Circus, Main Street Station, Resort at Summerlin, Excalibur, Cosmopolitan, Palms, Bellagio, Wynn, Caesars Palace.

The Hat

The first non-California location of 70-year-old L.A. pastrami-sandwich institution, The Hat, opened in May. The place was immediately mobbed, and seven weeks later, nothing had changed. To be honest, we didn't want to fade it, but we did.

[Continue Reading](#)

Dancing During Dinner

In a bit of a departure in this month's Neon Feast contribution, Al Mancini checks out Latin Night in Viva at Resorts World. The review concentrates on the event, but the links within give you a clue as to what you can munch on while watching (or being part of) the salsa dancing.

[Continue Reading](#)

Dining Notes

Discount Down—The 30% discount at Mukgo Nolza that we wrote about in the May issue has been discontinued.

Prime Instacomp—Earn 300 same-day points (\$600 coin-in) and get a comped prime rib dinner in Freedom Beat at Downtown Grand, open Thurs.-Mon. from 8 am to 2 pm.

Chicken Fingers (Crown & Anchor)

We were spurred to do this review by the fun we're having with the big crowds that show up for the World Cup soccer matches, as well as by the new "Tender Tuesdays" promo. Get the best chicken fingers in town for half-price, and a lot more.

[Continue Reading](#)

Quick-Reviews Blog

This month Quick Reviews checks out a bargain steak deal and one of Las Vegas' best Thai-food restaurants not named Lotus of Siam.

[Continue Reading](#)

The expected loss for perfect play on DG's best video poker schedule is \$10.

Tender Tuesdays—On Tuesdays at Crown & Anchor, the chicken fingers are half price. That's \$7 for the best fingers in town (see review).

Best Steak Deal—In a brief list of "The 7 Absolute Best Steak Dinners in the US Under \$30" by TastingTable.com, Las Vegas had

two entries: Rustic House and Jackson's Bar & Grill. We've heard that Rustic's is good, but haven't tried it yet. We've been telling you about Jackson's ribeye special for years and you can get it comped with the coupon in the Member Rewards Book. Two out of seven from the entire country is an amazing showing, but we're not sure there shouldn't have been more from Las Vegas on that list or that these two are necessarily the best (cue the \$9.99 special at Ellis Island). There are several contenders in town, we'll give you that list in a future issue (we review one of them this issue).

Vegas Beard—Sarah Thompson from Casa Playa at Encore won the 2026 James Beard Award for "Best Chef: Southwest." The win breaks a 15-year Las Vegas losing streak for the Beards that goes back to 2011, when the award was won by Saipin Chutima of Lotus of Siam.

Eating Contests—New York-New York will host a hot dog-eating contest on the casino's Brooklyn Bridge on July 4. The Nathan's Famous Hot Dog contest will take place at Coney Island as usual, but this event will qualify entrants into next year's contest in Brooklyn. The party starts at 3 pm with \$2.50 food and drinks, games, and live music; the competition is at 4. Anyone who wants to stuff down as many hot dogs as possible in 10 minutes can apply at majorleagueeating.com. The Plaza is holding a wing-eating contest on July 4 with a \$1,000 first prize. [Sign up here](#) by July 3 to participate.

Openings/Closings

Master Kim's Wagyu House has opened at Palace Station. It's the brand's fourth location and the only one in a casino. The main attraction is an all-you-can-eat meat deal with

conveyor-belt-style service for some items and serving robots, but it's also praised for its vegan and vegetarian options, including plant-based proteins. We've heard that wait times at the three other locations can approach 90 minutes. The AYCE at those runs \$29.95-\$42.95.

Lucia Mexican Grill at Virgin has opened the Lucia Taco Truck. The indoor stationery truck is really just a restaurant annex, but it's a good quick-bite option.

The second largest In-N-Out Burger in the country has opened on the third level of BLVD on the south Strip. The restaurant spans more than 10,500 square feet (8,000 square feet inside and a 2,500-square-foot rooftop terrace across from Aria) on two floors. We took a look at the venue while it was still under construction in a review of How Ya Dough'n on the same level last year; get a [view of it here](#).

Nacho Daddy has opened its fourth Las Vegas location at AREA15.

A China Mama has opened at 2550 St. Rose Pkwy.; it's the eighth in the China Mama group that began with the original at Jones and Decatur.

French Riviera Tropézienne Bakery is scheduled to open this month at 401 S. Sixth St. in the distinct building that was formerly Andre's French restaurant and has sat empty since that restaurant closed in 2008.

Aroma Latin American Cocina has opened in Chinatown (3355 Spring Mountain).

The Clubhouse Deli in the sports book at the Resort at Summerlin has closed.

After opening five locations in rapid succession, the Zippy's on Hualapai Way has closed.

Reader Leader

Arizona Charlie's Decatur has a new \$5.99 smashburger and fries at PT's Express. Two patties of beef and cheese. The extra patty of beef surprised me, as it's not advertised. They included plenty of condiments and napkins, which were needed, because this is a juicy burger. There's also a single-patty Pub Classic, with lettuce, tomato, and onion for \$6.99.

LVA: This is yet another competitive burger deal. There're also PT's Expresses at Arizona Charlie's Boulder and the Edgewater in Laughlin and the STRAT has a PT's Wings & Sports, which might also have these deals.

— Entertainment —

The Magician's Study

You need one password to buy tickets and a second to gain admission to the secret location for an up-close performance in front of a 50-person audience. Is it worth it?

Continue Reading

Fireworks On the Fourth

Fireworks on Independence Day typically aren't as elaborate as New Year's Eve, but that's not the case this year for America's 250th anniversary celebration. Labeled the "Full Strip Spectacular," nine resort rooftops will launch fireworks simultaneously on July 4th in an eight-minute coordinated display synced to music broadcast on local radio. The nine casinos are MGM Grand, Planet Hollywood, Aria, Caesars Palace, Treasure Island, Venetian, Resorts World, Fontainebleau, and The STRAT. Additionally, there'll be displays at Station Casinos' Red Rock, Green Valley Ranch, Durango, and Sunset, Santa Fe, and Boulder Stations, as well as the Plaza downtown. Themed displays have been announced for the Bellagio fountains and the Luxor and MBay exteriors. And no doubt something special will appear on the exosphere of Sphere.

It doesn't stop there. The Saturday-night Strip displays will run through July 25. These are as good as any previous July 4th display in Las Vegas. The Friday-night shows at the Plaza will continue through September 4.

Entertainment Digest

We cover Las Vegas happenings daily in "Vegas News" on the LasVegasAdvisor.com home page. Following are links to entertainment-related stories that ran in June.

[Now You See Me Live to Replace David Copperfield](#)

[Ice Cream Museum Opening at Area15](#)

[Ed Sullivan "On Las Vegas" \(video\)](#)

Bars and Happy Hours

CHI Asian Kitchen at The STRAT is running "Dumplings After Dark" Fridays and Saturdays starting at 9 pm, with \$7 beer, \$8.88 wine, and \$10 appetizers accompanied by the beats of live DJs playing tunes.

Hurricane Alley at the Mardi Gras has happy hours daily from 4 to 6 pm and mid-night to 2 am, with \$2-\$3 off beer and \$7 appetizers.

Bel-Aire Lounge at Durango has \$5 cocktails on Mondays from 4 pm to midnight.

Flight Club, the dart bar at the Venetian, has a happy hour Mon.-Fri. from 3 to 6 pm, with \$2 off beer, wine, and cocktails.

Play Playground at Luxor is running a July special, with all-you-can-drink beer, wine, and well drinks for \$42, two-hour time limit.

Kona Grill (750 S. Rampart) has happy hours Tues.-Fri. from 2 to 6 pm, daily from 9 pm to close, and all day Mondays, with a \$3-\$6-\$9 menu of food and drinks; the food includes sushi rolls.

In its monthly contribution for LVA, Happy Hour Vegas zeros in on three HHs that are suited to beating the summer heat.

Ellis Island has opened Bar 1968, named for the year the casino opened (as the original Village Pub), in the space that was the karaoke bar.

Along the lines of its Santa's Saloon that ran for a month in December, the Palms will host the immersive "Camp Palms: No Kids Allowed" pop-up bar. Camp Palms will be open Wed.-Sun. starting at 5 pm, through July 31.

Bellagio has debuted “The Watering Hole” inside the conservatory exhibit. Similar to the ongoing Garden Table [dining option](#), The Watering Hole provides a cocktail experience with three specialty cocktails served in a special area within the display. It’s \$500 for parties up to four and \$1,000 for five or more, reservations available at 6, 8, and 10 pm.

Class Cocktails & Vermuteria has opened at 1118 S. Rainbow, serving Wed.-Sun. from 4:44 pm to 1:11 am (the unconventional hours made up of “lucky numbers”).

A fifth Lola’s has opened at 9660 S. Ft. Apache.

Calico Jack’s Saloon on W. Charleston has closed. At least it won’t become another Dot-ty’s, Joanie’s, or Lola’s; a Village Pub will open in the space.

Entertainment Notes

Dragon Discount—Tickets for *Piff the Magic Dragon* at the Flamingo are 25%-off through August 31. Get the discount with promo code “PIFF25” [here](#).

Bellagio Display—The Bellagio Conservatory & Botanical Gardens has opened its summer display, “Paradise: Nature’s Most Beautiful Creations.” It features garlanded giraffes, a floral head-dressed lion, a necklaced lion cub, pink flamingos, tigers, a colorful toucan, and flowers and greenery galore. The display runs through September 12.



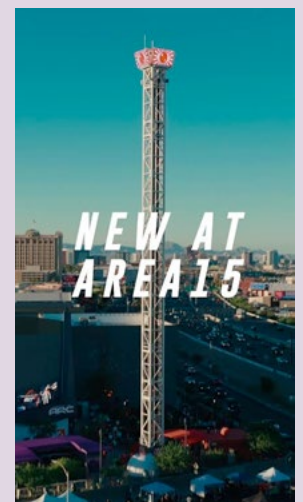
Rocky Horror at Sphere—Answering those who wondered what Sphere could possibly

come up with to follow *The Wizard of Oz*, next up is *Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Considered by many the greatest cult film ever made and a staple of midnight screenings at revival movie theaters since 1975, *Rocky Horror* will be on the bill at Sphere starting sometime next year and with Sphere technology, the possibilities are virtually endless. Still, it will have a long way to go to match *Wizard of Oz*, which has broken the three-million-ticket mark and raked in a cool \$400 million in less than a year.

Broadway at Venetian—After more than a decade, Broadway is returning to the Strip. Whereas Broadway shows were all the rage in the 2000s, that ended with the opening of the Smith Center in 2012, the year the Venetian closed the long-running *Phantom: The Las Vegas Spectacular*. The Venetian is bringing back Broadway with two engagements in its 1,800-seat theater. *Mrs. Doubtfire* will play July 22-August 3, followed by *The Book of Mormon* November 4-15. Get more information and tickets [here](#).

Angel/Dracula—Criss Angel is following up his pairing with [Alice Cooper](#) with another out-there collaboration, this time with the genre/gender-bending Kim Dracula. “Haunted” is currently scheduled to play one show only at Planet Hollywood on October 24. Get a look at Dracula covering Lady Gaga’s “Paparazzi” [here](#). Get tickets [here](#).

Eye Dropper—Las Vegas’ newest thrill ride has debuted at the AREA15 entertainment complex. Eye Dropper is a 200-foot ride/experience that combines space shot (up) and turbo drop (down) sequences at speeds up to 36 mph and 4 Gs to -1.2 Gs of weightlessness. Tickets are \$25 for 13 and older and \$20 for under 13.



Cool Concerts

Clay Aiken at **Harrah's** 7/18 • Rick Springfield at **Palms** 8/29 • April Wine at **Golden Nugget** 9/4 • Sweet at **Golden Nugget** 9/11 • Blues Traveler at **Durango** Oct. 11

GAMBLING

WSOP in Progress

With several tournaments, including the Main Event, still to be played, several impressive player accomplishments are in the books at this year's World Series of Poker. Not that anyone figures to get close to the exploits of Michael Mizrahi, who won both the Main Event and the Poker Players Championship last year, but there've already been some good stories.

This year's PPC winner was Benny Glaser, who outlasted runner-up Josh Arieh and third-place finisher Phil Ivey. It was his ninth bracelet overall. Mizrahi somehow didn't win the PPC (he's won it four times), but he did earn his ninth bracelet in another tournament, putting himself and Glaser in a tie with Johnny Moss for sixth most championships. They trail only Johnny Chan (10), Erik Seidel (10), Doyle Brunson (10), Phil Ivey (11), and Phil Hellmuth (17). Nick Shulman won his eighth bracelet. Calvin Anderson, Naoya Kihara, and Eelis Parssinen have each won two events; Anderson's wins take his bracelet total to seven. Adrian Mateos became the youngest ever at 31 to win six bracelets and Kristen Foxen won her sixth, the most all-time by a woman.

There's no definitive indicator on participation yet, partially because the WSOP.com coverage provides almost no information. In some comparisons that we were able to make, Colossus had 16,269 entries, down 32 from 2025, the PPC had 108, up one, and the Millionaire Maker had 11,769, up significantly from 7,977. However, one study we saw reported that participation is down overall, especially in the lower buy-in tournaments. The prediction market Kalshi puts the probability that the Main Event will have more than 10,000 entries at 27%.

The Main Event starts on July 2 and runs through the 12th, followed by a three-week pause before play on the final table begins August 3.



Gambling Notes

Jackpots—A player at Westgate lined up the Megabucks symbols to win a \$10,292,912 jackpot. It was the second Megabucks jackpot in as many months, following a \$10.5 million score at Mandalay Bay in May. A player at Aria hit for \$2.4 million on a \$100 Dragon Link machine. A traveler leaving Las Vegas hit a \$3.3 million jackpot at the C gates at Reid International on a Wheel of Fortune machine. A player at the Edgewater in Laughlin hit for \$1.5 million, also on a WoF slot.

Transparent Slots—Unlike video poker where a machine's payback percentage can be determined by its payable, there's no way to calculate the return for slots without having access to the par sheets that indicate same. But that's not the case at Virgin Hotels, where select machines have banners that read "98% Payback." The first machines to display the banners (according to a photo we received) are old-time Double and Triple Diamonds for quarters. Given that there's no strategy for playing slots—except in this case to play max coins—anyone who plays is achieving a 98% return, which is better than most uninformed players will do playing video poker. It's the latest in a series of player-friendly moves at Virgin.

Slotapalooza 2—Circa is running the second Slotapalooza on July 18. "The World's Largest Slot Party" features a free and open-to-the-public slot tournament (11 am-7 pm) with a grand prize of a video poker machine and \$15,000 in free-play split among the top scorers. Several game manufacturers (Interblock, AGS, Light & Wonder) will be there, distributing free-play to guests. The official party begins at 7 pm, with more giveaways and a two-hour open bar.

Sigma Derby Moves—The last remaining Sigma Derby mechanical horse-racing machine in the world has been removed from the D, but it's not the end of the species. The machine has been relocated to the Golden Gate. Sigma Derby was a staple in casinos during the '80s, but slowly disappeared, due mostly to the need for excessive maintenance and difficulty in obtaining replacement parts.

Westgate Contests—The Westgate has announced that although the SuperBook is now operated by Caesars Entertainment, its football contests will remain unchanged this season; they are the SuperContest (\$1,500 entry), Gold (\$5,000), Survivor (\$5,000), and College (\$500).

Contest Proxy—Football-contest season is around the corner. If you don't live in Nevada and want to participate, you'll need to work with a resident or use a proxy service to put in your picks. We recommend FootballContest.com.

Double-Up Bug—For whatever reason, coverage of a 2012 cheating case that involved exploiting a bug in the double-up feature on certain video poker machines has come back to the forefront. The cheating charges were dropped, but it's a fascinating story that's detailed in this [14-minute YouTube video](#). A more detailed account is given in this [Wired](#) article.

Bingo—The Plaza is running a Super Bingo event July 3-5 with a \$250,000 prize pool, the largest it has ever offered. The entry fee is \$250 (Canadian citizens with valid ID get BOGO entry). There's also a five-night hotel package for an additional \$200. Bigger yet, registration is open for South Point's \$2 million Bingo Extravaganza, which will be held October 30-31 and November 3-4.

Plaza Chips—A post on X indicates that the Plaza is "retiring" select chips on August 30. They're in all denominations from \$1 to \$1,000, so if you're holding any Plaza chips at all, you'd be wise to [click this link](#) to see if they'll be worthless in a couple of months.

World Cup Odds—With play in the first knock-out round still in progress in soccer's World Cup, France is the favorite to win the championship at +200, followed by Argentina at +325 and Spain at +700.

Horse Racing—Aqueduct Racetrack closed in June after more than 130 years of operation. It was the last thoroughbred racetrack in New York City proper, though Belmont Park is located just across the city line on Long Island. Aqueduct is the latest high-profile race venue to close, leaving

only about 75 thoroughbred tracks in the U.S. where there was once more than 300. All-sources betting on this year's Kentucky Derby set a record at \$348.7 million (+3%), the Preakness was \$107 million (-3%), and the Belmont was \$116 million (+14%).



Video Poker Lost and Found

The online database vpFREE2 reports that Four Queens has removed all of its 10/7 Double Bonus games. The best game now is 9/6 Jacks or Better (99.54%) at 25¢ and 50¢.

Also from vpFREE2, the California has removed the rest of its coin-dropper machines, which were among the last in town. The change didn't affect the inventory and the best game there remains NSU Deuces Wild (99.73%) from 5¢ to 50¢.

The Rio continues to tighten up and has downgraded all 25¢ and 50¢ 9/6 JoB games at the bars.

The good Ojos Locos promo runs on Mondays and Fridays in July. Tender \$50 at the club booth and get \$100 on your players card that you can play immediately—a 100% bonus. It previously began at 4 pm and you could play it only once per week. We'll check and provide full details in the blog that's linked below.

Earn 600 points (\$4,000 coin-in) at Four Queens or Binion's in July and get \$50 in free-play. You can do it at both casinos.

Several promos are in place at 777 Gaming and Spirits (2333 N. Jones), including a strong play-\$100-get-\$50 bonus that runs daily from midnight to 8 am. There's also a 20/20 sign-up bonus and additional bonuses for cards of the day, four to a royal, and more. Be aware that the coin-counter displays delayed readings, so you might want to count your hands (80 necessary to play \$100 on quarters). It also appears that you have to earn the bonus before the end of the promo period, as opposed to the norm of simply starting play before the cutoff. The best game there is 25-15-9-4-4-3 Deuces Wild (98.91%) available on some machines.

The Brew Works 200/20 promotion continues to run Sun.-Thurs., but now cuts off at 5 pm at both the Arts District and Boca Park locations.

The two locations of Amore—Taste of Chicago (3945 S. Durango and 4330 E. Sunset) have a 20/20 promo on the Gamblers Bonus system that you can play once per month.

Ichabod's (3300 E. Flamingo) is advertising a matching free-play bonus for in-house jackpots of \$2,000 or more, daily 7 am-3 pm. The ad says "for a limited time." The last time we checked, the best game was 7/5 Bonus Poker (98.01%), which makes this a breakeven play with the possibility of better on available progressives.

The 25¢ video poker machines at The Martini (see DINING) are the first we've seen that require four coins (\$1 minimum) to play. It's not really an issue, except when you want to round your cashout to an even dollar number.

Check out Bob Dancer's Tuesday blog at LasVegasAdvisor.com.

These promotions change frequently, check for updated information here.

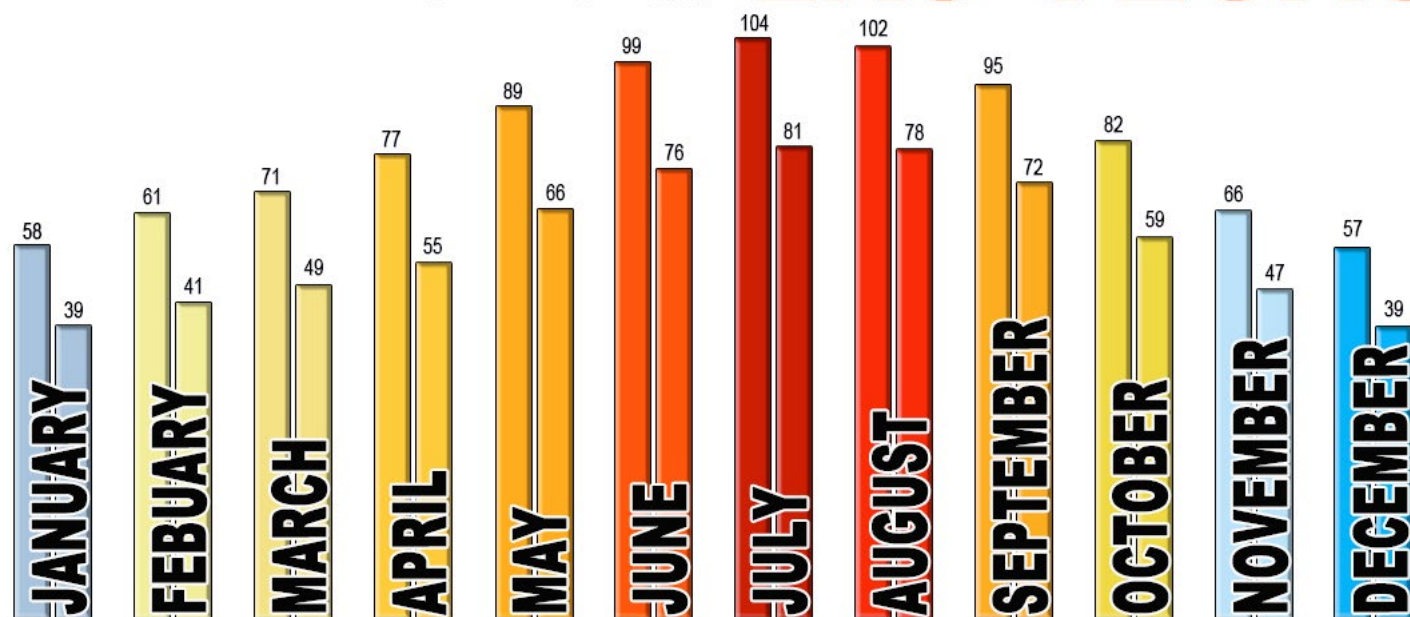
Question of the Day

Why is the "Welcome to Las Vegas" sign photo scam allowed to continue?

This QOD ran on June 21, 2025. [Read the answer here.](#)

AVERAGE

HIGH & LOW TEMPERATURES IN LAS VEGAS



JULY

Mean 87°

Avg. Max. 107° Avg. Min. 67°

Dry sauna-like heat. Sun worshippers enjoy 85% sunny days.

Pools: Open

Attire: The skimpier the better. If it's not mandatory, don't wear it!.

AUGUST

Mean 85°

Avg. Max. 104° Avg. Min. 66°

A very hot and wet month. Desert electrical storms are spectacular but can cause dangerous floods on and around the Strip

Pools: Open

Attire: Summer cool, bathing suits.

SEPTEMBER

Mean 76°

Avg. Max. 96° Avg. Min. 57°

Warm sunny days, mild evenings. It doesn't get any better than this.

Pools: Open

Attire: No need for jackets or sweaters.