

Las Vegas Advisor



COUPONOMY

by Anthony Curtis

Caesars for Sale?

It's been awhile since something really big has happened in the casino industry. The building of stadiums and new resorts is big. Circa downtown and the announcement of Astral, which would be the first new casino on the Strip in a decade (see *News*), are big. The expansion of sports betting across the country is pretty darned big. But these things don't qualify as *really big*. What would? A sale or acquisition of Caesars Entertainment would and it's beginning to look like a distinct possibility.

Unless you're seriously into business and finance, you might not have heard that billionaire Carl Icahn has been accumulating Caesars stock. A lot of it. So much, in fact, that he's in a position to influence decision-making and Icahn wants a sale. Reno-based Eldorado Resorts and Golden Nugget owner Tilman Fertitta have been mentioned as potential buyers.

CET has casinos across the country, but it also owns the World Series of Poker, the industry's biggest player database, and the powerful brand of Caesars itself. A sale would open up a lot of avenues to shake things up in a really big way.

Or maybe the shake-up is already in progress. According to a mention on PageSix.com, the *New York Post*'s gossip website, Soho House International, operators of private clubs, restaurants, movie theaters, and spas around the world, is said to be talking to CET about buying the Rio. Rumors about a sale of the Rio have swirled for years; one of them will eventually be true.

It's all a lot of speculation at the moment, but Icahn's flipped casinos before and he doesn't appear to be fooling around. As for Caesars, they've been mostly quiet, issuing only the requisite statement that they will consider all options to increase shareholder value. Meanwhile, CET's current CEO Mark Frissora, who steps down at the end of this month to be replaced by one of Icahn's choosing, stated that the company doesn't intend to raise fees (resort, parking, etc.) in 2019. "We

don't have any plans on changing the structure we have in place," Frissora said during an investor call. "We are certainly sensitive to the fact that we can hurt our own profitability and revenue growth if we get exorbitant or do things that have no value to them." Interesting, especially in the face of the continuing decline of visitors to Las Vegas, but that might be someone else's decision before long. ■

The Wynn Spend

Speaking of fees, I finally got around to testing the Wynn procedure for getting parking validated. The policy is a "\$50 spend equals validation." Of course, it's a simple matter if you're going to a restaurant or a show, or even if you hit the bar with the prices there. You can also do it with a buy-in and play at a video poker machine or table game. In my opinion, the smoothest path is to make a \$55 sports bet. That's what I did during the NCAA basketball tournament. Just verify with the ticket writer that betting \$55 to win \$50 will get the validation and make sure that he (electronically) stamps your ticket. Your expected loss on the bet is \$2.50 to park for free and you'll have action during the game. But you won't get a drink ticket. That requires a \$150 bet at Wynn/Encore (the highest I've heard of). Hang out all day and pass right through when you scan the ticket at the gate. ■

Show-Price Survey

For the 28th consecutive year, we've crunched the numbers to determine the average cost of a show ticket in Las Vegas. And for the 23rd time, the average has gone up year over year, if only marginally. This year's number is \$95.11, up from \$94.86.

In considering the result, you should keep a couple of things in mind. First, a rigid scientific study this is not. Every year, the pricing structures get more complicated, which leads to more subjectivity with regard to the data we decide to use in deriving the average. However, the methodology remains consistent enough to validate a

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Couponomy continued ...

comparison with prior years, and it's still the only study of its kind.

More important is something we stress every year: You can do better than the average. The reality is, retail is rarely the bottom line when it comes to show tickets. Though discounts for the top shows are difficult to come by, you can almost always find relief for most others from the half-price ticket outlets, freebie-mag ads, online discounters like Goldstar.com, discount codes like ours at LasVegasAdvisor.com, and the LVA Member Rewards offers. Yes, prices have nudged up again, but there are still plenty of ways to keep real costs down.

Get all the details on the 2019 show-price survey in ENTERTAINMENT. ■

NEWS

Astral—For the first time in more than a decade, a new hotel-casino has been announced for the Las Vegas Strip. An Israeli hotelier plans to build a \$350 million resort, Astral, across from Mandalay Bay on property currently occupied by a Motel 8. Astral will feature 620 rooms, a four-level underground parking garage, a sky lobby on the 32nd floor, a nightclub, and a rooftop pool with a day club. The Motel 8 is expected to operate until spring 2020 when construction begins. The last casino to open on the Strip was the Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas in 2010.

Virgin—When the transformation from Hard Rock to Virgin is completed, it will join the Curio Collection by Hilton. Curio is Hilton's "soft" brand," a collection of more than 30 hotels in seven countries that use Hilton's reservations system and participate in Hilton Honors, but also retain their individual branding. Virgin Las Vegas will be Curio's largest property, with 1,500 rooms and 110,000 square feet of meeting and events space.

MSG Sphere—Work has begun on the 63-acre site of the Madison Square Garden Sphere being built off Sands Avenue near Koval Lane. It took six months after the groundbreaking to begin construction on the 360-foot-tall 18,000-seat spherical performing-arts venue, which is expected to be completed sometime in 2021.

LV Convention Center—The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority has fast-tracked an underground transit system that will transport riders from one end of the Convention Center to the other. The system of express tunnels through which 16-passenger autonomous electric vehicles will run will be built by Elon Musk's Boring Company at a cost of \$35 million to \$55

A Tale of Two (Gambling) Cities

An article on the Motley Fool website highlighted the extreme disparity between revenue generation in Macau and Las Vegas. Macau is the undisputed gambling capital of the world, with \$37.6 billion in annual gaming revenue reported in 2018, far outpacing the Strip's \$6.5 billion. Fool.com's comparison between the Venetians and Wynn's in both cities is instructive. The Venetian Macau earns 80.4% of its revenue from the casino floor, with a mere 6.8% from dining and 2.4% from rooms, while the Venetian Las Vegas' casino revenue accounts for 23.2% of the total, with food at 15.8% and rooms 36.4%. Similarly, Wynn Macau takes 87.1% from gambling and 5% from rooms, while Wynn Las Vegas earns 23% from the casino and 28% from rooms.

million, and could be completed by 2021.

Flamingo/Valley View Project—Work has begun on a mixed-use project at the long-vacant 8.5-acre lot just east of the Palms. When completed next year, the commercial center will consist of a 270-room non-casino Delta Hotel (a Marriott brand), a 286-unit luxury-apartment complex, plus a Walgreens, Chick-fil-A, Wahoo's Fish Taco, Del Taco, and Denny's.

Project Neon—The Nevada Department of Transportation has announced that Project Neon, the \$1 billion four-mile widening of Interstate 15 from downtown to Sahara Avenue, will be completed on May 16, two months ahead of schedule. The massive public-works project has added high-occupancy-vehicle lanes, new on- and off-ramps, and upgraded connections from surface streets downtown.

Monorail—On the other side of the coin, it looks like the \$24 million extension of the Las Vegas Monorail to Mandalay Bay won't be completed in time for the Raiders first season in Las Vegas. The extension from MGM Grand to MBay is expected to take 18 months and ground has yet to be broken as permits submitted last year for the project are still being reviewed by county officials.

Pedestrian Bridges—Four new pedestrian bridges have been announced for the busy intersection of

LAS VEGAS ADVISOR

3665 Procyon Street • Las Vegas, NV 89103
(702) 252-0655 • (702) 252-0675 Fax

e-mail: editor@LasVegasAdvisor.com • Internet: LasVegasAdvisor.com

Publisher: Anthony Curtis

Senior Editor: Deke Castleman

Accounting: John Leitner

Production Manager: Laurie Cabot

Web Manager: Tanya Maynard

Research Assistant: Brenda Stewart

Customer Service: Nicole Watchus

Shipping & Receiving: Scotch Henderson

Contributing Writers: Jeffrey Compton, Bob Dancer, Stewart Ethier, Bob Fuss, Scot Krause, Bradley Peterson, Blair Rodman, Jean Scott

Cover Image: SK Entertainment

LAS VEGAS ADVISOR (ISSN 1064-167X USPS 008602) is published monthly and is available for \$50 per year (\$60 Canadian; \$70 foreign purchasers) and \$5 per single issue at 3665 Procyon St., Las Vegas, NV, 89103. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Las Vegas Advisor, 3665 Procyon St., Las Vegas, NV 89103. All information is current at press time. Listed offerings are subject to change at any time. Huntington Press ©2019

Sahara Avenue and Las Vegas Boulevard S., through which upwards of 70,000 cars pass daily. The four bridges, along with walkways, ramps, elevators, escalators, and stairs, will cost \$27.5 million. Construction will begin in July 2022 and take 18 months to complete. Meanwhile, the pedestrian bridge planned to cross I-15 from Mandalay Bay to the Raiders Stadium has been eliminated from the \$200 million road project at I-15 and Tropicana. Although an estimated 20,000 attendees are expected to walk from the south Strip to the stadium for games and events, they'll have to get there by crossing the Hacienda Ave. overpass, which will be closed to vehicle traffic at those times.

West Virginia—West Virginia has become the fifth state to legalize online casinos or poker (both were approved there), joining Nevada, New Jersey, Delaware, and Pennsylvania. Online sports betting is already underway in West Virginia, but casino and poker won't begin until prospective operators—likely the state's existing bricks-and-mortar casinos—have been issued online licenses.

Japan—Another set of regulations have been approved in Japan's slow move toward casino gambling. Estimates of the earliest possible first casino now reference Osaka in 2024.

Statistics—Nevada's statewide gambling win was down 3.5% in January compared to the same month last year. The Strip win was down 4.1% and the downtown win was off 7.8%. The Strip decline was blamed on a 15% drop in baccarat win that was due in large part to a 22% drop in handle. On the positive side, slot and table-game win was up more than 2% in each category.

Visitation got off to a good start after two consecutive years of annual declines, up 2.1% in January. Airline traffic also increased, up 3.3%. ■

Sports Betting Scorecard

While the pace remains slow and efforts to legalize sports betting in some jurisdictions have been delayed by legislative calendars (Kentucky) or bills failing to pass (North Dakota), other states continue to move forward. Reports indicate that New York could begin accepting sports wagers in its upstate casinos by May. And although they're still not taking bets in Washington D.C., it's been announced that a sports book is being installed inside the Capital One Arena, where the NBA's Wizards and NHL's Capitals play.

At last count, 11 states and the District of Columbia had filed briefs in support of New Hampshire in its lawsuit opposing the DOJ's reinterpretation of the Wire Act. A request by the DOJ that the New Hampshire lawsuit be dismissed is pending (don't hold your breath on that one).

Las Vegas' Top Ten Values

1. **Steak Dinner** • *Ellis Island* • 24 hours • \$7.99
2. **Buffet** • *Palace Station* • Daily • \$8.99-\$16.99
3. **Mac King** • *Harrah's* • Tues.-Sat. • \$14.98
4. **Hot Dog** • *South Point* • Daily • \$1.25
5. **Beer** • *Stage Door* • 24 hours • \$1
6. **Shrimp Cocktail** • *Skyline* • Daily • \$2.25
7. **Breakfast** • *Club Fortune* • Daily • \$1.99/\$2.99
8. **\$1 Blackjack** • *Hooters* • 24 hours • \$1.20
9. **Lunch** • *Planet Hollywood* • Daily • \$4.99
10. **No Resort Fee** • *Four Queens* • Daily • \$39 and up

The Ellis Island steak dinner remains in the top spot in the Top Ten and is even better now that we've learned that the process for getting the \$7.99 price is easier than we previously thought. The complete steak dinner is served in the Café and requires that you print out a single voucher (not two) from an EI kiosk after playing at least \$5 in any slot machine with your club card inserted. Get the details on the process in [DINING](#). The Feast Buffet at Palace Station (#2) is our choice for Las Vegas' best buffet when considering the combination of quality and price; get the listed prices by showing a Boarding Pass card. Get a ticket to the *Mac King Comedy Magic Show* and a drink for \$14.98 by asking at the players club booth (#3). The hot dogs at South Point (#4) are sold from a cart in the sports book from 10 am until they close down the cart around 5 pm. Michelob, Michelob Light, or Bud Light in the bottle are \$1 at the Stage Door slot house on Flamingo, just east of the Strip (#5). The Skyline shrimp cocktail (#6) is available 24/7 at the main bar. The Club Fortune breakfast served in the Club Café (#7) is bacon or sausage & eggs for \$1.99 weekdays from 6 to 11 am and ham & eggs for \$2.99 on weekends during the same hours. Hooters' \$1-minimum blackjack game (#8) runs 24/7 in the pit; naturals pay even money on bets of \$1-\$4. New to the list is the lunch special at Ocean One in the Desert Passage Mall at Planet Hollywood (#9), where everything on the lunch menu is \$4.99 (see review in [DINING](#)). The Four Queens secures the #10 spot as the last major resort still not charging a resort fee.

In March, "60 Minutes" ran a segment on sports betting, ESPN launched a daily sports betting show called "Daily Wager," and Showtime aired the first of a four-part series called "Action."

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

DINING

One-and-In at EI

Stop the presses! We've just discovered that you have to download only one coupon at Ellis Island to get the \$7.99 price on the steak special (see **TOP TEN**). We've been describing a two-part process, but it was recently brought to our attention that downloading a single discount coupon is all that's required. We tried it and it's true. You still have to play \$5 through a machine, so do that first with your players card inserted. Then go to the kiosk for the one coupon that you'll give to your server in the restaurant. ■

Another Fin for Steak & Lobster

If you've read *LVA* for any length of time, you know we stick our nose in everywhere to find the deals. When we find 'em, we tell you. But sometimes the deal is too good to last and you have to act fast before it's gone. One example is the Friday-night steak & lobster at O'Aces Bar & Grill (4955 S. Decatur). When we wrote about it in the 9/17 *LVA*, you might have questioned how good a lobster special in a bar could be, but it was one of the best in town for value, with *two* lobster tails, steak, potato, and vegetables for \$19.99. Last year, the price was raised to \$24.99. Now it's \$29.99. Honestly, this is still a good deal and with the dual tails and big portions all around, one order will feed two diners. But it was a lot better for \$19.99. You have to jump on these. ■

The \$5.50 Buffet

A dinner buffet for \$5.50? You had to know we couldn't let an issue pass without trying this time-traveler special at Railroad Pass. Palace Station it's not, but it's pretty tough not to get \$5.50 worth out of any buffet with meat,



potatoes, and a salad bar. It's an old-time steam-tray set-up with fried chicken, baked potatoes, three kinds of pasta, pizza, vegetables, jalapeño poppers, soup, and soft ice cream. The \$5.50 price (same for lunch) is Mon.-Thurs. only and the buffet closes at 7 pm. No, this isn't something you should make the long drive past Henderson for. But if you do, or if you're passing by on your way to or from the dam or Arizona, you'll get filled up for a price you'll tell your friends about. ■

Eataly

If you haven't heard, Eataly is the larger-than-life Italian food hall and marketplace that opened in late December at Park MGM. Walking in via the monumental Strip-side entrance, you're immediately overwhelmed by the 40,000-square-foot venue comprising food and beverage counters, a bakery, a retail area, and sit-down restaurants—and this is the smallest Eataly (the one in Chicago is nearly twice the size and the one in Bologna, Italy, bills itself as “the largest food park in the world”).

You first encounter the bakery and pizza-by-the-slice counter on the left, beyond which is the wine store and a retail area selling china, T-shirts, books, and logo merchandise. On the right is La Lavazza, selling hand-crafted Italian pastries and espresso. Next to that are the cannoli, Nutella crêpes, and gelato stations. Across from those is another retail area, selling Italian goods (breadsticks, pasta, risotto, cheese, salami, olives, bottled juices, Italian water and soda, olive oil, spices, sauces, fresh bread, and much more). Then you walk up a few stairs into the food district. Going clockwise, you encounter the Mozzarella Bar; at this station is also La Rosticceria, for rotisserie chicken, prime rib, and Italian sides, and Il Fritto for lightly fried Italian street food. La Salumeria has the cheese and salumi boards. Next up is the Pizzeria, next to which is La Pasta. La Pescheria sells fresh fish with the day's selections hand-written on a whiteboard. La Macelleria is the butcher/meat-to-order counter.

Signs describe “How It Works.” You select items from the menu (every station has a paper menu at the counter, along with the chalkboard above), then place your order with the cashier and pay. You're given a buzzer; when your food is ready, you pick it up. All the stations serve beer (\$8) and wine by the glass (\$10-\$24) and bottle (sky's the limit). But if you want to drink, bring your ID; we were told that they ID *everyone*. There are also two bars, Enoteca for wine and the Gran Café Milano, which also serves three meals.

What could be bad about all this? Prices! Almost every review we've seen complains about the high prices. We agree. We ordered a seafood-ravioli plate at La Pescheria. A dozen or so mini-ravs and a beer came



Pricey ravioli at Eataly

to \$31.39—it was a good snack, but pretty steep for a warm-up to dinner. Frankly, what would you expect? Eataly’s general manager told *USA Today* that he believed everything is “well-priced.” But

he added, “Even MGM was telling us, ‘You can go a little higher.’” (Of course they did.)

Eataly is certainly exotic and inviting, definitely worth a visit. Just be prepared to be a bit overwhelmed by the choices and hubbub and to dig a little deeper into your pocket than you might have expected for the experience. ■

Hard Rock Oysters

On Tuesdays in the Oyster Bar at the Hard Rock, oysters on the half-shell are \$1 apiece all day.

You have to show a HR players card and buy a minimum of six and a drink to get the deal. On the day we tried it, they

had freshly shucked Mission oysters served over ice with cocktail sauce, horseradish, and a mignonette. The oysters are fresh and cold. Great deal! Other choices include crab cakes (\$14), fish & chips (\$24), and several pan roasts and seafood soups (\$21-\$28). Hours are 11 am to 10 pm, so you can avoid prime time, during which it gets a bit busy. ■



Ice-cold oysters at Hard Rock

Ocean One

Ocean One at the Miracle Mile Shops is one of two in the country; the original is in Delray Beach, Florida. They claim to serve more than a million meals a year—slightly less than 1,400 a day at each location—and we believe them. When we tried it for lunch on a Wednesday, the big bar and oversized dining room were both packed. No surprise, with everything on the lunch menu

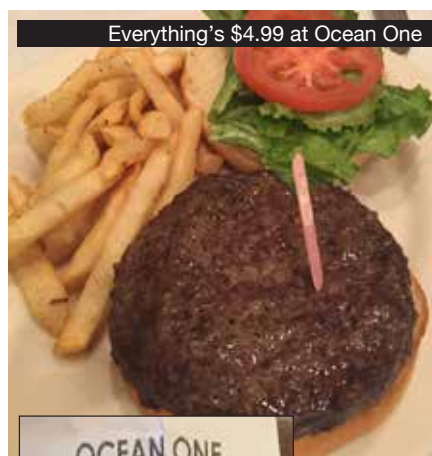
Oscar Out

After a 10-year stay, the Oscar that Frank Sinatra won for Best Supporting Actor in *From Here to Eternity* is no longer on display in the restaurant Sinatra’s at Encore. The Oscar, an Emmy, and a Grammy that had been positioned at the front of the restaurant since it opened have been returned to the Sinatra Estate, seemingly due to Steve Wynn’s disassociation with the company (Wynn had a close relationship with both Frank and the Sinatra family). However, another “Sinatra exhibit,” featuring personal items that belonged to the famous crooner, has been put up in its place.

\$4.99 and a 3-for-\$10-cocktail deal. Still, we were seated immediately.

This is a sports bar with a huge main video screen and TVs with games on all over the restaurant. The lunch menu is about two feet tall, with starters such as artichoke dip, wings, and quesadillas; three different tacos, including mahi mahi, served with fries, rice and beans, or chips and salsa; five salads; five sandwiches/wraps served with sides; several desserts; and the real value, six entrées, such as salmon, flank steak, chicken chop, and spaghetti and meatballs. All \$4.99. A family of

four can eat for \$20. The beers are \$3—a great deal by itself for the Strip. We tried the chicken Greek salad, cheeseburger, and flank steak. The burger and steak were steals at twice the price; the salad was decent, but you can’t go wrong for \$4.99.



Everything’s \$4.99 at Ocean One

OCEAN ONE		
BAR AND GRILLE		
1985 Las Vegas Blvd S Las Vegas, NV		
Check No. - 9348185		
Table - 18 Mar 28 2019 4:34PM		
Server: Jesus Benavides		
2 Beer	\$6.00	
1 Burger	\$4.99	
1 Sirloin Steak	\$4.99	
1 Greek Salad	\$4.99	
Sub Total	\$20.97	
Tax	\$1.71	
Total	\$22.68	
WWW.OCEANONELV.COM		

For the number of people served, the amount of activity there is, and all the games on the TVs, Ocean One isn’t loud at all. Also, parking is free in the Miracle Mile Shops garage; coming out of the garage, take a left and the restaurant is right beyond the rainstorm pool. Lunch hours are 11:30 am to 4 pm daily.

By the way, we’ve known about Ocean One for a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

ADVANCE PLANNER—HEADLINERS AND EVENTS

APRIL

4/4 • Marshmello • Palms • \$25–\$65
 4/4–4/6 • Tony Orlando
 South Point • \$50–\$60
 4/4–4/27 • Dionne Warwick
 Bally's • \$66–\$139
 4/5 • Alicia Keys • Palms • \$180–\$455
 4/5 • Buckingham
 Golden Nugget • \$29–\$99
 4/5 • Flogging Molly • Cosmo • \$39–\$79
 4/5 • Trevor Hall
 Brooklyn Bowl • \$25/\$30
 4/5–4/6 • Festival of Beer
 LV Events Center • \$40–\$85
 4/5–4/6 • Up, Up and Away
 Orleans • \$34.95–\$54.95
 4/5–12/21 • Ray Romano & David Spade
 Mirage • \$90–\$120
 4/6 • Chris Tucker
 Wynn LV • \$59.95–\$139.95
 4/6 • Hollywood's Greatest Game Shows
 Cannery • \$25–\$45
 4/6 • Hotel California: Eagles Tribute
 M Resort • \$22–\$42
 4/6 • NEEDTOBREATHE
 Palms • \$34.95–\$129.95
 4/6–4/26 • Aerosmith • Park MGM • \$215–\$688
 4/7 • Academy of CMAs
 MGM Grand • \$409–\$763
 4/7 • Hozier • Palms • \$42–\$128
 4/7–4/28 • Matt Goss • Mirage • \$27–\$91
 4/10–4/14 • Chicago The Musical
 Venetian • \$81–\$199
 4/10–4/20 • John Fogerty • Wynn LV • \$81–\$228
 4/10–4/27 • Backstreet Boys
 PH • \$76.86–\$684.60
 4/11 • Jake Miller • Hard Rock • \$20/\$43
 4/11–4/13 • Barry Manilow
 Westgate LV • \$39.75–\$329.75
 4/11–4/25 • Frankie Moreno
 South Point • \$20–\$30
 4/12 • Andy Black
 Hard Rock • \$28.50/\$50.50
 4/12 • Brothers Osborne
 Brooklyn Bowl • \$35–\$50
 4/12 • Craig Ferguson
 Green Valley Ranch • \$37.50–\$50
 4/12 • Grass Roots
 Golden Nugget • \$49–\$139
 4/12 • P!nk • T-Mobile • \$47.45–\$227.50
 4/12 • Stayin' Alive
 South Point • \$25–\$35
 4/12 • Weezer • MBay • \$39.50–\$99.50
 4/12–10/12 • Bill Maher • Mirage • \$65–\$104
 4/13 • Brian McKnight
 Buffalo Bill's • \$20–\$50
 4/13 • Gap Experience & Dazz Band
 Aliante Casino • \$35–\$60

4/13 • Ghostface Killah
 Brooklyn Bowl • \$27.50/\$32
 4/13 • Mark Otoole and Band
 Green Valley Ranch • \$19
 4/13 • Modern Gentleman
 Suncoast • \$24.95–\$44.95
 4/13 • Patty Smyth and Scandal
 Orleans • \$24–\$39
 4/16 • CHVRCHES
 Brooklyn Bowl • \$31–\$51
 4/16 • 1975 w/Pale Waves and No Rome
 Hard Rock • \$40/\$50
 4/17 • Steel Pulse
 Brooklyn Bowl • \$30/\$35
 4/17 • Turnover w/Men I Trust, Reptaliens
 Hard Rock • \$21/\$32
 4/17–4/27 • James Taylor
 Caesars Palace • \$55–\$215
 4/18 • Estelle • Rio • \$28/\$43
 4/18 • SALES • Hard Rock • \$17/\$33
 4/19 • Bone Thugs-n-Harmony
 Brooklyn Bowl • \$30–\$45
 4/19 • Michael Cavanaugh
 South Point • \$20–\$30
 4/19 • Sweet • Golden Nugget • \$29–\$99
 4/19–4/20 • Gabriel Iglesias • Mirage • \$54–\$98
 4/20 • Coolio, Tone Loc, & Young MC
 Cannery • \$19–\$49
 4/20 • Slightly Stoopid
 Hard Rock • \$38/\$45
 4/20 • T J Tyler & Friends
 Suncoast • \$14
 4/24–4/27 • Sarah McLachlan
 Wynn LV • \$59.50–\$179.50
 4/24–4/27 • Steely Dan • Venetian • \$72–\$251
 4/25 • Scott Bradlee • Mirage • \$43–\$87
 4/26 • Earl Sweatshirt & Friends
 Hard Rock • \$30–\$82
 4/26 • Frankie Avalon
 South Point • \$45–\$55
 4/26 • Jeff Dunham
 Hard Rock • \$40–\$178
 4/26 • Last in Line
 Golden Nugget • \$39–\$109
 4/26 • Steven Wright
 Treasure Island • \$43/\$71
 4/26–4/27 • Alanis Morissette
 Palms • \$54.95–\$159.95
 4/26–8/24 • Chris D'Ella
 Mirage • \$43.59/\$54.49
 4/27 • Cole Swindell • MBay • \$55
 4/27 • Jon Anderson of Yes
 Cannery • \$29–\$69
 4/27 • Kevin James • Mirage • \$60–\$80
 4/27 • Latin Legends
 Buffalo Bill's • \$35–\$70
 4/27 • LV Crawfish Boil
 LV Events Center • \$15–\$700

4/27 • Mary Wilson & Martha Reeves
 Orleans • \$39.95–\$59.95
 4/28 • Spawnbreezie
 Brooklyn Bowl • \$20/\$25
 4/29 • Gipsy Kings • MBay • \$45–\$89
 4/29–4/30 • Bruno Mars • Park MGM
 \$171–\$1,100

MAY

5/1 • Tribal Seeds w/Eli-Mac and Arise
 Roots • Brooklyn Bowl • \$25–\$35
 5/1–5/11 • James Taylor
 Caesars Palace • \$55–\$215
 5/1–5/11 • Steely Dan • Venetian • \$72–\$251
 5/2 • Beach Fossils w/George Clanton
 Hard Rock • \$20
 5/2–5/11 • Barry Manilow
 Westgate LV • \$39.75–\$329.75
 5/3 • Juice WRLD
 Hard Rock • \$39.50–\$132
 5/3 • Nicky Jam • Cosmo • \$71–\$201
 5/3 • Pablo Cruise
 Golden Nugget • \$49–\$109
 5/3 • Passion Pit • MBay • \$29/\$122
 5/3 • Violent Femmes
 Brooklyn Bowl • \$35.50–\$60.50
 5/3–5/4 • Arch Allies • Orleans • \$20/\$30
 5/3–5/4 • Bruno Mars
 Park MGM • \$171–\$1,100
 5/3–5/5 • Sarge • South Point • \$25
 5/4 • Buckcherry
 Brooklyn Bowl • \$30/\$35
 5/4 • Canelo Alvarez vs Danny Jacobs
 T-Mobile • \$305–\$2,505
 5/4 • Countess Luann De Lesseps
 Mirage • \$65–\$108
 5/4 • Gary Allan • M Resort • \$22–\$42
 5/4 • Phil Lesh & Friends
 Hard Rock • \$40/\$110
 5/4 • Ramon Ayala
 Buffalo Bill's • \$40–\$80
 5/4 • Seth Meyers
 Wynn LV • \$49.50–\$119.50
 5/4 • Unraveling the Wilburys:
 Cannery • \$26/\$29
 5/4–5/5 • Taking Back Sunday
 MBay • \$35–\$55
 5/5 • Colin Hay • Brooklyn Bowl • \$35/\$40
 5/5 • Clintons • Park MGM • \$72–\$228
 5/5 • Pepe Aguilar's Jarapeo
 MGM Grand • \$49–\$249
 5/5 • Supercross Futures
 Sam Boyd Stadium • \$25
 5/5–5/26 • Matt Goss • Mirage • \$27–\$91
 5/8 • Yngwie Malmsteen • MBay • \$27.50
 5/9 • Leilani Wolfgramm
 Hard Rock • \$12/\$20
 5/10 • Association
 Golden Nugget • \$29–\$109

ADVANCE PLANNER—HEADLINERS AND EVENTS

5/10 • Hollywood Vampires
Hard Rock • \$36–\$224

5/10 • Jenny Lewis • MBay • \$25–\$40

5/10–5/11 • Daniel Tosh • Mirage • \$65–\$104

5/10–5/12 • Gary Puckett and The Union Gap
South Point • \$30–\$40

5/10–5/18 • Lady Antebellum
Palms • \$32–\$275

5/11 • Ariana Grande
T-Mobile • \$49.95–\$224.95

5/11 • Carrie Underwood
MGM Grand • \$49.50–\$99.50

5/11 • Crosby Stills & Express Tribute
Suncoast • \$19.95/\$22.94

5/11 • Long Run: Experience the Eagles
Cannery • \$19/\$22

5/12 • Abba The Concert: Abba Tribute
Cannery • \$19.95–\$103

5/14 • Roger Clyne & The Peacemakers
Silverton • \$25/\$55

5/14–5/31 • Celine Dion
Caesars Palace • \$88–\$689

5/15–5/25 • Carlos Santana • MBay • \$99–\$374

5/16 • Adam Beyer x Cirez D
LV Events Center • \$60

5/16–5/30 • Frankie Moreno
South Point • \$20–\$30

5/17 • Jay Leno • Mirage • \$65–\$87

5/17 • Florence + The Machine
T-Mobile • \$39.50–\$109

5/17 • Sommor • Aliante Casino • \$35–\$50

5/17–5/19 • EDC • LVMS • \$319–\$779

5/17–5/19 • Winter Dance Party
South Point • \$25–\$35

5/17–5/26 • Janet Jackson
Park MGM • \$72–\$559

5/18 • Jim Gaffigan
Wynn LV • \$59.50–\$129.50

5/18 • Johnny Marr
Brooklyn Bowl • \$32–\$45

5/18 • Lou Gramm & Asia w/John Payne
Cannery • \$39–\$89

5/18 • Snow Patrol • Hard Rock • \$36–\$55

5/18 • Sommore • Suncoast • \$35–\$50

5/18 • Tom Segura • Cosmo • \$29–\$59

5/18–11/9 • Tim Allen • Mirage • \$65–\$87

5/24 • Herman's Hermits
Golden Nugget • \$49–\$139

5/24 • Lil Mosey
Brooklyn Bowl • \$20–\$100

5/24–5/26 • Air Supply • Orleans • \$41–\$61

5/24–5/26 • Gabriel Iglesias • Mirage • \$65–\$98

5/24–5/26 • Rob Schneider
South Point • \$35–\$45

5/24–5/27 • Punk Rock Bowling/Music Festival
LV Events Center • \$125/\$350

5/25 • Kenny Edmonds
Buffalo Bill's • \$25–\$60

5/25 • New Kids on the Block
MBay • \$29.95–\$139.95

5/25 • Rockin-In Paradise Styx Tribute
Suncoast • \$19/\$22

5/25 • Spyro Gyra
Aliante Casino • \$35–\$50

5/25–5/26 • Sebastian Maniscalco
Wynn LV • \$59.50–\$155

5/26 • Hieroglyphics
Brooklyn Bowl • \$27/\$30

5/26 • Juanes • MBay • \$41

5/26 • B2K
MGM Grand • \$39.50–\$129.50

5/27 • Sleep • Brooklyn Bowl • \$30–\$45

5/30 • Lady Gaga Enigma
Park MGM • \$82.57–\$344.95

5/31 • Jay & The Americans
Golden Nugget • \$39–\$129

5/31–6/2 • Jo Koy • Wynn LV • \$49.50–\$119.50

5/31–6/2 • Kingston Trio
South Point • \$25–\$35

5/31–9/27 • Shin Lim • Mirage • \$50.99–\$70.99

JUNE

6/1 • La Maquinaria Nortena
Buffalo Bill's • \$25–\$55

6/1 • Spinners & Thelma Houston
Cannery • \$24–\$59

6/1–6/8 • Celine Dion
Caesars Palace • \$109–\$799

6/1–6/14 • Lady Gaga Enigma
Park MGM • \$82.57–\$344.95

6/1–11/16 • Bert Kreischer • Mirage • \$54–\$98

6/2–6/9 • Lady Gaga Jazz & Piano
Park MGM • \$170–\$505

6/2–6/16 • Matt Goss • Mirage • \$27–\$91

6/3 • Snarky Puppy World Tour 2019
Brooklyn Bowl • \$30–\$50

6/5 • Hillsong United
Hard Rock • \$28–\$250

6/6–6/15 • Barry Manilow
Westgate LV • \$39.75–\$329.75

6/5–6/15 • Diana Ross
Wynn LV • \$60.50–\$301

6/7 • Felix Cavaliere's Rascals
Golden Nugget • \$39–\$129

6/7–6/8 • Jeff Ross & Dave Attell
Mirage • \$43–\$65

6/8 • Dizzy Wright
Brooklyn Bowl • \$22–\$150

6/8 • Foreinger
Buffalo Bill's • \$175–\$375

6/13–6/27 • Frankie Moreno
South Point • \$20–\$30

6/14 • Blue October
Brooklyn Bowl • \$29.50–\$49.50

6/14 • Buttermilk • Hard Rock • \$18/\$29

6/14 • POCO • Golden Nugget • \$29–\$109

6/14 • Sublime w/Rome • MBay • \$56

SHOW NOTES

- *Blond Invasion The Show* opens April 16 in the V Theater at Planet Hollywood; tickets are \$79.98/\$89.98.
- The top ticket price for *Australian Bee Gees Show* at Excalibur has been eliminated; tickets are now \$68.50/\$84.85.
- Ticket prices for *George Wallace* at Westgate Las Vegas have been increased from \$80.93–\$113.63 to \$91.68–\$125.28.
- Ticket prices for *Sexxy* at Westgate Las Vegas have been increased from \$53.45/\$75.23 to 63.45/85.83.
- Ticket prices for *The Magic of Jen Kramer* at Westgate Las Vegas have been increased from \$31.87/\$42.77 to \$41.27/\$52.47.
- Ticket prices for *Anthony Cools* at Paris have been increased from \$46.96–\$88.07 to \$61–\$94.52.
- *Tenors of Rock* has closed at Harrah's and is expected to reopen at Planet Hollywood, though no details on times and prices have been released.
- *Cavewoman* did not open at the D and is no longer scheduled.

See inside wrap for “Weather,”
“Room Rates,” and “Key Dates.”

Dining continued ...

while (they promote hard), but two recent comments about it on the Top Ten page of LasVegasAdvisor.com spurred us to try it. We do pay close attention and appreciate the collective wisdom of our readers. ■

Dining Notes

Hell's Kitchen at Hell's Kitchen—Caesars Palace's Hell's Kitchen will be the venue for the 19th and 20th seasons of the smash Fox TV show of the same name. Shooting will begin this summer at the 300-seat eatery that has served more than 400,000 diners since it opened in January 2018.

Top Breakfast—According to the Daily Meal on MSN.com, EggWorks serves the best breakfast in Nevada. We've never reviewed it, but EggWorks has six locations around town including Egg & I (the original). That's just one source's choice, but it's impressive given the ferocious breakfast-restaurant competition in town.

Burger Challenge—GameWorks in Town Square has a new burger challenge. Finish the 1.5-pound cheese-stuffed double burger, fries, and a shake in 20 minutes or less and get a two-hour unlimited game card. The burger's \$21 and the shake is \$9, and you pay for it even if you beat the challenge, but the card is worth \$40.

Kids' Deal—On Saturdays at Las Vegas' four Bok Bok Chicken restaurants, children 12 and under get a

free kids meal with each adult meal order.

Xiang at Venetian—Adventurous eaters will be in hog heaven at Xiang Hot Pot, soon to open at the Grand Canal Shoppes. Established in Queens, New York, in 2003, Xiang Hot Pot will serve things like ox tripe and aorta; duck gizzard, tongue, and feet; fish head; six exotic 'shrooms including wild bamboo fungus; pig kidney, intestine, and blood; ox-bone marrow, and other stuff we didn't want to type right before lunch.

Pizza & Pot—Planet 13, which bills itself as the world's largest cannabis store at 112,000 square feet, has announced a 4,500-square-foot expansion that will include a pizzeria and coffee shop/bistro. The eateries, which will open sometime in the third quarter of this year, are expected to generate additional revenues from recreational-marijuana customers and possibly attract non-users to the dispensary on W. Desert Inn Road near the Fashion Show Mall.

New Lotus—Lotus of Siam will open a second location at the retail and office project being built near the intersection of S. Durango Drive and W. Sunset Road. It will be part of the 18-acre Bend Center, so-named for the 90-degree turn the Beltway takes there, when it opens in 2020. Also planned for the complex are a third Freed's Bakery, a second Shang Artisan Noodles, and an Aces & Ales bar. The announcement seems to put to rest any expectations that the original Lotus will reopen in Commercial Center. ■

Openings/Closings

Uno Mas has opened at SLS Las Vegas.

Side Piece Pizza has opened at the Palms.

Maxie's Diner has opened at the LINQ Promenade. It's located in the space that was formerly Canter's, but don't expect another deli. The menu is described as "ostentatious," with such curiosities as cotton-candy pancakes, pepperoni pizza omelet, and peanut butter and jelly tacos.

Majordomo Meat & Fish out of Los Angeles, which received a James Beard Foundation nomination for Restaurant of the Year for 2018, will open later this year at Palazzo. It will occupy the space that was formerly Carnevino.

A second Norm's Diner (LVA 3/18) has opened on the east side at 35 S. Gibson Road.

Gaucha's Sacred Flavors, serving Argentinian fare, has opened at The Bunkhouse music venue downtown.

The owner/chef of the acclaimed Other Mama (LVA 4/16) is opening two new restaurants in the Fergusons Downtown complex. Hatsumi will serve Japanese izakaya (pub) food and La Monja will specialize in Spanish fare. Both are scheduled to open this spring.

Fiamma has closed at MGM Grand. ■

Reader Leader

It appears that while quite a few more of the MRB dining coupons offer 50% off for the single visitor than in the past (thank you!), some are still specifically "2-for-1." If a single person goes to the restaurant (not a buffet) and orders two entrées, is that covered by the coupon? I started thinking about this when I saw the MRB coupon for American Coney Island. Almost anyone could easily eat two hot dogs. Taking it further, though, a single person might be able to put away two smaller-sized entrées in another restaurant. Has anyone done this in the past?

LVA: In all the time we've been doing what we do, this question has never come up, which leads us to believe it's been done before without issue. If a twofer offer doesn't specify a specific number of patrons, there should be no issue with a single diner ordering two items, whether they be an entrée and an appetizer or side or even two entrées. As always, though, it will depend on the ruling of the person taking the order. Note that we ran this as a "Question of the Day" at LasVegasAdvisor.com and you can read some instructive comments from readers there.

ENTERTAINMENT

Review

The Naked Magicians
MGM Grand
Wed.-Mon. 10 pm (dark Tues.)
\$70.75/\$92.55/\$114.35

Last month we reviewed *Little Miss Nasty*, a show geared toward the pleasures of hetero men, so this month we thought we'd check out a show for gals on a night out, gay guys, and anyone who's curious about comedy-magic combined with male striptease. The two Aussie magicians perform what they call "sexy-ass magic"—though R-rated and full of profanity and sexualized machismo, the act is surprisingly nonthreatening and the two performers, Chris Wayne and Mike Tyler, are funny, engaging, and omnisexual, with *Thunder from Down Under* bodies and moves.

The pacing is a bit uneven and it takes a full 80 minutes to run through just seven tricks, most of which are mentalist and sleight-of-hand in nature, but all with a comedic bent (Wayne escapes from a strait jacket, while Tyler escapes from a "gay jacket"). Along the way, clothes start to come off—jackets, shirts, pants, and underwear. And though ads tout "full-frontal illusions," their privates are always covered, for example with a hat (that one of the women volunteers holds in place throughout a rope trick), a bull's-eye, and finally their own hands. All in all, it's a fun and funny show. The magic is decent, though the gals and gay guys are there more for the dirty flirting and eye candy than the technical elements. Still, audience participation is such a big part of the show that it turns the people-watching into an added bonus, especially from the back of the smallish Brad Garrett Comedy Club.

The least expensive seats are fine. Drinks run from \$7 for beers to \$18 for specialty cocktails. Discounts are pretty sparse for this one. Tix4Tonight.com has the lowest price at \$65.62 complete, or you can book through the link at LasVegasAdvisor.com for \$66.95. Will call is \$7 over and above the \$10.85 service charge, so print the tickets after they're emailed. You can park at Hooters for free, but it's a pretty good hike across Tropicana Avenue. ■

Donny & Marie Departing

Donny and Marie Osmond have announced that their long-running show will come to an end on Novem-

ber 16. The duo commenced their residency in September 2008, booked for a six-week engagement, but the show proved so popular, it was extended 11 years. In 2013, their venue at the Flamingo was renamed the Donny & Marie Showroom in recognition of their success. You still have plenty of opportunity to see them, with 113 dates left on the schedule, ranging from six in July to 20 each in May and September. ■

Show-Price Survey 2019

In our annual show-price survey, we go with the lowest ticket available without using coupons, half-price-booth discounts, or other cut-rate options. The survey includes every ongoing production playing in a casino, including afternoon shows, comedy clubs, and permanent headliners. Temporary headliners (e.g., *Seinfeld*) and Billy Idol-style "parachute" acts that perform sporadically or only a couple days per month are not included. In cases (most) where a range of prices is offered, we take the mean of the range. In situations where multiple shows rotate at a single casino (e.g., the Colosseum shows at Caesars Palace), we combine them into a single entry. However, we eliminate VIP pricing that's available for only a few seats and would unduly skew the average. Tax is included; this complicates things further, but entertainment taxes are so high, they have to be considered in the final price.

This year's average comes in at \$95.11, a mere 25¢ above last year's. The 103 shows in the survey add up to four more than last year.

The most expensive seat we found was \$2,351 for *Celine Dion*. That was for a VIP seat and part of the group that was filtered out of the survey, but you can pay it if you want to get up real close. Celine's show was also part of the Caesars Palace collective (with Rod Stewart and Reba, Brooks & Dunn) that came in with the highest average ticket price at a record \$367.45 (ticket prices for Celine have skyrocketed since the end of her run was announced; the lowest we found was \$617.80). The highest average for a single show was Bellagio's *O* at \$188.72. This year's total of shows with at least one ticket option above \$100 is 53, five fewer than last year. That and the greater number of total shows reflect a mini move to lower-priced tickets overall.

This year's lowest ticket for the third year in a row comes from the revolving line-up at Royal Resort with *Magic Unplugged* with Dixie Dooley and *Zamora Side-show* each only \$13.75. Also low are *Sinatra Up Close* at Royal Resort (\$18.75), "Comics Battle" at Alexis Park (\$18.95), "52 Fridays" at Golden Nugget (\$25.66), *Laughternoon* at the D (\$29.20), *Mike Hammer Comedy Magic* at Four Queens (\$32.16), *Spirit of the King* at

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Entertainment continued ...

Four Queens (\$32.16), “LA Comedy Club” at The STRAT (\$36.95), *Celestia* at The STRAT (\$38.15), “Comedy Celar” at Rio (\$38.25), *Puppetry of the Penis* at Erotic Heritage Museum (\$38.49), *Hypnosis Unleashed* at Binion’s (\$38.68), and the following shows that all have at least one ticket priced below \$50: “Aces of Comedy” (Mirage), “Brad Garrett Comedy” (MGM), *Fantasy* (Luxor), *The Magic of Jen Kramer* (Westgate), *Marc Savard* (Planet Hollywood), and Murray—Celebrity Magician (Tropicana).

The results of all the show surveys we’ve conducted for the past 28 years are presented here. ■

Average Show Price

Jul. '92 — \$27.05	Apr. '06 — \$62.02
Oct. '93 — \$27.35	Apr. '07 — \$69.45
Feb. '94 — \$29.01	Apr. '08 — \$70.21
Feb. '95 — \$32.53	Apr. '09 — \$76.18
Feb. '96 — \$35.67	Apr. '10 — \$73.46
Mar. '97 — \$34.55	Mar. '11 — \$76.46
Mar. '98 — \$39.81	Apr. '12 — \$75.44
Apr. '99 — \$46.06	Apr. '13 — \$80.22
Apr. '00 — \$51.73	Apr. '14 — \$82.86
Apr. '01 — \$43.40	Apr. '15 — \$85.20
Apr. '02 — \$40.21	Apr. '16 — \$90.18
Apr. '03 — \$45.91	Apr. '17 — \$92.30
Apr. '04 — \$47.20	Apr. '18 — \$94.86
Apr. '05 — \$53.66	Apr. '19 — \$95.11

*Temporary headliners not included.
Prices include tax.*

Bars and Happy Hours

Railroad Pass has a daily happy hour at the Watch N Wager bar from midnight to 10 am, with \$2 cocktails.

The Smashed Pig in the Fremont East bar district has a late-night happy hour Friday and Saturday from 9 pm to 1 am called “Five & Dime,” with appetizers and drinks for either \$5 or \$10.

Irene’s Spring Mountain runs “Apps Hours” daily from 1 to 3 pm and 6 to 10 pm, with 50%-off selected appetizers.

Scenic Brewing Company has a happy hour Mon.-Fri. from 3 to 6 pm, with \$3 SBC beer, \$4 wine, \$5 well drinks, and \$6 appetizers.

Vanderpump Cocktail Garden has opened at Caesars Palace.

BLVD & Main Taphouse and the View Lounge have opened at The STRAT.

Trago Lounge has opened at the Tropicana.

Bellagio’s Baccarat and Petrossian bars are both being “reimagined.” The Baccarat will close in May and the Petrossian in August for the remodelings. Reimagine that!

Scenic Brewing Company has opened at 8410 W. Desert Inn. It brews its own beer, but also features the beers of other local breweries, e.g., Lovelady, Tenaya Creek, and Joseph James. Cool place.

One of Nevada’s oldest bars, the Delta Saloon in Virginia City, was destroyed last month by a gas-leak explosion. The bar that opened in the 1860s was known for its “suicide table,” a gambling table that, according to lore, caused three owners to commit suicide after sustaining big losses at faro and blackjack. No word on whether or not the Delta will be repaired and reopened.

In the Oyster Bar at Hard Rock, a Bud is \$7.58. At Scenic Brewing Company, a Blonde Ale is \$6.50. At Money Plays, a draft Blue Moon is \$6.50 and a draft Heineken is \$5. At Caffè Restaurant Prince, a Stella Artois or Corona is \$5.95. At New Asian BBQ, a Tsing Tao is \$4.87. In Watch N Wager bar at Railroad Pass, a Bud is \$3.50. At the Tavern, a Bud is \$3.50. ■

Entertainment Notes

Kimmel in Vegas—“Jimmy Kimmel Live” is shooting five shows in the Zappos Theater at Planet Hollywood, April 1-5. Free tickets for all five tapings are available at 1iota.com.

Fountains Go Gaga—Lady Gaga’s mega 2009 hit song “Bad Romance” has been added to the Bellagio Fountain repertoire. A new song for the Fountain show takes several months to be approved. Cher’s “Believe,” the most recently added song before “Bad Romance,” debuted more than a year ago. Other current Fountain songs include “Luck be a Lady,” “Hey, Big Spender,” “Fly Me to the Moon,” “Uptown Funk,” “My Heart Will Go On,” “This Kiss,” and “God Bless the USA.”

FlyOver Las Vegas—A new motion-simulation attraction is coming to Las Vegas. FlyOver Las Vegas will provide riders with a simulated flight experience over scenery and natural wonders of the American Southwest, such as the Grand Canyon, Zion and Arches National Parks, and Lake Tahoe. Construction is slated to begin later this year at an unannounced Strip location and will be completed in early 2021. It will be the world’s third FlyOver attraction; FlyOver Canada opened in Vancouver in 2013 and FlyOver Iceland will launch in Reykjavik this summer.

Downtown Rocks—The line-up for this year’s free “Downtown Rocks Summer Concert Series” at the Fremont Street Experience is Good Charlotte (5/24), Nelly (6/15), Sugar Ray (6/29), Fuel/Toadies/Sponge (7/20), Pop 2000 Tour hosted by Lance Bass (7/27), Buckcherry (8/17), Cheap Trick (8/24), The Wallflowers (8/30), Smash Mouth (9/28), and Muddfest/Puddle of Mudd/Saliva/Trapt/Saving Abel/Tantric (9/30).

High-Tech Cinema—Galaxy Theatres is introducing the world’s first Sony large-format technology at its nine-screen multiplex that opens April 5 at the Boulevard Mall. The dual-laser 4K system will project movies on the largest screen in Las Vegas: 40 feet tall and 70 feet

wide. The large-format auditorium will also feature powered reclining seats and motion simulation.

Aviators Baseball—The Las Vegas Aviators, the Triple A affiliate of the Oakland Athletics, plays its first home game in the new Las Vegas Ballpark near Red Rock Resort on April 9. The park's video scoreboard is the largest in the minor leagues. Measuring 31 feet tall by 126 feet across, it's bigger than five major-league boards. Tickets start at \$15.

Lights Soccer—The Las Vegas Lights United Soccer League team has opened its second season. Single-game tickets start at \$15 for the games at Cashman Field that feature creative pre- and post-game events and activities.

Residencies/Added Dates—Dionne Warwick will play 12 dates at Bally's; April: 4-6, 11-13, 18-20, 25-27; tickets start at \$105 base. Anita Baker will play five dates at the Venetian beginning May 31; tickets start at \$49.95 base.

New dates have been added for *Classic Cher*: Aug. 21, 23-24, 28, 31; September 1. Ticket prices start at \$55 base. New dates have been added for *An Intimate Evening with Santana: Greatest Hits Live* at the House of Blues: Sept. 18, 20-22, 25, 27-29; Nov. 1-3, 6, 8-10. Tickets start at \$99.50 base. New dates have been added for Aerosmith at Park MGM: September 21, 23, 26, 28; October 1, 3, 6, 8; November 14, 16, 19, 21, 24, 26, 29; December 1, 4. Ticket prices haven't been announced, but are expected to be around \$150.

See the **ADVANCE PLANNER** for dates, prices, and additional show updates. ■

GAMBLING

Bracket Feat

For the first time ever, someone had an audited perfect bracket through 48 games in the NCAA basketball tournament. There were actually two perfects after 40 games according to NCAA.com, which tracks millions of brackets submitted to ESPN, CBS, Yahoo, Fox, and Sports Illustrated, beating the previous record of 39. The perfection ended, however, in the second game of the round of 16 when Purdue beat Tennessee in overtime, halting the streak at 49 straight. The American Gaming Association has estimated that nearly 150 million brackets were filled out by 40 million players. The odds of having a perfect bracket through all 63 games vary according to strategy, but are 1 in 9.2 quintillion if you're simply guessing. They're lower, though still astronomical, if you're selective and pick big favorites. ■

New Jersey Get-Back

Here's a cautionary tale. The New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement has ordered the return of more than \$90,000 in winnings from online accounts that a California man played from beyond the borders of the Garden State. It's believed to be the largest amount of money forfeited since Internet gambling was legalized in New Jersey more than five years ago. Regulators might also discipline Borgata and Caesars Interactive, both of which allowed the Californian to gamble online from across the country. New Jersey employs highly effective geolocation technology to detect and reject "many attempts each day to gamble from outside the state." The cautionary part? You need to be careful about breaking the rules (laws). There are ways around geolocation, but they won't work forever and this incident sets a precedent for casinos or jurisdictions to seek remedy. ■

Manteris in the Sports Betting HoF

Art Manteris, the longtime head of sports book operations for Station Casinos, has been inducted into the Sports Betting Hall of Fame. Manteris put up the famous prop on William "Refrigerator" Perry scoring a touchdown in the Super Bowl, which was a catalyst for today's big-game prop craze. He also authored (with Rick Talley) *Superbookie*, one of the first, and still one of the best, books on sports betting.

Along with the inductee preceding him, former New Jersey governor Chris Christie, Manteris joins a list of HoFers whose names are anything but household: Mark Blandford, Carsten Koerl, Howard Chisholm, Paris Smith, Fred Done, Vigen Badalyan, Pontus Lindwall, Fabio Schiavolin, Warwick Bartlett, Norbert Teufelberger, and Constantinos Antonopoulos. ■

Gambling Notes

Jackpots—Two jackpots of just over \$1 million each were hit last month. A player from Hawaii hit on a Monopoly Millionaire slot at the Plaza and a player from Maryland hit a royal flush on Mississippi Stud while betting the progressive side bet at Bally's.

Reduced Juice—South Point is dealing -105 on all NCAA tournament games. The reduced pricing will run through the championship game and is available for bets on sides only.

M Sports Book Switch—It's CG Technology out

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

and William Hill in at M Resort. After CGT's (formerly Cantor Gaming) 10-year contract expired in March, M announced that the sports book concession would be transferred to William Hill. A conversion of the book is currently taking place and Will Hill will begin taking bets in May, pending regulatory approval.

Masters Line—Rory McIlroy is the favorite to win the Masters golf tournament at 8-1, followed by Dustin Johnson (10-1) and Tiger Woods (12-1).

MLB Line—With baseball season under way, the New York Yankees are the favorite (slightly over the Astros and Red Sox) to win in the American League at +275 and the Los Angeles Dodgers are the favorite to win in the National League at +400. The Yankees are the favorite to win the World Series at +600.

Lottery—With a little more than a month left to claim the jackpot, the sole winner of the largest lottery payout to a single winner in U.S. history, \$1.5 billion, finally stepped forward. The winner elected to remain anonymous and is taking the lump sum of \$878 million. After paying upwards of \$325 million in federal income taxes and \$61 million in state taxes, the net is a little less than \$500 million. Why did the winner wait so long? The shopkeeper who sold the ticket and receives \$50,000 perhaps said it best: "That's a lot of money to manage." In late March, a \$768 million Powerball jackpot, the third-largest ever, was hit by a single ticket purchased in Wisconsin. ■

Video Poker Lost and Found

The best game in the up-and-down inventory at Railroad Pass is Loose Deuces paying 12 for 5-of-a-kind and 8 for a straight flush (99.20%) located on the floor for 25¢ and 50¢. The best base return on quarter games at the bar is 7/5 Bonus Poker (98.01%). However, other games have progressives on the royal flush and when the meter gets to \$1,075, 9/5 Double Double Bonus becomes the game with the highest return. When we visited, the meter was at \$1,088, returning 98.05% for perfect play.

According to the online database vpFREE2, the best schedules at the Plaza for denoms above \$1 have been removed. The best for \$2 is now 9/6 Bonus Poker Deluxe (99.64%) and the best for \$5 is 8/5 BP (99.17%).

Also according to vpFREE2, Arizona Charlie's Decatur has opened a high-limit area in the spot that was formerly the poker room, with 8/5 BP up to \$5.

The play-\$1,500-get-\$100 deal at Jackpot will reportedly be discontinued in April. No new bonus promotion has been announced, though management says

Reader Leader

I'd planned to go to Klondike Sunset and let my wife use the coupon from the Member Rewards Book for \$20 in free slot play after earning 1,000 points. Is it reasonable to get 1,000 points in one day? How much coin-in are we looking at to redeem this offer?

LVA: At Klondike Sunset, \$2 in play earns a point, so that's \$2,000 coin-in. Playing quarters, it will take about three hours; playing dollars, you'll get there in less than an hour. Klondike has NSU Deuces that returns 99.73% with perfect play, which makes the coupon worth about \$15 for experts. Most will play less than perfectly, however, and the EV decreases according to the reduction in skill level, possibly to the point where playing for the bonus yields a negative expectation. So don't play just to get the bonus unless you've studied the game (or have a good strategy card) or you'd intended to play that much anyway, in which case the bonus will lessen your overall loss. If you don't know NSUD strategy, Klondike also has 9/6 Jacks or Better, which makes the deal worth about \$11 with perfect play.

that something is planned.

Add the Tavern (1113 S. Rainbow) to the list of bars that offer 7/5 BP for quarters.

Legends on Boulder Highway deals 7/5 BP for quarters and has a play-\$20-get-\$10 sign-up deal.

Currently, no Bob Dancer video poker classes are scheduled. They're expected to resume in August. In the interim, be sure to check out Bob's weekly Tuesday blog and the Thursday "Gambling With an Edge" podcast, with Bob and Richard Munchkin, both at LasVegasAdvisor.com. ■

FAST TRACK

Birthday Play Extended—SLS Las Vegas has extended its birthday prize swipe to April and it looks like it will be an ongoing promotion. Swipe your club card on your birthday to win slot free-play, point multipliers, and dining credits.

New Bellagio Exhibit—Bellagio has unveiled a new floral exhibit in the Conservatory. The spring 2019 display highlights spring in Japan, with two traditional Shinto-shrine *torii* gates, a row of cherry blossoms, two red-crowned Japanese cranes, and a towering replica of the Osaka Castle, one of the most iconic and historic castles in all of Japan. The Conservatory is free and open 24 hours a day; the Japanese Spring exhibit will remain until June 15. ■