

# Las Vegas Advisor

May 2026 Vol. 43 Issue 5



## **POOL SEASON**

MBay takes on Circa ... pg. 8

## **VEGAS VACATION PACKAGES**

MGM rocks it ... pg. 1

## **NBA ARENAS**

Seven proposals, and counting ... pg. 3

## **BUFFET DOWN**

Only 10 left ... pg. 6

## **\$30 TICKETS**

Big shows on sale ... pg. 7

## **CAESARS SNATCHES THE SUPERBOOK**

Say it ain't so ... pg. 10

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2026

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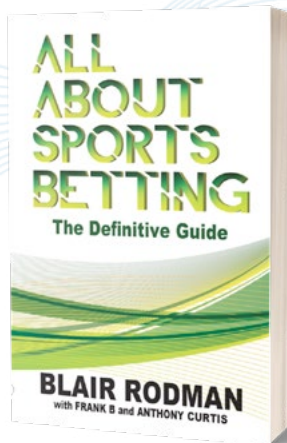
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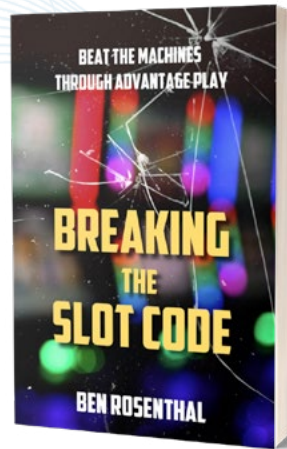
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Anthony Curtis' **Las Vegas Advisor**  
3665 Procyon Street • Las Vegas, NV 89103  
(702) 252-0655 • (800) 244-2224  
e-mail: [cs@LasVegasAdvisor.com](mailto:cs@LasVegasAdvisor.com)

**Publisher:** Anthony Curtis  
**Senior Editor:** Deke Castleman  
**Accounting:** John Leitner  
**Main Manager:** Tanya Maynard  
**Research Manager:** Paula Machado  
**Customer Service:** Taylor Mabe  
**Shipping:** Andrea Marin Perez  
**Contributing Writers:** Jeffrey Compton, Bob Dancer, Scot Krause, Jean Scott  
**Cover Image:** Tailgate Beach Club

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# COUPONOMY

## All-Inclusive

Last month, MGM Resorts International unveiled a bundled vacation package for \$330 (plus tax) that includes a two-night stay, meals, a show, rides on the NY-NY roller coaster, and as the term “all-inclusive” suggests, free parking and no resort fees. Back in the '70s and '80s, the casinos offered these kinds of bundles all the time. They used to be advertised in the *L.A. Times* travel section, as well as in other major newspapers. They were no-brainers for the budget minded. All-inclusives went the way of 99¢ shrimp cocktails and \$1.99 breakfast buffets, but with the casinos now scraping for customers, they're pulling them out again.

One way to look at this MGM offer is you're getting the room for \$165 a night and all the extras are comped. But the way I've always analyzed it is to put a price on everything I'd have purchased anyway, then deduct that amount from the package price to derive the cost for the room. Here's how it works for the MGM deal. Note that \$330 is the total for two people.

**Perk:** *Three meals per day per guest, with options at MGM Grand, MBay, and NY-NY that include the MGM and Excalibur buffets*

**Value:** Assign \$20 for breakfast, \$39 for the Excalibur brunch (since MGM's is closing, see DINING), and \$40 for dinner. That's \$99 x 2 people x 2 days = \$396 in food, and those are low assignments. Your room is now free for two nights and you have \$66 to spare.

**Perk:** *Two tickets to a choice of six shows, including Blue Man Group, Fantasy, and Mac King*

**Value:** Pick one. *Blue Man Group* tickets start at \$63. That's \$63 x 2 = \$126.

**Perk:** *Two rides on the NY-NY roller coaster*

**Value:** The lowest price for a ride is \$20 and re-rides are \$10. That's \$30 x 2 = \$60.

**Perk:** *Free parking and no resort fee*

**Value:** No extra charges there.

The extras come out to  $\$396 + \$126 + \$60 = \$582$ . What, no free drinks?

Being as charitable as possible, we checked the price for two midweek days in May for the room. Without the bundle, resort fees would apply, so it came to \$253.97 for Luxor and \$142.86 for Excalibur. If we were frugal and booked Excalibur, piecemealing this package would cost \$725—more than twice the price of the bundle.

How do you not say, “Let's hit Vegas for a couple days!” on that deal?

It's not just MGM. As seems to be the case 95% of the time in this copycat industry, Caesars Entertainment immediately followed with its own package.



Resorts World then put one together. So did Boyd Gaming.

They're not all followers, as Circa, Plaza, The STRAT, and Downtown Grand brought back all-inclusives that preceded MGM's. Following are quick rundowns of the all-inclusive currently available. Most of these run into September and multiple variations are usually available. Click on the provided links for full details.

*Caesars*—Choice of Harrah's, LINQ, or Flamingo. One person \$200-per-night and \$100 more for each additional guest. Perks include two meals a day; unlimited beer, wine, and well drinks; two tickets for the High Roller observation wheel; free parking and no RF. You can get pretty close to the free-room level with the perks, but the deal is diminished significantly for gamblers who get their alcohol for free and for those who don't drink. Details [here](#).

*Resorts World*—A room at the Conrad Hotel for \$300 per night, includes dinner for two from prix-fixe menus at a choice of five of RW's good restaurants, admission into Zouk Nightclub, free parking, and no RF. Eh, maybe good if you want to include the clubbing, but this one probably doesn't get you to free-room status. Details [here](#).

*Boyd*—One-, two-, or three-nights at Gold Coast or Orleans. Prices range from \$75 for one night at Gold Coast to \$300 for three nights at Orleans. Regardless of what you choose, it includes a food & beverage credit that reduces the room price to \$50 per night with no RF. That's a good rate, especially since it includes weekends, but you're not in free-room territory. Details [here](#) for Gold Coast and [here](#) for Orleans.

*Circa*—Two nights midweek for \$400, includes a \$100 dining credit and \$100 beverage credit, a daybed at Stadium Swim, free parking, and no RF. This is different from the previous offers, because the F&B credits can be used anywhere, including the Legacy Club for drinks. Unless the daybed has zero value for you, it's like getting a room at downtown's swankiest casino for well under \$100 per night. Details [here](#).

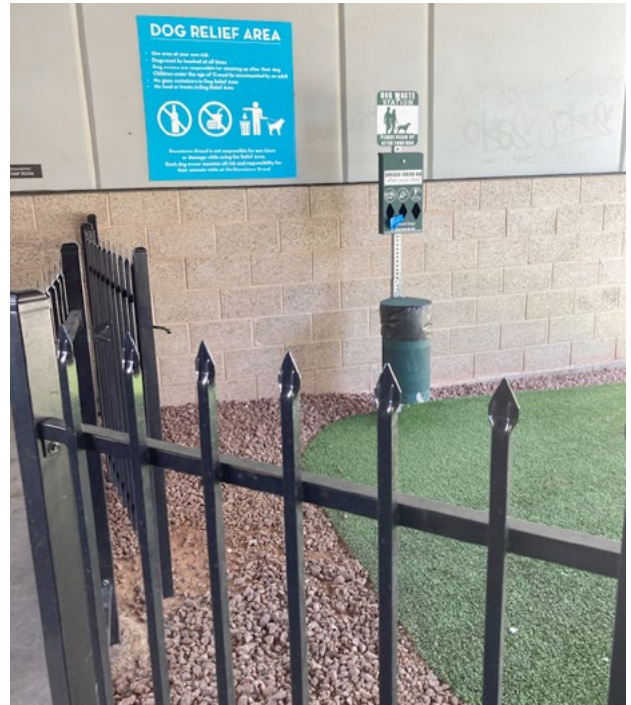
*Plaza*—The package is \$104 per person per day. Each day includes breakfast and dinner per person (limited menus), unlimited drinks, free parking, and no RF. This one probably cuts the room cost to the \$25 range or less if you're drinking on the square (not gambling), so it's a good one for a tight budget. Details [here](#).

*STRAT*—One night for \$49 weekdays/\$99 weekends, \$25 dining credit, tower admission for two, and no RF. It works out to a \$24 room midweek, another good budget play. Details [here](#).

*Downtown Grand*—Two-night minimum at \$89 per night, includes \$50 F&B credit, four drink tickets, free early check-in and late check-out, free room upgrade if available (ask); free parking, and no RF. This one's a bit skimpy, working out to about \$60 per night, but the early/late/upgrade throw-ins are nice, not to mention this is the only casino in Las Vegas with a mini-dog park. Details [here](#).

That's a lot of choices and I'm guessing they're not the end of it. Of course, personal preferences will dictate the best deal for you, but MGM is far and away the cup winner for value.

As an aside, when MGM comes in tops for value, you know Vegas is dealin'!



# No CFN

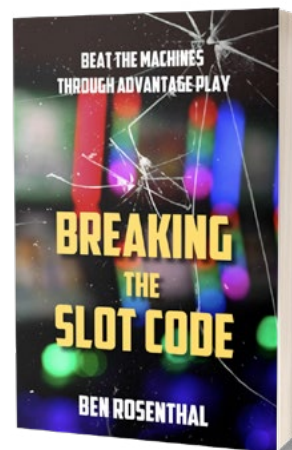
We were expecting the opening of Club Fortune North in April or at least news of an opening date, but we got neither. It's been quiet over there. MAYbe this month.

# Old-Vegas Pods

If you're an old-Vegas fan, here are two podcasts you'll want to listen to. The first is a "Gambling With an Edge" show featuring Cowboy Buzz, who worked at the Stardust during the Lefty Rosenthal years. His stories will blow your mind. The second is Colin Jones' Blackjack Apprenticeship interview with Max Rubin. Do you want to hear some incredible gambling stories? This is the place. Check out Cowboy Buzz [here](#) and Max Rubin [here](#).

# Breaking the Slot Code

It's been a long wait, but for a worthwhile payoff. Our book *Breaking the Slot Code* is at the printer and due back this month, at which time we'll fulfill orders immediately. Thank you for your patience.



# NEWS

**NBA Arenas**—Fueled by the likelihood that Las Vegas will get an NBA franchise, multiple plans for basketball arenas have popped up. They include sites at the Rio, Resorts World, a parcel farther north on the Strip, and the mayor is lobbying to build downtown, along with three more lofty proposals. Star Vegas would be a \$10 million project located on Las Vegas Blvd. about five miles south of the city, anchored by a 25,000-seat arena. Las Vegas Diamond Arena would be a 21,000-seat venue built across the Strip from Mandalay Bay. A third arena possibility is associated with the just-proposed project described in "MHA Casino" (pg. 4). All three make grandiose promises while providing sparse details. While none of these plans appears to have the inside track, the odds are good that a stadium will be built somewhere, giving Las Vegas teams in all four major sports.

**Rio**—There's been a management shake-up at the Rio. Dreamscape, the New York real estate firm that bought the Rio from Caesars in 2019, has been relegated to a minority ownership position and private-credit company Kennedy Lewis Investment Management is the new boss. We don't usually comment on these sorts of changeovers, but this one could be consequential if the new regime pulls back from the bargain-priced direction Dreamscape took and that we've endorsed throughout.

**Main Street Station**—A truck crashed through the front doors of Main Street Station last month. There was nothing noteworthy about the crash beyond the rarity of it, and there were no injuries. You can see the truck-in-the-casino aftermath in [this news coverage](#).

**MHA Casino**—North Dakota's Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation (MHA), which we've referred to previously as the Three



Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation, has announced plans to build a \$2 billion resort across the Strip from Mandalay Bay. MHA quietly amassed 23 acres on the Strip between 2020 and 2023 and now says it will develop a complex that will include a casino, hotel, convention space, theater, and of course, an NBA-ready arena. A timetable was not disclosed.

**Hot**—Climate Central has issued its annual Earth Day report on the 245 fastest-warming locations in the U.S. Reno maintained the dubious distinction of placing first, which it has for the past several years. Las Vegas ranked second. Reno's average temperature has increased 7.8° since 1970, Las Vegas 6°. The Las Vegas numbers weren't a surprise given the March heat wave that resulted in a median daily temperature of 73°, an astounding 12.2° above the typical median and 6.3° higher than the previous record of 66.7° set in 2015.

**Lake Tahoe**—New plans have been announced for the former Cal Neva on the north shore of Lake Tahoe. After securing a reported \$298 million in funding, the owners appear to have veered away from a plan to build a wellness retreat and now say it will become the Lake Tahoe Proper Resort and Casino, with an opening planned for 2027.

**New York**—After 15 years of being restricted to machine-gambling only, Resorts World has become the first casino in New York City to offer live table games. The casino now has nearly 250 table games dealing blackjack, baccarat, craps, and roulette.

**Pennsylvania**—Happy Valley Casino has opened in State College. Pennsylvania's 18th casino has 600 machines and 30 table games, along with restaurants and bars.

**Oklahoma**—Harrah's Oklahoma has opened near Oklahoma City. The casino has 1,000 machines and 12 table games, along with restaurants and bars. A hotel is planned.

**Statistics**—Nevada's statewide gambling win was up 1.5% in February compared to the same month last year, taking in \$1.23 billion. The Strip win was up .9% and downtown was down 4.9%. Downtown was one of only three reporting areas in the state that registered a decline; the others were Laughlin (-8.8%) and North Lake Tahoe (-21.3%).

Las Vegas' visitation slide was halted at 13 months, with 3 million coming to town for a 2.1% increase. Hotel occupancy was up compared to December at 81.7%, with 89.3% weekends and 78.1% weekdays.

Airline traffic didn't follow suit, declining by 3.3%, with 3.9 million travelers. With the decrease in Canadian flyers the primary culprit, international travel was down 10.9%. According to Airports Council International, Reid International is the fifth busiest airport in the world. Its total of 586,046 takeoffs and landings to and from 170 destinations in 2025 placed it behind Chicago's O'Hare, Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson, Dallas Ft. Worth, and Denver.

## SPORTS BETTING SCORECARD

Wisconsin has become the 33<sup>rd</sup> state to legalize online sports betting, though it won't go into effect there until compacts with the state's 11 Native American tribes that are permitted to operate the books are renegotiated. Efforts to legalize sports betting have been derailed in Georgia and Oklahoma.

Follow the progress of sports betting legalization across the country and track developments as they occur via our map at [LasVegasAdvisor.com](https://LasVegasAdvisor.com).

# TOP 10

<b>1</b>	Steak Dinner - Ellis Island Daily - \$9.99	<b>6</b>	Prime Rib - Ellis Island Daily - \$17.50
<b>2</b>	Cheeseburger & Fries - Station Casinos Daily - \$5.99	<b>7</b>	Breakfast - Emerald Island Daily - \$5.99
<b>3</b>	Hot Dog/Beer - Downtown Grand Daily - \$3	<b>8</b>	Jimmy Kimmel Comedy Club LINQ Prom. - Daily - Free (for 2)
<b>4</b>	Beer - Stagedoor Daily - \$2	<b>9</b>	Frozen Margarita - Station Casinos 24 hrs. - \$1.99
<b>5</b>	Shrimp Cocktail - Slots A Fun Daily - \$2	<b>10</b>	Souvenir Photo - Binion's Daily - Free

The Ellis Island complete steak dinner returns to the #1 spot after being displaced last month by the opening of Cadence Crossing. 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 (#2). 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 #3. 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, or later. Heineken or Dos Equis in the bottle is \$2 at the Stage Door (#4) on Flamingo, just east of the Strip. Las Vegas' best-deal shrimp cocktail is at Slots A Fun (#5). 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 (#6). 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 (#7) 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" (#8), that comes via our coupon in the Member Rewards Book and includes 20%-off your food/drink. The frozen margarita (#9) is sold at the major Station casinos bars. The souvenir photo at Binion's (#10) is the best free souvenir in Sin City. Accessible 24/7, simply pose and press the button; the photo will be sent to your phone.

# DINING

## Buffet Update

Bad news comes this month for anyone holding out hope that the buffets will be coming back with the announcement that the MGM Grand Buffet will close permanently at the end of this month. It was among the oldest remaining, having opened with the casino in 1993. The closing leaves only 10 casino buffets with no indication that the number will increase. MGM says there are "no immediate plans for the space."

The Gospel Brunch at House of Blues isn't being offered in May; it will resume on select Sundays in June.

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.

## EggSlut at Rio

Las Vegas' second Eggslut is a hit at the Rio, but what's the deal with orange eggs and green sausage?

Continue Reading

## Edge Steakhouse at Westgate

In this month's Neon Feast contribution, Al Mancini tells you why this steakhouse belongs on the list with Las Vegas' best.

Continue Reading

## Mukgo Nolza

This new restaurant in Chinatown is a winner, with a diverse Asian menu that includes a kick-ass pho. Best of all, during its soft opening, everything is 30% off.

Continue Reading

## Quick-Reviews Blog

This month Quick Reviews turns you onto one of Vegas' best burgers in a classic bar and highlights a unique take-out directory provided by a conscientious cheesesteak station.

Continue Reading

## Dining Notes

*Price Increase*—The price of the foot-long hot dog at Casino Royale has been raised by another 50¢ to \$3.99.

*Bellagio Late-Night*—Bellagio has introduced weekend late-night dining at two of its fancy restaurants overlooking the lake on Fridays and Saturdays from 10:30 pm to 3 am. Lago is already serving during the extended hours and Yellowtail will begin May 22.

*Silverton BOGO*—On Wednesdays in May, get 2-for-1 entrées in Mi Casa Grill Cantina at Silverton. Discovery Rewards Club members

can print a coupon for the deal at any kiosk between 3:30 and 8:30 pm.

*DG BOGO*—Freedom Beat at Downtown Grand has 2-for-1 hamburgers on Thursdays. They're \$18 retail, so it's another good burger for \$9 when you get two.

*Food Truck Park*—A new food truck park is preparing to open downtown in the Arts District. The 7,000-square-foot space is big enough to host 10 food trucks serving international cuisines. Interestingly, unlike most food truck parks, this one is indoors. Located a couple of blocks east of Las Vegas Blvd.

near the corner of Wyoming and Commerce, parking is free (when no major event is taking place in the area). The park is expected to open by June, after inspections and final signoff by the city.



## Openings/Closings

A third location of SoulBelly BBQ has opened in the Miracle Mile Shops at Planet Hollywood. We reviewed the original in the Arts District [here](#).

One of Las Vegas' best pizza restaurants, Good Pie, opens its third location at Red Rock

on May 11. The first three people in line get free pizza for a year. The press release says it opens at 11 am, but to be in that top three will likely require an overnighter.

KJ's has opened at The English Hotel, replacing Pepper Club.

The first non-California location of L.A. pastrami-sandwich institution, The Hat, opens May 6 at 6125 S. Rainbow.



One of Las Vegas' iconic restaurants, Le Cirque, will close August 23. The French restaurant opened with Bellagio in 1998 and outlasted its Manhattan predecessor, which closed in 2017, leaving the Bellagio Cirque as the last location for the brand. An as-yet unnamed restaurant will open in its vacated space in 2027.

El Burro Borracho has closed at Rio.

Fiorello Pasta Bar has closed in the food hall at Durango and will be replaced by Villa's Tacos from Los Angeles.

Ciao Vino has closed in Boca Park.

Gastropub Nisei Bar and Gill has closed on S. Jones.

The Tivoli Village location of El Dorado Cantina has closed. Three other locations in Las Vegas remain open.

# Entertainment

## \$30 Tickets

You'll have to hustle on this one. The Live Nation "Summer of Live" promotion is offering \$30 tickets (all-inclusive) to some of the biggest shows this summer, from Guns N' Roses at Allegiant Stadium all the way down to Boys Like Girls at Brooklyn Bowl. Here are some others: Deep Purple (PH Live); Boyz II Men (Chelsea at Cosmo); Blake Shelton, Cyndi Lauper, Nikki Glaser & David Spade, and Rod Stewart (Colosseum at Caesars); Jonas Brothers, New Kids On The Block, and Sammy Hagar (Dolby Live at Park MGM); and Weird Al Yankovic (MGM Grand Garden Arena). Dozens of lesser names are also available. You have to buy your tickets by May 5; [book here](#). Note that sales of this type often result in the best tickets selling out fast, but it's worth a look.

In a related development, Live Nation and its subsidiary Ticketmaster have been found guilty of violating antitrust laws that inflated ticket prices. According to reports, Live Nation controls 86% of the concert market and 73% of the live-entertainment market when sporting events are included. It's not clear what effect this will have on Las Vegas ticket prices and the ruling is likely to be appealed.

# Pool Season

It's pool season and we've conducted our annual May call-around to get the important details—emphasis here on the word "important." The Vegas pool scene gets bigger every year, so we're simply providing a macro look.

The big news this year is the debut of Tailgate Beach Club at Mandalay Bay (see cover), opening May 16. Taking a cue from Stadium Swim at Circa, Tailgate will emphasize its big video screens. The centerpiece is 125 feet of LED screens that will broadcast sports and must-watch TV shows. The three pools will be heated and open year-round, ending Stadium Swim's hegemony on that front.

Getting back to what we consider the important deets, the number of "toptional" pools is the same as last year and poolside blackjack options have increased by three. Once again, the friendly pool corner is at Flamingo and Valley View, where the pools at the Palms and Rio are open to non-guests 21+ at no charge; must be a players club member at Rio. Fees to get into the dayclubs are a moving target that we don't attempt to hit, as it's not important to most of our members. However, the information in the box below will give you a good idea of where you need to look to access that scene.

## Pools

All pools listed below are open to the public with the purchase of a cabana, daybed, or paying an entry fee ... those with an \* next to them are 21+ and/or feature pool parties.

Aria (Liquid\*, SkyPool); Bellagio (Cypress Pool\*); Caesars Palace (Fortuna\*, Omina Dayclub & Skybar\*, Venus Pool\*); Circa (Stadium Swim\*); Cosmopolitan (Boulevard, Chelsea, Marquee\*); Downtown Grand (Citrus\*); Durango (Bel-Aire-Backyard); Encore (Encore Beach\*, Resort Pool, XS\*); Excalibur; Flamingo (Flamingo Family Pool, GO\*); Fontainebleau (Gigi's, Legacy Pool\*, LIV Beach\*); Golden Nugget (Tank, Hideout\*); Green Valley Ranch (Pond\*); Harrah's (Lazy River, Main Pool\*); Horseshoe (Blu); Luxor (Oasis); M Resort (M Pool, DayDream\*); Mandalay Bay (Mandalay Bay Beach, Moorea\*, Tailgate Beach Club\*); MGM Grand (Grand Pool Complex, Palm Tree Beach Club\*); Palms (Soak, Palms Pool\*) ; Palms Place (Laguna\*); Paris (Pool à Paris); Park MGM (East, South, North, NoMad\*); Planet Hollywood (FlowRider, Scene\*); Plaza; Red Rock (Sandbar\*); Resorts World (Athena Infinity\*, Ayu\*, Bimini Pool, Cabana Pool, Main Pool, Family Pool); Rio (Lagoon Pool\*, Shell Pool), Sahara (Alexandria Pool); Silverton (The Swimmin' Hole); The Cromwell (Drai's\*); The LINQ (Influence\*); The STRAT (Swim & Social, Wet24\*); Palazzo/Venetian (Palazzo Pool Deck, TAO\*); Virgin (The Pool, Kassi\*); Wynn

### Poolside Concerts

Circa, Durango, M Resort,  
Mandalay Bay, Red Rock,  
Sahara

### Topless Sunbathing

Caesars (Venus Pool)  
Mandalay Bay (Moorea)  
Venetian (TAO-Thurs.-Sun.)  
Wynn (European pool)

### Blackjack by the Pool

Caesars Palace (Fortuna\*)  
Circa (Stadium Swim\*)  
Encore (Beach Club\*, XS\*)  
Flamingo (GO\*)  
Fontainebleau (LIV Beach\*)  
Golden Nugget (Tank)  
Red Rock (Sandbar\*)  
Venetian (Tao\*)  
Wynn (European pool\*)

# 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 March.

[Luxor Gets Shout Out from Cislunar Space](#)

[Digital Sistine Chapel Exhibition Opening at Crystals](#)

[Live Docu-Concert about Phil Collins Plays Resorts World](#)

## Bars and Happy Hours

Summer House at Durango Casino runs “Martini Hour” Mon.-Fri. from 3 to 6 pm, with \$4 beer, \$5 wine, \$10 martinis, and a creative appetizer assortment, including “first-class mixed nuts,” from \$5 to \$12.

Blue Orchid Thai Kitchen has a happy hour Mon.-Fri. from 8 to 10 pm, with \$6 beer, \$9 specialty cocktails, and \$8 appetizers. We reviewed Blue Orchid Thai [here](#).

Nevada Brew Works Boca Park has a happy hour Sun.-Thurs. from 9 to 11 pm, with \$6 beer, \$7 call drinks, \$8 wine, \$9 martinis, \$10 appetizers, and 50%-off steaks. The steak deal is available all day on Sundays. Parlay with the bonus detailed in [GAMBLING](#).

Butcher & Thief has a happy hour Mon.-Fri. from 3:30 to 5:30 pm, with \$4 beer, \$6 wine, \$8 cocktails, and appetizers starting at \$9.

On Mondays starting at 6 pm at Rustic Lounge (1816 N. Boulder Hwy.), buy a drink and get a free hot dog.

In its monthly contribution for *LVA*, Happy Hour Vegas lists five [happy hours in secret Las Vegas speakeasies](#). Just finding these places is hard enough without this info, let alone hitting 'em up for their good HH deals.

Sumo Sushi, which we've recommended for its late-night [\\$19.95 AYCE deal](#), now has an unlimited beer and sake add-on for \$9.95. That's unlimited sushi and drinks for \$29.90.

The former registration area at New York-New York has been replaced by the Midtown Bar.

The nightclub and concert venue Bizarre Bar has opened downtown on the second floor of the Colorado Building in the space that was formerly Swan Dive.

The Irish Spot has opened on E. Tropicana at the location that was formerly Crown & Anchor.

A fourth Seventy Six Tavern has opened at 9837 W. Tropicana in the location that was formerly The Den.

## Entertainment Notes

*EDC*—The Electric Daisy Carnival will take place May 15-17 at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway for the 15<sup>th</sup> year in a row since moving from Los Angeles. Insomniac, the producer of EDC, will launch this year's festivities with the inaugural World Party Parade on the Strip. The event, a free and all-ages dance party, will start at 6 pm on May 14 at the Sahara and continue down to Circus Circus. The announcement states, “P.L.U.R. strictly enforced.” In case you're not familiar with the acronym (we weren't), it stands for Peace, Love, Unity, and Respect.



*BTS*—A second huge event takes place when K-pop phenomenon BTS plays Allegiant Stadium May 23-24 and 27-28. The BTS experience will include an “immersive takeover” May 20-31, with themed events planned throughout the city.

*Downtown Rocks*—The “Downtown Rocks” free concert series begins this month, with several weekend dates running through October. This year's lineup opens with country artists Lee Brice, Austin Williams, and Grace Tyler on May 15 and includes Crossfade and Trapt (5/30), Fuel (6/13), and Mayday Parade (8/8). All shows take place on the Fremont Street Experience stages.

*Sunset Jazz*—Sunset Station is running a jazz series with one concert each month beginning this month and running through October. The concerts are outdoors and tickets are \$25.

*WrestleMania Numbers*—WrestleMania 42 attracted 106,072 attendees for the weekend, down from last year's 124,693, a drop of nearly 15% according to the just-announced totals. Despite the attendance decline, by

most metrics, this year's event was a success for both the wrestling organization and the city, though a Las Vegas three-peat seems unlikely.

*Allegiant Accolade*—Allegiant Stadium was named the 2026 "U.S. Stadium of the Year" at the Pollstar Awards last month. The venue was honored for its "exceptional programming, world-class guest experience, and significant contributions to the live-entertainment industry, hosting major artists and events."

*Showgirl Sues*—Las Vegas entertainer Maren Wade, who trademarked the name

"Confessions of a Showgirl," is reportedly suing Taylor Swift for naming her album "The Life of a Showgirl." According to her website, [marenwade.com](http://marenwade.com), Wade has appeared in several casino productions, including *50 Shades! The Parody*, *Pin Up*, and *Fantasy*.

*Yelp List Golf Courses*—In a Yelp list of the "50 Most Saved Golf Courses in the U.S.," Las Vegas had four: Angel Park (#9), Bear's Best (#17), Rhodes Ranch (#21), and Revere (#23). First on the list was Arroyo Seco in S. Pasadena, California. In the context of this list, "saved" refers to users putting the course on a list to play at some point.

## Cool Concerts

Pure Prairie League at **Westgate** June 20 • Thomas Dolby at **Sahara** July 25 • Howard Jones/Wang Chung at **Resorts World** July 26 • Little Feat at **Westgate** Aug. 6 • Godsmack at **Planet Hollywood** Sept. 11 • Foreigner at **Venetian** Sept. 16 • Isley Brothers at **Palms** Sept. 18 • Lynyrd Skynyrd at **Palms** Oct. 3 • Blue Oyster Cult at **M Resort** Nov. 14

# GAMBLING

## Caesars Grabs the SuperBook

Caesars and Westgate have inked a deal for Caesars Sportsbook to take over the Westgate SuperBook. The name will remain Westgate SuperBook, but with the official addendum "powered by Caesars Sportsbook" (if anyone bothers with it; we probably won't). Per the press release, "Caesars will oversee race and sports book operations and technology, expanding wagering options and access while preserving the identity, scale, and atmosphere that have defined the SuperBook for decades." Westgate's SuperContest will remain in place for the 2026-27 NFL season.

The announcement sent a wave of surprise and sadness through the sports betting world, as losing the lines of an independent book, especially this one, is a giant negative. Why did it happen? At this point, no one knows for sure, but the speculation is that Caesars wants the SuperContest, similar to the way it wanted the World Series of Poker and acquired the Horseshoe brand to get it. To refresh everyone's memory, the SuperContest was far and away the top football contest until Circa swooped in and took the crown. Circa's strategy was to run more creative contest formats (Survivor) and provide a better gamble for the players (100% return of entry fees and compelling prize guarantees). If Caesars wants to challenge Circa, they'll have to do a variation of the same, which ironically may turn this into a positive development, at least for contest players.

Both Caesars and Westgate are endeavoring to put a happy face on it by touting the power of the collaboration of "two giants," but the players aren't having it, as is evident in this "[Question of the Day](#)" answered by *All About Sports Betting* author Blair Rodman. And we'd be shocked if Westgate's best-in-market sports betting comp rate stays intact for long. Pending approval by regulators, the transition will be completed in time for football season.

# Gambling Notes

**Jackpots**—A player at Durango Casino hit for \$1.2 million on a Dragon Link machine. A player at The Resort at Summerlin hit for \$1.7 million on a Dollar Storm machine. And the big news was a Megabucks hit for \$10,486,432 on Triple Red Hot 7s Spitfire Multipliers at Mandalay Bay. It was the first Megabucks jackpot since November when it hit at Resorts World.

**Boomer's Twice**—Boomer's Sportsbooks have opened at the Hyatt Regency's Grand Lodge Casino in Lake Tahoe and The Pass in Henderson. The openings bring the Boomer's total to nine, with more planned.

**Must Hit Slots**—Durango casino has converted its high-limit slots room to the Fortune Coin Bonus Room, where all machines feed into three separate meters that must hit by a specified level (top jackpot \$10,000). Shining a light on these machines is an interesting move, given that they're considered a form of advantage-play slots, a subject of considerable industry debate. All players in the room with their club cards inserted get a \$25 bonus when a jackpot is hit.

**Kentucky Derby**—Pre-race odds have Renegade and Commandment as the co-favorites at 5-1 to win the Kentucky Derby, followed by Further Ado at 7-1 and Chief Wallabee at 8-1. The longshot is Albus at 46-1.

**Kalshi Rises**—In a battle that's reminiscent of FanDuel vs. DraftKings to be the market leader in fantasy sports and sports betting, Kalshi has overtaken Polymarket as the leader in prediction markets (betting exchanges). According to Dune Analytics, Kalshi had \$5.8 billion in global trading volume in November compared to Polymarket's \$3.7 billion. Also similar to the FanDuel/DraftKings scenario, the two companies are well ahead of the rest of the prediction-market field.

**Gambling Conference**—The 19<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Gambling and Risk Taking runs May 26-28 at Bellagio. Held only once every three years, it's considered by many to be the most prestigious academic-oriented gambling conference in the world.

**Lottery**—The Powerball jackpot has just been accelerated by the addition of 53 million eligible new players. After years of negotiations, the Multistate Lottery Commission and its UK counterpart, Allywn, have opened Powerball lottery sales to residents of England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, and Northern Ireland starting sometime this summer. The international expansion, the first time a non-U.S. lottery will contribute to a U.S.-based jackpot, is expected to increase the prize money significantly, reaching the \$1 billion mark in two months rather than the typical three without a winner. The ticket price remains \$2 for U.S. residents (£2 or \$2.70 in the UK) and the odds of winning remain the same. American winners can take a lump sum, while UK winners must take their prize as an annuity.

**Gambling Arcades**—A suit has been filed in South Carolina asserting that certain arcade games in Dave & Buster's restaurants violate the state's anti-gambling laws. Dave & Buster's offers low-limit wagering on games that fall into the "skill-based gambling" category. Perhaps also blurring the lines, though less so, between amusement games and gambling are claw machines, where players pay to try to scoop prizes with a mechanical device. In Las Vegas, Claw World has just opened in the Chinatown area.





## Video Poker Lost and Found

The online database vpFREE2 reports that the progressives have been removed from the better schedules in the high-limit room at Boulder Station. An interesting selection of progressives remains, however, including 9/6 Double Double Bonus at \$2 that's breakeven at \$14,600. The best \$1 progressive is 8/5 Bonus Poker that requires 15 coins and is breakeven at \$14,100. You'll find 25¢ progressives at all the bars on 7/5 BP with a \$1,250 royal flush that return 98.53% at reset and are breakeven at \$1,900.

There've been some changes at Ojos Locos since we last checked. The best game for quarters is 8/5 Jacks or Better (97.3%). Previously, better schedules were at the main bar, but all machines there have been removed. You can still play at the back bar and you're now comped drinks on the buy-in, which wasn't the policy when the casino opened. Despite the weak schedules, the casino ran an excellent promotion in April: Tender \$50 at the club booth and get \$100 on your players card that you could play immediately—a 100% bonus. You could do it once per week. It's not confirmed, but word is the promotion will continue in May.

Earn 500 points (\$4,000 coin-in) at Four Queens or Binion's in May and get \$50 in free-play. You can do it at both casinos. This is a positive play worth \$30 to \$50 (depending on game selection), plus good comp dollars, but with a lot of risk.

The Timbers graveyard 100/50 promo has been discontinued and replaced with hourly drawings for \$50 in free-play when you hit a full house. It's a good game if you find yourself there with no one else competing, but not something worth traveling for. Note: Those who need to play off banked credits from the previous promo can go at off hours and decide to play for the drawing or just cash the credits (\$25 per day) based on whether or not others are playing.

Nevada Brew Works has a 100/20 sign-up bonus and a separate 200/20 bonus Monday-Thursday. On your first visit, do the sign-up bonus first, then reinsert your card for the daily, resulting in a 300/40 parlay. The best game is 6/5 BP (96.87%). The deal is good at the NBWs in the Arts District and Boca Park locations. Parking can be a problem in the Arts District, but it's free at the meters from 11 am to 2 pm during the area's "Lunch Spot" promotion.

The taxable bonus at Scoundrels S. Rainbow has been discontinued.

Check out Bob Dancer's Tuesday blog at [LasVegasAdvisor.com](http://LasVegasAdvisor.com).

**These promotions change frequently, check for updated information here.**

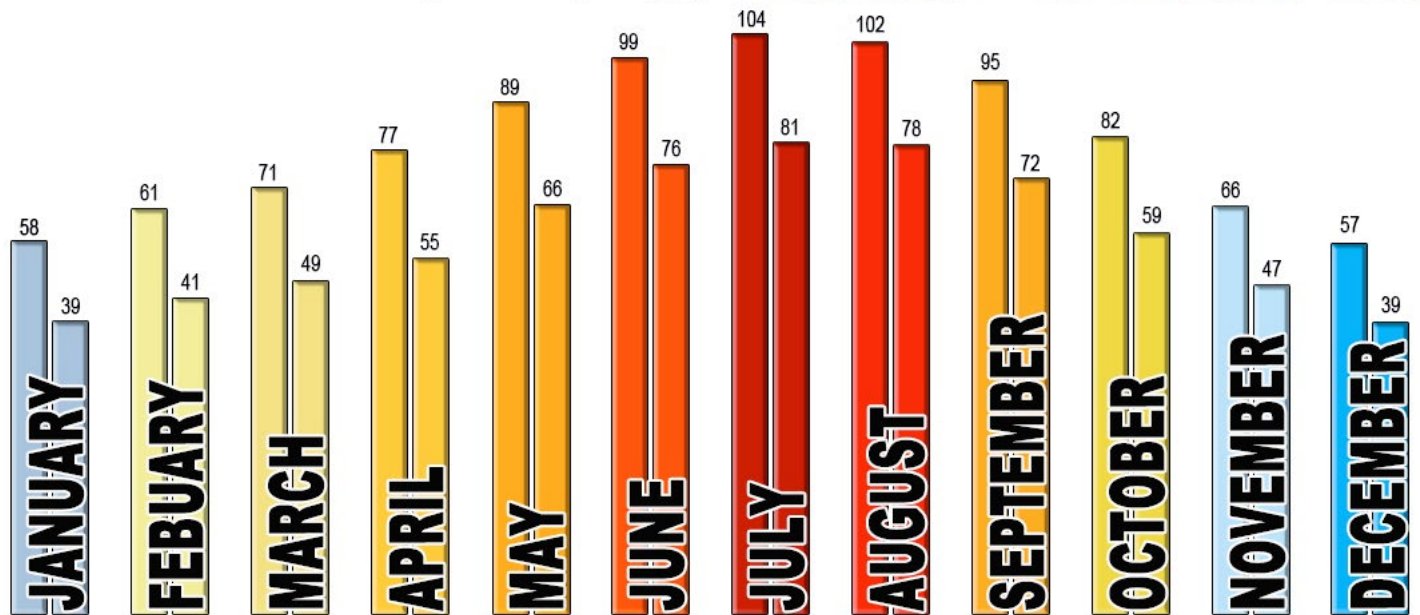
# Question of the Day

Many many moons ago, there was a Question of the Day about how dealers run off stiffs from their tables. I went looking for the old QoD, but couldn't find it. Can you rerun it, please? And thank you.

This QOD ran on April 26, 2025. [Read the answer here.](#)

## AVERAGE

# HIGH & LOW TEMPERATURES IN LAS VEGAS



MAY	JUNE	JULY
<p>Mean 71° Avg. Max. 90° Avg. Min. 52°</p> <p>The most pleasant month of the year. Las Vegas at its best. Summer heat begins at the end of the month.</p> <p><b>Pools:</b> Open</p> <p><b>Attire:</b> Spring wardrobe.</p>	<p>Mean 82° Avg. Max. 102° Avg. Min. 61°</p> <p>The first of the hot dry months. Welcome to the desert.</p> <p><b>Pools:</b> Open</p> <p><b>Attire:</b> Minimal.</p>	<p>Mean 87° Avg. Max. 107° Avg. Min. 67°</p> <p>Dry sauna-like heat. Sun worshipers enjoy 85% sunny days.</p> <p><b>Pools:</b> Open</p> <p><b>Attire:</b> The skimpier the better. If it's not mandatory, don't wear it!.</p>