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The 90-minute awards had the audience on its feet cheering and applauding

2016 BOLV AWARDS AT THE VENETIAN

Suzanne Somers, center, and other celebrity guests wave goodbye to the crowd at the completion of the Best of Las Vegas Awards at The Venetian on Saturday, Nov. 5, 2016. | Loren Townsley/Las Vegas Review-Journal

Suzanne Somers sizzles as host of 2016 Best of Las Vegas Awards at the Venetian

By ROBIN LEACH
NICHE DIVISION OF LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

It was midafternoon, but it had all the festive noise of a New Year's Eve party. The awards show at the Venetian Theater on Nov. 5 that started our 35th anniversary celebration of the Las Vegas Review-Journal's Best of Las Vegas Awards was a humdinger.

Actress, singer, author and entrepreneur Suzanne Somers showed that age is no deterrent when it comes to projecting a sexy image as she slithered over a piano to sing a supper-club song. Suzanne proved such a perfect onstage host that people wanted to know where her next residency on the Strip will be. Suzanne opened and closed with a bang.

She sang and danced with the joy and levity of Chrissy Snow from "Three's Company," joked with the band, told stories of her ranch home here when she performed on and off the Strip — and women in the theater wanted her top health and beauty secrets from the 22 books she's written. She makes no secret that she's a radiant 70-year-old.

Suzanne, who I have known nearly 50 years from her start in television, told me that next year she'll finish her first non-health book with the story behind her successful marriage. Husband Alan Hamel and she have never been apart one night since their 1977 marriage, and they are still the closest of love mates. "Sex is still healthy at our age," she laughed.

The cast of "Rock of Ages," who sadly depart The Rio on Jan. 1, had explosive, high-octane energy starting the awards with Whitesnake's "Here I Go Again." The ringmaster of "Baz: Star Crossed Love" at the Palazzo, William Thomas Evans, wowed with his cast of "Moulin Rouge" dancers and powerful young singers with their song-and-dance power.

Jennifer Romas led her "Sexxy" cast from Westgate in a furious (and clothed) "Hey, Big Spender" dance routine. Electronic violinist and DJ Lydia Ansel and Bella Electric Strings provided music for the welcome and later Winners Circle parties.

The 90-minute awards that had

the audience on its feet cheering and applauding ended with "Vegas! The Show" and the gorgeous plumage headdresses of David Saxe's long-legged dancers reminding us all of the showgirls from 35 years ago.

I was honored along with friends Pia Zadora, Nathan Burton, Kelly Clinton-Holmes, Clint Holmes and Carrot Top to be presenters. Here's the RJ video on YouTube that I recorded on the red carpet with all the stars.

I was in disbelief when members of the Venetian headliners Human Nature told me in detail how they delivered calves from pregnant cows during their days in agricultural school in Australia before they formed as a group and gave up midwifery duties.

Carrot Top film a music video with "Property Brothers" stars Drew Scott and Jonathan Scott of Las Vegas between our show and his nightly show at The Luxor. While in Las Vegas, Suzanne enjoyed dinners at Morels and Lavo in the Palazzo and watched Britney Spears' "Britney: Piece of Me" at Axis at Planet Hollywood and "Baz."

"One of the best shows I've ever seen," Suzanne said of "Baz." "Remarkable talent." I couldn't agree more. The male and female tango dancers, Nick Garcia and Savannah

Cross, who have appeared on "Dancing With the Stars," are beyond incredible. Their footwork is magical. It's a dance routine that would win its own Best of Las Vegas Award for super steps.

Britney, who won Best Resident Performer and tied with Celine Dion as Best Singer/Musician, tweeted a thank you, adding, "This is amazing." She had tried at the last minute to run onstage to collect her award, but a prior rehearsal schedule with her "Piece of Me" dancers prevented her from leaving Axis.

Britney became the latest celebrity to take part in the current social media mannequin challenge rage, and she did it onstage to celebrate our BOLV Awards. She remained motionless for more than 2 minutes to the music of her sexy single "Slumber Party."

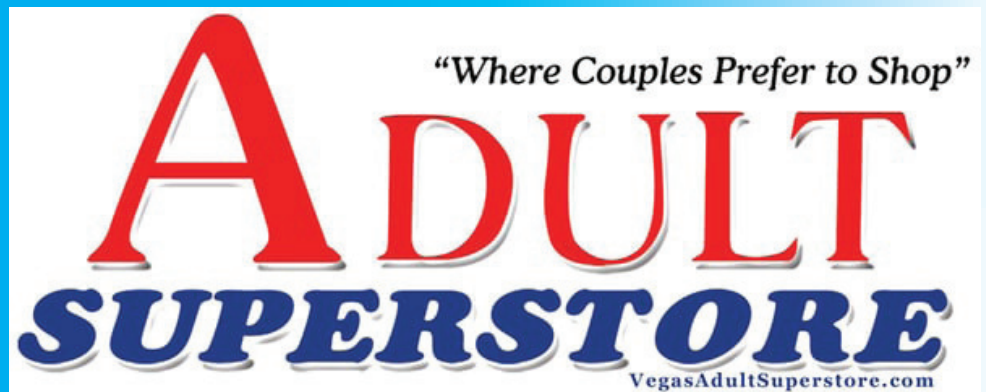
Britney enlisted the help of her dance troupe who circled around her as she stayed still on her hands and knees with her right leg extended. Then the camerawork ended with a shot of our Best of Las Vegas Award certificate that has now gone around the world to more than 10 million of her fans.

That has to be the ultimate recognition for our 35th anniversary celebration. Congratulations to all the winners — here's to next year!

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THE HISTORY

By JENNY E. SCHEID
LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

The changes to the city of Las Vegas and surrounding areas have been enormous in the past 35 years as the population has grown from 500,000 to more than 2 million. So, too, have the opinions of newspaper readers who vote in the annual readers poll, Best of Las Vegas.

The Las Vegas Review-Journal's popular poll was conceived in 1982 by then-feature editor Frank Fertado. That first poll was a single page in the Living section with 50 categories. Within 11 years it grew into an annual special section with 112 pages and 100 picks in seven categories. This year's winners section, publishing Nov. 6, will have 227 picks in 10 categories.

The 1982 poll had limited restaurant picks: hamburger, pizza, cheesecake, bakery, gourmet and buffet. In '83, expanded picks included Chinese, Mexican, Italian, seafood, steak specials and ice cream. Consistent reader's picks through the early '80s were chains such as Wendy's, Pizza Hut, Taco Bell, 7-Eleven (for coffee) and Kentucky Fried Chicken.

But one perennial favorite in those early years stands out: Andre's for Best Gourmet restaurant. Many people consider Andre Rochat as Las Vegas' original celebrity chef, but when Andre's was picked as the top

gourmet restaurant, it was an era before chefs were celebrities.

Voters in this year's readers poll had more than 30 eating and drinking categories to choose from, including food truck, farm-to-table, power lunch, microbrewery and vegan.

For entertainment, the 1980s were about iconic showgirls, and the top chorus line shows were "Lido de Paris" and "Jubilee!" When "Jubilee!" closed in February this year, the resident show at Bally's was the longest-running production show in Las Vegas. Today, the longest running show is Legends in Concert, currently playing at the Flamingo.

With Fashion Show mall opening in 1981, it's hard to understand this 1993 suggestion from a reader: "May I suggest adding a fashion feature to your survey? I'm from Seattle and abhor shopping here because the stores offer nothing but vulgar Las Vegas styles — gaudy and exaggerated! NO TASTE!" Really?

Some things, however, never change. In the 1980s, Interstate 15 was tagged for Worst Road Construction, and the Most Dangerous Intersection was I-15 and U.S. 95, commonly known as the Spaghetti Bowl. Although those categories have been eliminated, Project Neon, the \$1.5 billion Spaghetti Bowl interchange rehabilitation, is sure to cause driver headaches as it stretches over 20 years to completion.

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By ROBIN LEACH
NICHE DIVISION OF LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

Having traveled the world, living in cities including New York, Los Angeles, London and Paris and visiting others such as the French Riviera, Italy's incredible vineyards and jet-set hangouts of Sardinia and Ibiza, I can tell you that, without the slightest hesitation, Las Vegas has them all beat!

We are without a doubt the Entertainment Capital of the World, and on the world-renowned Las Vegas Strip, we have the globe's greatest collection of luxury hotels, restaurants and celebrity chefs. Add in the ultimate in retail shopping and top it off with the greatest indoor and outdoor dayclubs and nightclubs and

their amazing DJ lineups, and you quickly understand why there is no other destination on earth like Las Vegas.

Little wonder we play host to the world's greatest lineup of conventions and that almost every major corporation and employer in the USA visits here for annual conventions. Congratulations to the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority for its tireless work in drawing airlines from around the world to serve our visitors and our fabulous hotels that house them in luxury once they arrive.

Our desert outpost 300 miles from the glitz and glamour of Los Angeles outshines the rest of the world in so many ways, and let's not forget that

our fame and fortune isn't just on the Strip anymore. In addition to the amazing revitalization of Downtown Las Vegas, star chefs have moved to the suburbs, and our hotels off the Strip have brought top-level shows, entertainers, events, spas and eateries to the 'hood.

We are blessed that the best employees in the world call Las Vegas home. Hard-working line chefs, servers, stagehands, spa experts and salespeople are the very fabric of our three-shift town.

The Las Vegas Review-Journal has always acknowledged Best of Las Vegas with its annual voting of BOLV by our readers and connoisseurs. And this year we're going to be The Best ever, too! Our Nov. 5 and 6 weekend

will salute The Best like never before, and that's why I'm excited.

There will be a whole new look to the printed annual rankings that will serve as The Best go-to directory to use year-round when friends and family visit and expect us to know the answer to every one of their questions.

Additionally, there will be a gala event to salute the category winners, ranking of The Best and introduction of our Icon of the Year – the executive, innovator, celebrity and more who have made the largest impact.

It's new, it's groundbreaking, it's unique — and all because we are fortunate enough to live, work and play right in the heart of The Best. All that glitters is gold!

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AWARD-SHOW PHOTOS

On Saturday, Nov. 5, Best of Las Vegas celebrated its 35th anniversary with a star-studded bash hosted by Suzanne Somers that included award presentations and performances by some of Las Vegas' most beloved, award-winning entertainers. On hand for the occasion were Nathan Burton; Kelly Clinton-Holmes; Carrot Top; Bryan Cheatham of the Chippendales; Steve Connolly; Vinnie Favorito; Clint Holmes; Sir Monti Rock III; Pia Zadora; as well as the casts of Baz – Star Crossed Love, Human Nature, Rock of Ages, Sexy and Vegas! The Show.



Craig Moon, president and publisher, Las Vegas Review-Journal



Nathan Burton



Chippendales performers



Steve Connolly



Robin Leach



Actor, Kelly Clinton-Holmes, Clint Holmes



Vegas! The Show



Vegas! The Show



Suzanne Somers



Carrot Top, Las Vegas Showgirl



Steve Connolly, Showgirl, Hey Reb



Pia Zadora



Rock of Ages



Craig Moon, president and publisher,
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Our Best of Summerlin and Best of Henderson



By **LESLIE FRISBEE** and **DON CHAREUNSY**
NICHE DIVISION OF LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

Summerlin to Henderson is, to put in Southern California terms, jokingly or perhaps not, Los Angeles to Orange County or San Diego in terms of geography and culture.

Fortunately, both locales in Clark County have best-of spots for residents to enjoy.

Summerlin resident Leslie Frisbee shared her picks, and Henderson resident Don Chareunsky listed his favorites:

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1 - Celine Dion | John Locher/Las Vegas Review-Journal file, 2 - Sir Elton John | Archive, 3 - Entertainer Clint Holmes | Jeff Scheid/Las Vegas Review-Journal

There is something for nearly everyone, from the mainstays to the extended-run and occasional headliners ...



By DON CHAREUNSY
NICHE DIVISION OF LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

Las Vegas is widely known as the Entertainment Capital of the World, but Sin City also is the Headliner Capital of the World.

There is something for nearly everyone, from the mainstays — including Celine Dion, Sir Elton John, Rod Stewart, Mariah Carey and Reba McEntire and Brooks & Dunn at the Colosseum at Caesars Palace and Britney Spears, Jennifer Lopez, Pitbull and Lionel Richie at Axis at Planet Hollywood — to the extended-run and occasional headliners, among them Bruno Mars at the Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas, John Fogerty and Diana Ross at the Venetian and Rascal Flatts at the Joint in the Hard Rock Hotel.

There is Human Nature at the Venetian, Clint Holmes at the Palazzo and Olivia Newton-John and Donny and Marie Osmond at the Flamingo. Frankie Moreno, who has headlined at the Stratosphere, the Smith Center for the Performing Arts and Planet Hollywood, is without a home, but this Las Vegas resident is definitely worth seeing wherever he is.

These are just the music artists, and there are some who were certainly

and inadvertently left off this list.

How about all the Cirque du Soleil shows? All of them showcase incredible artistry and athleticism, but “Mystere” at Treasure Island, “Michael Jackson One” at Mandalay Bay and Criss Angel’s “Mindfreak Live!” top the list for this A+E journalist. Don’t forget the award-winning and stellar “Le Reve — The Dream” at Wynn Las Vegas.

Theater sadly has been a mixed bag in Las Vegas. “Jersey Boys” at Paris Las Vegas closed Sunday and “Steve Wynn’s Showstoppers” ends in December, but “Baz: Star Crossed Love” at the Palazzo, “Rock of Ages” at the Rio, “50 Shades! The Parody” at Bally’s and more are still on marquees. The illusionist and magicians, including the aforementioned Angel, Mat Franco, David Copperfield et al, continue to cast their spells over fans.

The world’s top DJs who call Las Vegas a resident home weren’t even mentioned, but they are absolutely part of the headliner list. Who’s your favorite headliner in Las Vegas? Voting for the 2016 Best of Las Vegas has begun at bestoflasvegas.com. You’ve got some tough choices to make in the Headliner Capital of the World!

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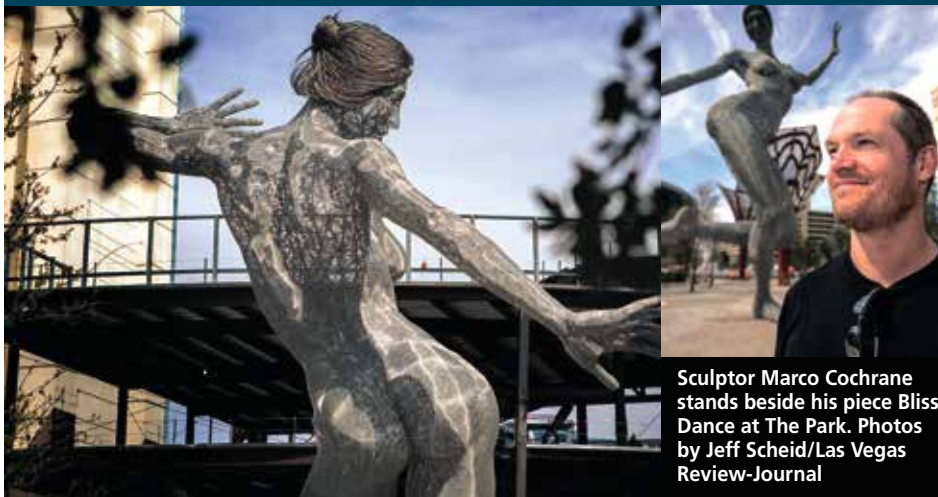
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Sculptor Marco Cochrane's
inspiration and message
behind his Bliss Dance

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ART AT THE PARK



Sculptor Marco Cochrane stands beside his piece Bliss Dance at The Park. Photos by Jeff Scheid/Las Vegas Review-Journal

By ROBIN LEACH
NICHE DIVISION OF LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

When you see the sculpture for the first time, you stand transfixed in awe at its size and magnitude. It is the centerpiece of The Park and one of the newest additions to the Strip. As the days lose their horrid heat and life becomes more comfortable and cooler amid the concrete, it's likely that tourists and locals will spend more time in the sculpture's shadow.

American sculptor Marco Cochrane created the hard-to-miss Bliss Dance, the 40-foot-tall statue of a dancing woman near T-Mobile Arena between New York-New York and Monte Carlo. Marco said:

"When I created this statue, Bliss Dance, my hope was that all who see her would be impacted not only by her scale and beauty, but also her message, which is one of feminine strength and power."

Bliss Dance is the first sculpture in The Bliss Project, a series of three monumental sculptures of a woman, Deja Solis, expressing her energy, power, purpose and voice. Marco tells the story behind the sculpture and his recent reunion with the Las Vegas resident who was the subject of his art:

"I am proud to see this message become a permanent part of Las

Vegas' iconic history. I grew up in Northern California in the 1960s and '70s in the philosophical revolution and turbulence of those times.

"I learned to appreciate feminine energy, influence and strength and realized that the objectification of women imprisoned women as well as men. I saw first-hand that one person, or a small group of people, can start a movement that can make a difference and change the course of history.

"The story behind Bliss Dance really began when I was 7 years old with my friend, Dejas, who was 9. There was a sexual assault in front of my house. I was told about it in way too much detail. It was incomprehensible. I didn't understand.

"I was shocked when it seemed like no one did anything about it. I have been working on solving this problem ever since. In my 20s, I began to explore sculpting and discovered my ability to capture human emotion.

"About this time, I read Joseph Campbell and was struck by the passage, 'Follow your bliss, and doors will open where you never knew they existed.' It was on the birth of my daughter that everything I had been working on and thinking about came together, and I realized that my bliss was to carry my message through art."

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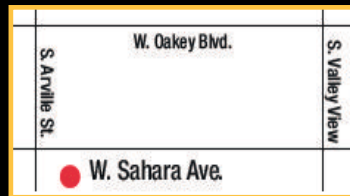


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Walker does much more than furniture

By WALKER FURNITURE

Walker Furniture has always been doing business with a commitment to be the best. "That's why being voted Best of Las Vegas has always been a thrill for us," said Walker Furniture's CEO, Larry Alterwitz. "We believe strongly in this community our family calls home. It's with pride that we've been able to grow a centralized business in the heart of Downtown into the largest campus furniture showroom with approximately 160,000 square feet."

While the company's famous slogan is "Furniture ... It's All We Do!," giving back is at the forefront of the company's philosophy. Over the last few decades, Walker Furniture has created numerous meaningful community programs that are unique to its business, which is furniture. At the top of the list and best known is the seasonal Home for the Holidays, which celebrated its 22nd year in 2015 by providing 31 families with a house full of furniture and hope.

Since 1994, hundreds of families have been helped. Submissions kick off Oct. 9 for this year to identify more families in need, and Walker will again work with community partners including Helping Hands of Vegas Valley, Star Nursery and Las Vegas Rescue Mission.

Walker Furniture has adopted other familiar annual community programs, including Help for Heroes with American Legion Paradise Post 149; Stuff the Bus for school supplies;

and various promotions with Clark County School District, among them Teacher Appreciation Day and photo, art and writing contests.

The Alterwitz family bought the business in 1973 and grew it into the family of companies you see today with more than 300 employees. Larry Alterwitz explains that his formula for success over the years has been a simple one: "Give our customers the largest selection and competitive prices and back it up with the best customer service."

While the state's \$1 billion Project Neon I-15 highway expansion by the Spaghetti Bowl eliminated the company's former distribution facility on I-15, which was a visual public landmark from the freeway for nearly 30 years, Walker Furniture's showroom on MLK remains the single largest furniture store in Nevada.

Walker Furniture's showroom measures approximately 120,000 square feet. The entire Walker Furniture Campus includes The Main Showroom, The Room Store by Walker, Tent & Clearance and The Market Liquidators Store. In North Las Vegas, there is a 420,000-square-foot warehouse that includes a public outlet clearance center.

"Thanks to Las Vegas Valley area residents and their support," said Alterwitz, "Walker Furniture intends to continue to grow and remain committed to helping the Las Vegas community."

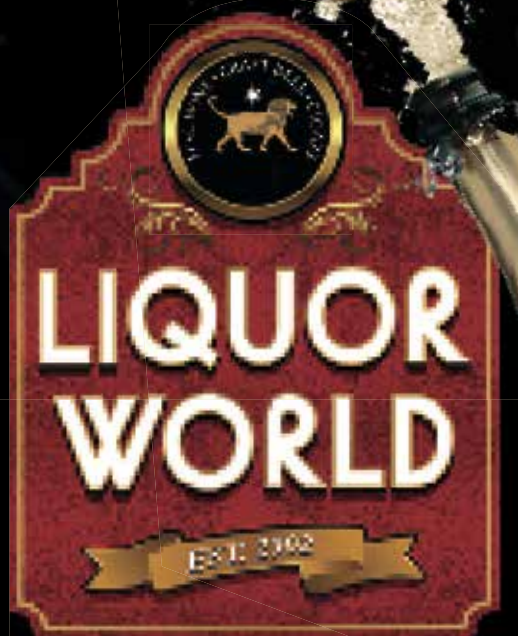
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BEST OF LAS VEGAS AND SIENA DELI EACH CELEBRATE 35 YEARS IN THE CITY



Located in Village Square at 9500 W. Sahara Ave. in Summerlin, Siena Deli originated on the east side and is one of the most popular and visited Italian delis in Sin City, catering to from the old at heart to the next generation of family members.



Potos by: Siena Italian Authentic Trattoria & Deli.

By **DON CHAREUNSY**
NICHE DIVISION OF LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

Best of Las Vegas is toasting 35 years in the Las Vegas Valley this year, and we must salute another institution commemorating the same milestone: Siena Italian Authentic Trattoria & Deli.

Located in Village Square at 9500 W. Sahara Ave., Siena Deli originated on the east side and is one of the most popular and visited Italian delis in Sin City, catering to from the old at heart to the next generation of family members.

Siena Deli relocated to the west side in 2009 to a much larger location just past Fort Apache in Summerlin to offer more services — restaurant and bar, bakery, deli and market — in one centralized location. The restaurant and bar features live entertainment three to four nights a week, and there is a banquet room and indoor patio,

plus catering in the restaurant and to order.

“Siena Deli has always taken pride in offering the best variety of homemade specialties,” the restaurant says. “We provide the biggest selection of hard-to-find specialty products in town such as grocery items and imported and domestic meats and cheeses.”

Siena Deli’s in-house bakery features breads, pastries, Italian cookies and other desserts. The restaurant and bar is newly remodeled, with happy hour in the bar from 3 to 7 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays.

Siena Deli is open 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week. For more on this long-running Las Vegas business: SienaItalian.com and (702) 360-3358.

Congratulations on three decades and counting, Siena Deli!



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By LESLIE FRISBEE
NICHE DIVISION OF LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

A kinesthetic kaleidoscope into the mystery of life, humanism and all of its wonderment, “Mystère” at T.I. takes you on a sensuous voyage through time, and, in the age of “mediated voyeurism,” “Mystère” is a feast for

Art personified

‘Mystère’ introduced Las Vegas to a new type of entertainment

the imagination, a mystical journey that merges past, present and future.

An emotive 90-minute frolic into infinite personal interpretations, it’s a prophetic introduction into the awe-inspiring world of Cirque du Soleil. Since its premiere in 1993, “Mystère” has revolutionized Las Vegas entertainment. Fusing kinetic art and transcendent sounds and lighting with exhilarating acrobatics, the classic Cirque production continues to astound audiences and critics alike.

Accentuated by poignant lighting, vibrant costumes and quirky props, including oversize bottles, buggies, balloons, drums and puppets, “Mystère’s” sets are designed to stimulate the senses, and the ethereal backdrop of juxtaposed vibrant lights, appearing through shapes in space, and incessant fog provides the perfect ambience for stirring emotion.

Imaginations unfold in the state-of-the-art theater as musicians, who

envelop the numinous stage from above and beyond, unleash a musical score that evokes mystery, intrigue and anticipation. Using the taiko drum, “The Big Bang” symbolizes the journey through life, beginning with primitive creatures.

Priming the spectacle is a misguided clown who incorporates the audience from beginning to end, much to the chagrin of Moha-Samedi, the master of ceremonies. Aroused in the aura is an international cast of 76 artists, whose characters include the archangels, a dangerously curious jumbo-size baby who yearns for his papa, a roguish imp, giants and the principal character, Red Bird.

Appearing throughout the production, Red Bird weaves the athleticism of the acrobats with the grace of the dancers, moving fluidly from one element to the next, epitomizing the human interaction aspect of “Mystère.” Red Bird’s

performance is symbolic of what makes “Mystère” so different from the typical Las Vegas production. The wow factor of the show comes from what the performers can do—it’s the human performance that makes “Mystère” so breathtaking.

A signature to Cirque du Soleil shows is the array of mesmerizing athleticism and human artistry displayed throughout the production: Soaring with acrobatic precision is the man in the aerial cube, a celestial being that embodies the universe. Exhibiting tremendous upper-body strength and agility, double-masked creatures glide effortlessly up and down Chinese poles, which represent the sprouting of life.

Merging past, present and future, the return of the taiko drums at the show’s conclusion is a reminder that the future is built on the memories and mysteries of the past—creating the circle of life.



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BEST
LAS VEGAS

Las Vegas Review-Journal 2016

CELEBRATING THE BEST OF LAS VEGAS WITH RESIDENTS AND READERS

I love Las Vegas.

I love Las Vegas so much that I would marry it.

By DON CHAREUNSY
NICHE DIVISION OF LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

I've had the honor and privilege of working with Robin Leach ("Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous") the past eight years covering arts and entertainment in the Entertainment Capital of the World.

This year, Robin and I are working on our first Best of Las Vegas for Niche and the Las Vegas Review-Journal, and I can't think of a better fit. I have wholeheartedly embraced this city I call home, and I can't wait to celebrate Best of Las Vegas with the Valley's residents and Niche and RJ readers.

When it comes to arts and culture, food and drink, entertainment, health and beauty, hotels and casinos, leisure and recreation, professional services, shopping, people and sports, each and every opinion counts, and we are all on equal footing with Best of Las Vegas.

Who's to say that I'm correct about

the best steak in Las Vegas when you say it's overcooked and salty? No one!

You think Jennifer Lopez, and I am adamant about Britney Spears, both at Axis at Planet Hollywood. I drool over Chippendales at the Rio, and you fawn over Thunder From Down Under at Excalibur. You rock out to the rockers of "X Burlesque" at the Flamingo, and I say my fantasies come true at "Fantasy" at the Luxor. You insist on Sura Korean BBQ in Chinatown, while I say Gen Korean BBQ in Henderson takes the kimchi. I say Alize atop the Palms has the best view, while you're on top of the world at Mandarin Oriental.

For me, Best of Las Vegas includes Celine Dion at the Colosseum in Caesars Palace, "Steve Wynn's Showstoppers" at Wynn Las Vegas, Criss Angel's "Mindfreak Live!" at the Luxor, Britney at Axis, Joe Vicari's Andiamo Italian Steakhouse at the D Las Vegas,



Primarily Prime Rib at South Point, Sage at Aria, Costa di Mare at Wynn Las Vegas, Herringbone at Aria, Kitchen Table in Henderson, Bacchanal Buffet at Caesars, Rivea and Skyfall atop the Delano Las Vegas, the Smith Center for the Performing Arts, T-Mobile Arena, Color salon at Caesars, the Forum Shops at Caesars, Topgolf Las Vegas, XS at Encore Las Vegas, Hakkasan Nightclub at MGM Grand, Omnia at Caesars and Blue Martini in Town Square for happy hour.

And the list goes on and on and on.

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Kelly Clinton-Holmes and Clint Holmes



Vegas! The Show



BAZ—Star Crossed Love



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Steve Connolly



Frank Marino and Suzanne Somers



Human Nature

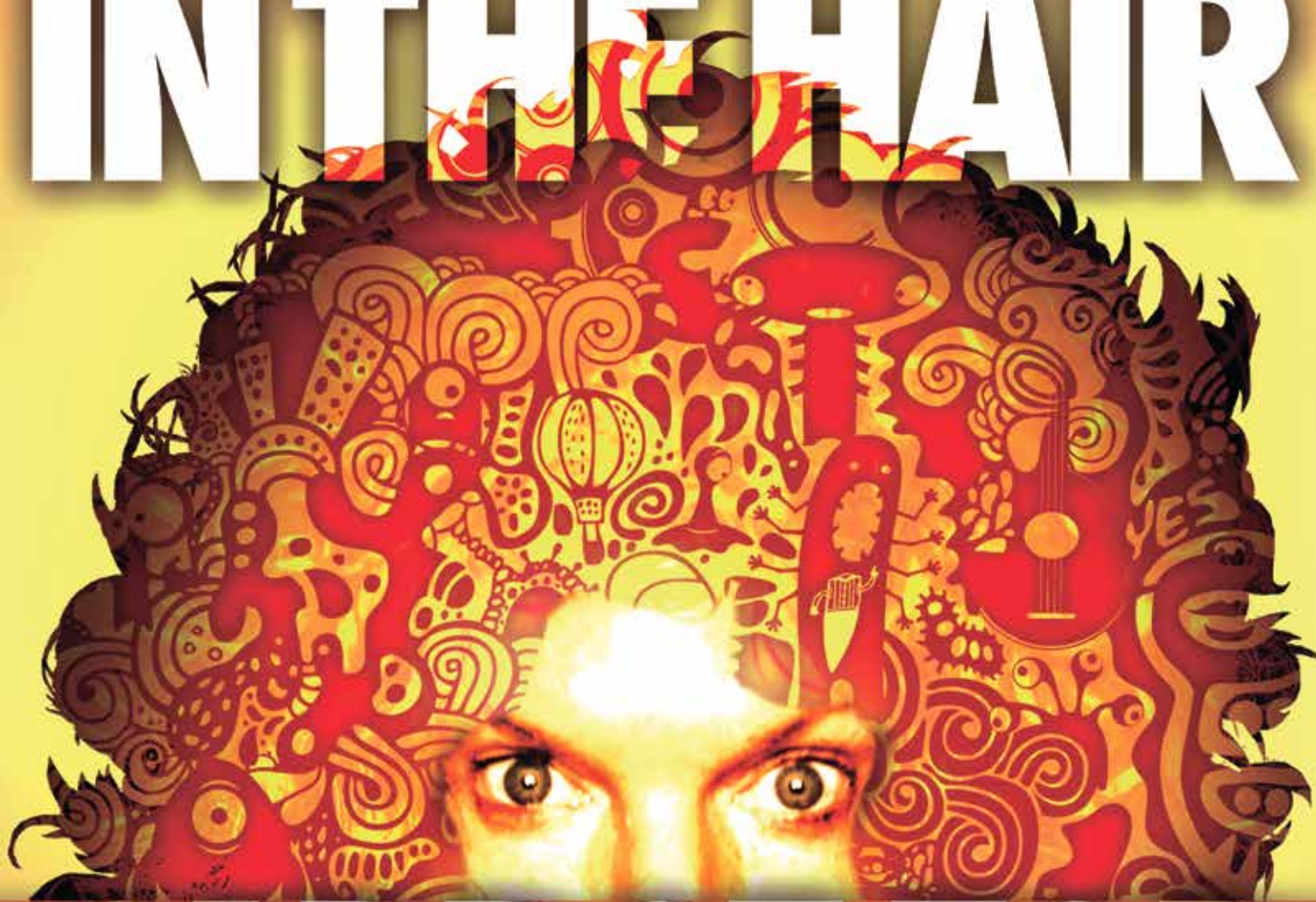
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Readers select their Best of Las Vegas from 1982 through 2015

We have in our hands the reader's picks for the Best of Las Vegas dating back to the beginning 35 years ago thanks to Linda Burley, digital marketing analyst at the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

The Sahara was voted Best Hotel Lounge in 1983



BEST
LAS VEGAS
Las Vegas Review-Journal 2016

NOTEWORTHY SELECTIONS BY READERS FROM 1982 TO 2015:

1982: Best Buffet — Sands (now closed)
1983: Best Hotel Lounge — Sahara (now closed)
1984: Best Mexican Food — Ricardo's
1985: Best Scenic Spot — Red Rock Canyon
1986: Best Seafood — Red Lobster
1987: Best Pizza — Pizza Hut
1988: Best Exotic Drinks — Peppermill Restaurant & Fireside Lounge
1989: Best Slots — Palace Station
1990: Best Breakfast — Omelet House
1991: Best Italian Restaurant — Olive Garden

1992: Best Weekend Getaway — Mt. Charleston
1993: Best Disc Jockey — Mike O'Brien
1994: Best Neighborhood Bar — Marker Down (now closed)
1995: Best Desserts — Marie Callender's Restaurant
1996: Best Salsa — Macayo Vegas
1997: Best Museum — Lied Discovery Children's Museum
1998: Best Local Sports Team — Las Vegas Thunder (now closed)
1999: Best Hotel Sports Book — Las Vegas Hilton (now Westgate Las Vegas)

2000: Best Racquetball Courts — Las Vegas Athletic Club
2001: Best Magician — Lance Burton (now closed)
2002: Best Place to Swim — Lake Mead National Recreation Area
2003: Best Doughnuts — Krispy Kreme
2004: Best New Restaurant — Kona Grill
2005: Best Showgirls — "Jubilee!" at Bally's (now closed)
2006: Best Prime Rib — Jerry's Nugget
2007: Best Deli — Jason's Deli
2008: Best Ethnic Market — International Marketplace

2009: Best Meal for Less Than \$10 — In-N-Out Burger
2010: Best Home Accessories Store — Home Goods
2011: Best Golf Course — Highland Falls Golf Course
2012: Best Spa — Green Valley Ranch
2013: Best Downtown Hotel — Golden Nugget
2014: Best German Restaurant — Hofbrauhaus
2015: Best Family Attraction — Jeff Civillico's "Comedy in Action"

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Rock of Ages



Vegas! The Show



Jennifer Romas and Sexy performers



Vegas! The Show



Bryan Cheatham



Suzanne Somers



BOLV winner



Robin Leach



(R. Marsh Starks/ UNLV Photo Services)

The UNLV Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art presents *Edward Burtynsky: Oil*, an exhibition featuring large-scale color landscape photographs by renowned photographer Edward Burtynsky. The exhibition on the campus of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas examines one of the most important subjects of our time: our reliance on oil. This exhibition, in partnership with the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno, runs through January 14, 2017.

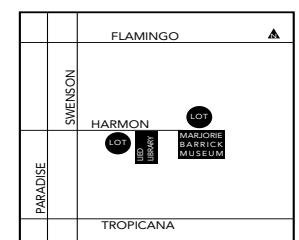
Best of the Past, Present, and Future.

Thank you for selecting the Barrick Museum as a 2016 “Best of Las Vegas” winner. Uniquely located inside one of the university’s three original buildings, the UNLV Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art is about to enter its fiftieth year of service to the Las Vegas community. Ambitiously, we hope to continue contributing to the growing art reputation of Las Vegas. Join us in recognizing our past, celebrating our present, and imagining our future.



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BEST
LAS VEGAS
Las Vegas Review-Journal 2016

“Jersey Boys” is part of a list of a number of Broadway hits that have graced the casino stages of the Las Vegas Strip.



JERSEY BOYS

(The Palazzo and Paris Las Vegas)



AVENUE Q
(Wynn Las Vegas)

From the *BROADWAY STAGE* to the *LAS VEGAS STRIP*

By **DON CHAREUNSY**
NICHE DIVISION OF LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

The Entertainment Capital of the World bid a sad adieu to the wonderful “Jersey Boys” at Paris Las Vegas in September after eight years.

“Jersey Boys” is part of a list of a number of Broadway hits that have graced the casino stages of the Las Vegas Strip.

It also is worth nothing that “Million Dollar Quartet” at Harrah’s is closing in December, while, some good news for a change, our celebrated Cirque du Soleil opened its first spectacular on Broadway this year, “Paramour,” starring the talented Ruby Lewis.

Here are some of my Broadway favorites on the Las Vegas Strip in the last decade in no particular order:



HAIRSPRAY
(The Luxor)



MAMMA MIA (Mandalay Bay and Tropicana)



THE PRODUCERS
(Paris Las Vegas)



DISNEY'S THE LION KING
(Mandalay Bay)

PHANTOM — THE LAS VEGAS SPECTACULAR (The Venetian)



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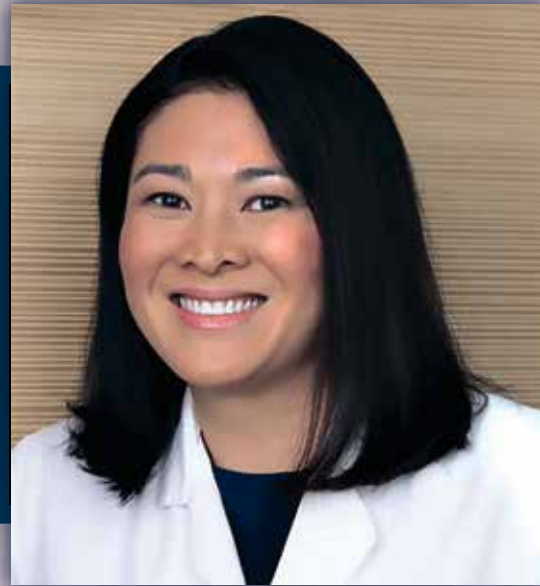
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A PIECE OF HISTORY

While Best of Las Vegas celebrates 35 years in the Entertainment Capital of the World this year, the attractions and offerings of the city stretch further back, from Westward Ho and Wayne Newton to the Dunes and buffets at the Rio and Flamingo. Our thanks to Las Vegas News Bureau for these blast-from-the-past photographs. Voting for 2016 Best of Las Vegas is now open through Oct. 12; go to BestofLasVegas.com to weigh in on The Best our city has to offer!



THANK YOU



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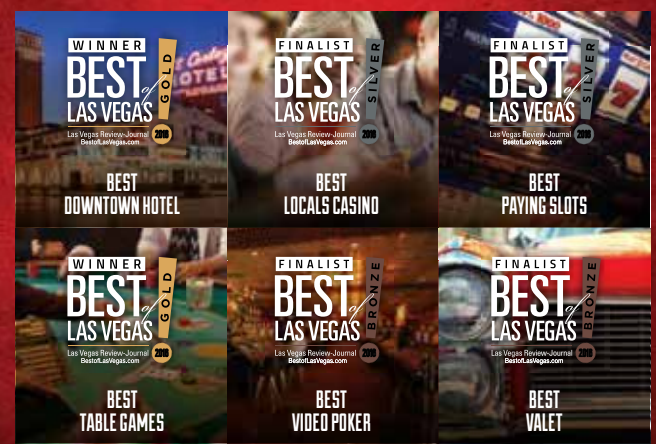
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A few of the more noteworthy Best of Las Vegas reader picks through the years:

By BUFORD DAVIS
NICHE DIVISION OF LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

Airport Observation Lot,
Sunset Boulevard, (Best Place to Neck,
1982)

Paula Francis, retired journalist
at KLAS, (Best Hair in TV News, 1999)

We've Got Your Daughter
(Best Bar Band Name, 1988)



Roy Horn,
iconic local
magician and
entertainer, (Best
Looking Las
Vegan, 1997)

MGM Lion, created by sculptor
Snellen Johnson in 1997, (Best Casino
Mascot, 2011)

Frank Marino, female
impersonator, (Best Dressed Las
Vegan, 1997)

Money (Best Souvenir, 1995)

The Flashlight Sculpture
at UNLV, by Claes Oldenburg and
Coosje Van Bruggen, (Best Public
Art, 1994)

Greg Maddux, World Series-
winning pitcher for the Atlanta
Braves and Chicago Cubs, (Best Local
Hero, 1997)



Cleveland Clinic Lou
Ruvo Center, designed by
Frank Gehry, (Best Non-Hotel
Architecture, 2012)

Cleveland Clinic Lou
Ruvo Center (Ugliest Building,
also 2012)

Prince Harry, the year he
proved that what happens in Vegas
sometimes goes viral on social media,
(Best Celebrity Tourist, 2013)

Day (Best working shift, 1982)

Elephant Bar (Best Singles Bar,
1983)



Crazy Girls Statue, formerly
outside The Riviera, now at Planet
Hollywood, (Best Tourist Photo Op,
1985)

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GLORY DAYS



Remembering notable Best of Las Vegas winners:

By BUFORD DAVIS
NICHE DIVISION OF LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

Favorite Female Athlete,
1997, 1998: Lori Harrigan (All-American UNLV softball pitcher and three-time Olympic gold medalist)



Best Lounge Performer,
1982: Loretta Holloway, jazz and cabaret singer dubbed "South Carolina's First Lady of Song"

Best Stage Show,
1982 to 1987: *Beyond Belief*

Best Hamburgers,
1987, 1988: Flakey Jake's

Best Singles Bar,
1982: Carlos Murphy's, popular social spot on Maryland Parkway

Las Vegas You'd Most Want to Know,
1997: Danny Gans, mega-popular Strip headliner who died unexpectedly in 2009 at age 52



Best Asian Restaurant,
1985 to 1993: Chin's, first opening in 1975 (Fashion Show mall was its third and final home) featuring creative dishes from Tola Chin

Favorite Male Las Vegas,
1993: Wayne Tanaka (Hawaii-born local educator and namesake of Clark County School District elementary school)



Best Seafood,
1987, 1988, 1991: Fisherman's Broiler

Best Chic Bar,
1986 to 1989: Botany's

Best Romantic Restaurant,
1994, 1997, 1998: Keifer's Atop The Carriage House

Best Place to Impress Your Mother,
1996: Keifer's Atop the Carriage House

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BY THE NUMBERS

By CARLA ZVOSEC
NICHE DIVISION OF LAS VEGAS
REVIEW-JOURNAL

The Best of Las Vegas began in 1982, and, after 35 years, the survey now has a broadened reach, delving even deeper into the Las Vegas market through the use of online voting.

Not only does this give those who love and visit Las Vegas an opportunity to participate in polling, it also greatly quickens and simplifies the process of counting votes.

Now that BOLV is newer, sleeker, techier and much more inclusive, taking a look back at statistics surrounding picks from previous years is warranted. Here are a few intriguing ones:

159 Bellagio has won a whopping number of BOLV awards, including being recognized for its architecture, conservatory, fine art gallery, dancing-water fountains, lobby, landscaping,



poker room, pool, restrooms, guest service, valet parking and more. It also has garnered awards for Best Strip

Hotel, Best Place to Go When Price Is No Object and Best Place to Take Visitors.

85 By far the county's favorite park, Sunset Park has racked up a host of BOLV awards for its picnic areas, outdoor basketball courts, softball fields

and tennis courts, as well as being voted Best Park, Best Place to Rollerblade and Best Place to Walk or Jog.

53 French chef Andre Rochat's Andre's, which opened in 1980 in a renovated Downtown 1930s-era boarding house, then moved to Monte Carlo and closed just this last month, has received many BOLV awards, including Best Bakery, Best Gourmet Restaurant, Most Romantic Restaurant, Best French Restaurant, Best Restaurant to Impress a Date and Best Splurge Restaurant.

46 Station Casinos has won at least one BOLV award every year from 1998 to 2015, including for football contest, 2001-2012, 2014-2015; hotel slot club, 2000-2005; and players club, 2006-2014. It also won one award each in the

categories of Best Place to Get Freebies, Late Night Food Special and Best Bingo.

26 Las Vegas Hilton — Westgate Las Vegas since 2014 — has been chosen Las Vegas' Best Sports Book more than two dozen times from 1987 to 2011, the year it was renamed LVH.

24 Andre Agassi has been the recipient of numerous BOLV awards — the last in 2014 — in seven categories: Las Vegas You'd Like to Know, Favorite Local Professional Athlete, Local Hero, Favorite Male Las Vegas, Local Male Athlete, Celebrity Resident and Most Generous Las Vegan.



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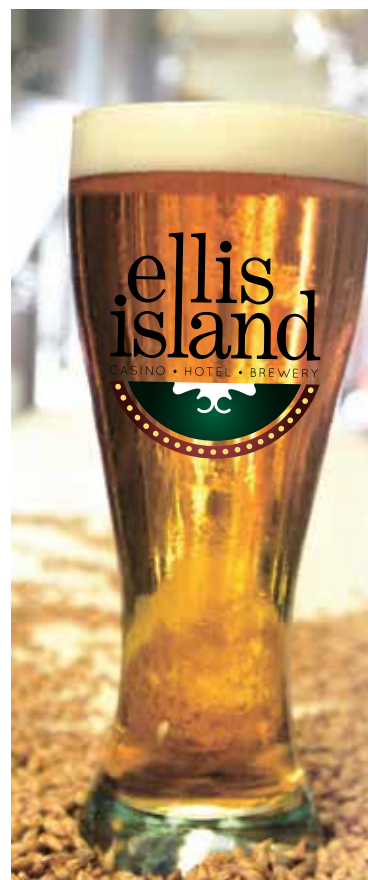
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10 Las Vegas trivia questions

BEST
LAS VEGAS
Las Vegas Review-Journal 2016

1. This French-Canadian company has seven productions on the Las Vegas Strip.
2. This long-running showgirl production closed at Bally's this year.
3. This chef has two restaurants on the Strip: Mesa Grill at Caesars Palace and a burger joint that includes his first name in the name.
4. This chef has four restaurants on the Strip. The newest opened in October and serves fish and chips.
5. This chef is widely credited for starting the star chef invasion in Las Vegas with his restaurant Spago.
6. This Strip casino resort is known for its gondolas and even has a gondolier school.
7. *Fantasy* at this Strip casino resort celebrated its 17th anniversary in October.
8. This property formerly owned by Steve Wynn is considered the first megaresort on the Strip.
9. This property won multiple Best of Las Vegas Awards this year for its restaurant Top of the World and bar 107 Sky Lounge.
10. Chef Robert Irvine is opening a restaurant at this property next year. Also, the short-lived adult production *Cherry Boom Boom* closed at this same property in October.

A big **thank you** to Buddy "Cake Boss" Valastro and his team at Carlo's Bake Shop in Jersey City, New Jersey, and Elizabeth Blau for creation of the 35th anniversary Best of Las Vegas cake.

1. Cirque du Soleil 2. Jubilee 3. Bobby Flay 4. Gordon Ramsay 5. Wolfgang Puck 6. The Venetian 7. Luxor 8. The Mirage 9. Stratosphere and 10. Tropicana

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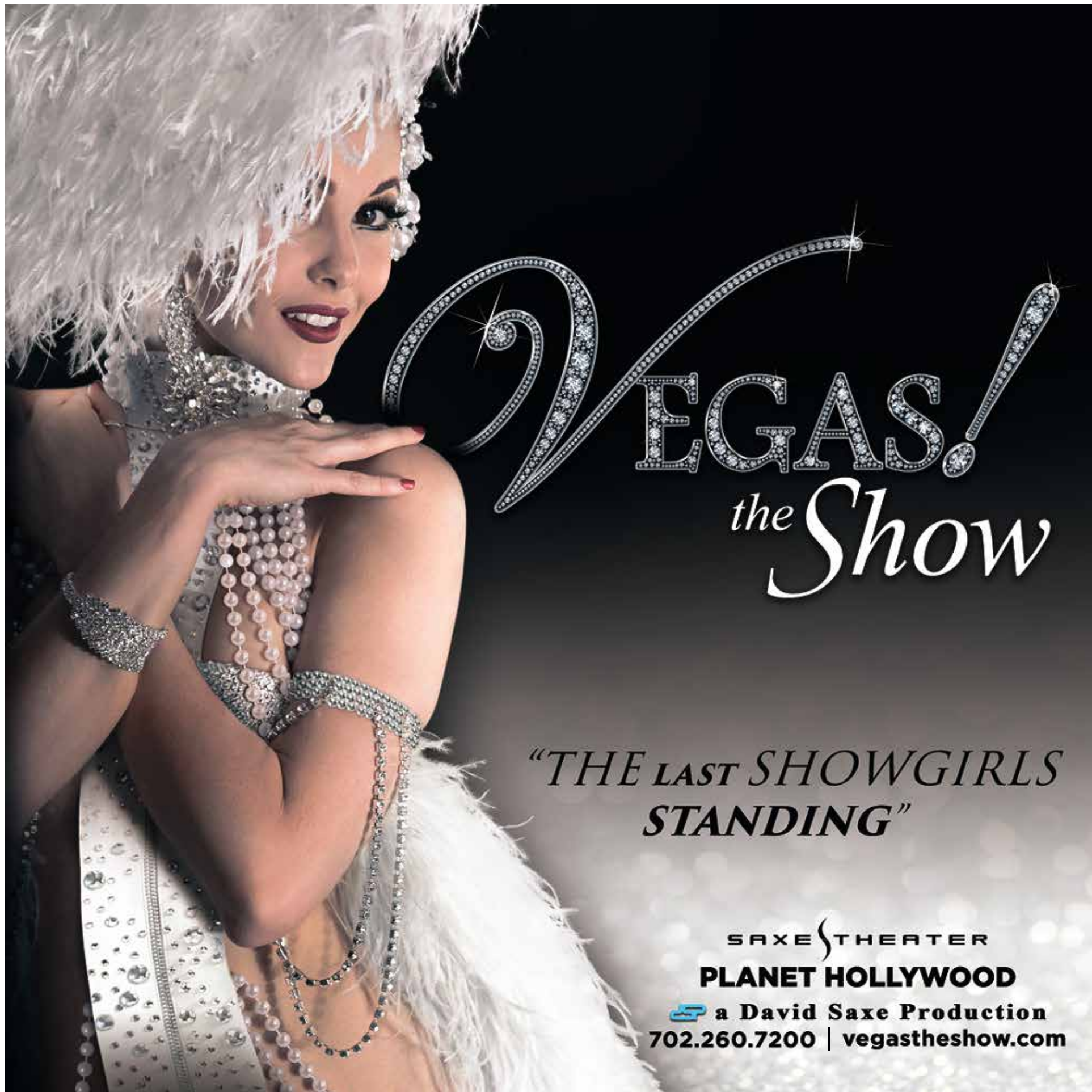
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Nestled between the beautiful Red Rock range and the not-so-faraway Grand Canyon, we are another wonder of the world. Wherever I go, be it on vacation in Europe or home to England, everybody knows Las Vegas and wants to

visit here.

We owe the success of the city to some unique individuals: the mobsters who started the gaming industry to the modern-day adventurers who continually reshape our skyline. They are truly the Icons of 21st century Las Vegas.

I took a look back over 35 years of celebrating the Best of Las Vegas to applaud the hoteliers, entertainers and visionaries who are our first-edition Best of Las Vegas Icon Awards winners.

HOTELIERS

Sheldon Adelson and **Steve Wynn** for the new wave of luxury properties and creating gaming alternatives.



Sheldon Adelson



Steve Wynn

ENTERTAINMENT

Celine Dion for returning the major headliner wave to Las Vegas, now bigger than Elvis Presley and Frank Sinatra, and **Frank Marino**, who is still headlining on the Strip after more than 30 years.



Celine Dion



Frank Marino

CULINARY KINGS

Wolfgang Puck, for being the first celebrity chef, and original gourmet chef **André Rochat**.

VISIONARY

Jim Murren for CityCenter's Aria, Crystals, Vdara and Veer and now the Park and T-Mobile Arena and next up the Park Theater at Monte Carlo.

SHOWMEN

Cirque du Soleil founders **Guy Laliberté** and **Gilles Ste-Croix** for launching nine Strip shows that started with *Mystere* at T.I. Seven are still running.

MEDICAL

Larry Ruvo for launching Keep Memory Alive 21 years ago and bringing the Cleveland Clinic to Las Vegas.



Larry Ruvo

TOURISM/POLITICAL

Former Mayor **Oscar Goodman** for promoting Las Vegas bigger and better than any other larger-than-life character.

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WINNERS-CIRCLE PHOTOS

More than 650 guests of the BOLV Awards Show were recognized and congratulated in the BOLV Awards Winners Circle following the entertainment portion of the event. Boasting a newly designed logo, cover and pages featuring a total of 227 award categories, this annual BOLV issue was the most robust and comprehensive to date, which just gave the audience yet another reason to applaud!



Best of Las Vegas Winners Circle Reception



BOLV winners



BOLV winner's award



BOLV winners



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An aerial view of the Stratosphere hotel-casino is seen Thursday, April 21, 2016.

[Jeff Scheid | Las Vegas Review-Journal]

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One-time Disney star turned pop star turned troubled one-time star has come to Las Vegas and reminded us all of what we love about her. It isn't just a second act; it is a second coming, and this show scorches. Britney is back, people.



Britney Spears' "Britney: Piece of Me"
Feb. 19, 2016. [Denise Truscello]

Life Is Beautiful

Life Is Beautiful, with its mix of music, art, comedy and cuisine, has been voted Best of Las Vegas Music Festival 2016



Day 2 of the 2016 Life Is Beautiful Music and Art Festival on Saturday, Sept. 24, 2016, in Downtown Las Vegas. [2016 Life Is Beautiful]

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Day 3 of the 2016 Life Is Beautiful Music and Art Festival on Sunday, Sept. 25, 2016, in Downtown Las Vegas. [2016 Life Is Beautiful]

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LETTER FROM *Robin Leach*

I'll never forget the first time I drove through Las Vegas on a cross-country trip from Los Angeles to New York. Coming from drab and dreary Britain only weeks after my 21st birthday, I was amazed at the Las Vegas neon and glitter that lit up the Strip.

I remember returning to shoot the first live broadcast of "Entertainment Tonight" from Caesars Palace back in the days of "Three's Company" with none other than Suzanne Somers, who is the host of our 35th Anniversary Best of Las Vegas Awards at the Venetian.

I also remember filming the first episode of "Lifestyles of the Rich & Famous" with a stunning mansion tour by Siegfried & Roy, who remain good friends to this day. I have very happy memories over the years of my visits to Las Vegas and am truly proud to be part of this Best of Las Vegas team at Niche Division of the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*.

I will never forget the night in 2001 that I decided to become a resident. The mic and loud-speaker system failed at Wolfgang Puck's Postrio as Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme began a fundraising appeal for Keep Memory Alive to build what has now become the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health.

I volunteered to step in and help "sell" the Dr. Ruth Westheimer sex-therapy sessions auction package. We had three anxious bidders, and my friend Dr. Ruth agreed to make it three items for a total of \$150,000! It was a night of magic with Siegfried & Roy and miracles with Larry Ruvo, and I was blown away by the generosity of Las Vegas.

After years of living in New York, Los Angeles and Antigua, I knew then that Las Vegas was going to be home for the rest of my life. I've been involved with KMA ever

since and am grateful today that I can turn over all my TV appearance fees to KMA and Opportunity Village, which performs sterling duties for its mentally challenged clients here.

I love everything about Las Vegas — well, almost everything. The heat of July and August still sends me running to cooler climes, but we are blessed with beautiful sunshine and outdoor night activities most of the year. We are home to the world's biggest entertainment stars who I'll say thank you here for all their interviews throughout the years.

We are home to 45 of the greatest celebrity chefs on the planet, and I'll say thank you here for all their creative culinary creations and magnificent menus. We have the world's biggest collection of nightclubs and several of the best shopping experiences anywhere.

We might take the lavish hotels and spas for granted, but there's no other city on Earth that has so many super-suites in such a compact area we love and affectionately call the Strip: 300,000 rooms in just 3 miles made up of 20 resort mini-cities.

What's not to love? We are a generous, caring community. The gifts of those more fortunate to those less fortunate here are staggering. I've never seen such generosity. Las Vegas is truly an amazing place. No wonder so many people from all over the world want to visit us every year.

Happy 35th, Best of Las Vegas! It's great to be a part of the celebrations. Long may they continue.

ROBIN LEACH

Celebrity Insider
Niche Division
(RobinLeach.ReviewJournal.com)
Las Vegas Review-Journal

LETTER FROM *Don Chareunsky*

I love Las Vegas so much that I would marry it.

The *Las Vegas Review-Journal's* 2016 Best of Las Vegas readers love the High Roller, Britney Spears, Hot n Juicy Crawfish, Lindo Michoacan, In-N-Out Burger, Top of the World, 107 Sky Lounge, Caesars Palace, Sapphire Gentlemen's Club and Station Casinos, among others, so much that they voted them multiple BOLV Awards this year.

It is my first time working on BOLV, and as I was compiling this year's honorees, I was reminded of two things: 1) I have had one of the best jobs in the world covering arts and entertainment (nightlife, food, theater, music, celebrities, luxury and more) the past eight years in Las Vegas and 2) this city rocks because of its diversity and talent — and because visitors travel here to have fun with a capital F.

Thanks to the RJ's Advertising, Creative and Marketing teams for their part in 2016 BOLV, and a big thanks to the 2016 BOLV Niche editorial team who put in long hours to create this year's BOLV tab: Leslie Frisbee, Bobbie Katz, Buford Davis, Carla J. Zvosec, Chris Carney and Jenny Scheid, along with Angela Johnson, David Sly, Jorge Betancourt and Linda Burley.

Happy 35th Birthday, Best of Las Vegas, and congratulations to this year's winners on being The Best in the Entertainment Capital of the World!

DON CHAREUNSKY

Arts + Entertainment Editor
Niche Division (Best of Las Vegas, Luxury and Robin Leach)
Las Vegas Review-Journal



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As NASCAR events have expanded from the Deep South, so has the sport's fan base, which is particularly strong in the Las Vegas Valley. Don't miss the next big event, the 2017 NASCAR Weekend, March 10-12, at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

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Courtney Force, top, beats Ron Capps in the Funny Car class during the NHRA Toyota Nationals Saturday, Oct. 30, 2016 at The Strip at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway. [Sam Morris | Las Vegas News Bureau]



Drivers Shane Gray, from left, Steve Torrence, John Force and Jerry Savoie celebrate after winning in their respective classes during the NHRA Mello Yello Series Toyota Nationals at The Strip at Las Vegas Motor Speedway in Las Vegas Sunday, Oct. 30, 2016. Cruz was shaken but not injured. [Josh Holmberg | Las Vegas Review-Journal]

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Craig Moon, Pia Zadora, BOLV winner



BOLV winner



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BOLV winner



BOLV guest



BOLV guests, Frank Marino



BOLV winner



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RED CARPET PHOTOS

Kicking off this spectacular afternoon of celebration was celebrity insider Robin Leach, who greeted guests on the red carpet as they entered the magnificent Venetian Theatre. Once seated, Las Vegas Review-Journal president and publisher Craig Moon welcomed the crowd of more than 1,000 to the highly anticipated, long-awaited awards show.



Carrot Top



Bryan Cheatham and Jennifer Romas



Steve Connolly, Robin Leach



Lydia Ansel



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BOLV red carpet



Mark Shunock and guest



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Carrot Top and BOLV winner



Jennifer Romas and cast of Sexy



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Vinnie Favorito

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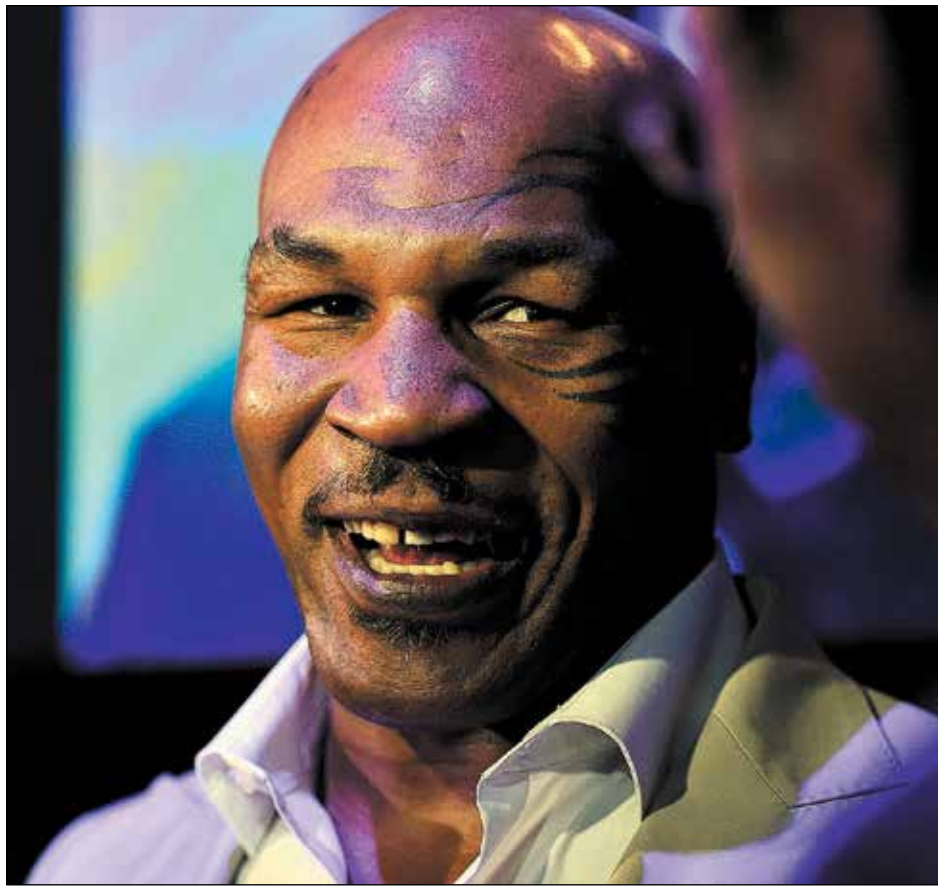
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Mike Tyson [DAVID BECKER/LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL]

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miketysonlive.com

His reputation took a hit in the early 1990s, but the former professional boxer riffs on those experiences — prison time, drug use and sex with prostitutes — in his shocking, hilarious and emotional show *Mike Tyson: Undisputed Truth*. The show just ended a run at Brad Garrett's Comedy Club at MGM Grand.

Las Vegas Review-Journal
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2016



The 2016 World Team Tennis Smash Hits fundraiser benefiting The Elton John AIDS Foundation at Caesars Palace on Monday, Oct. 10, 2016, in Las Vegas. Mike Tyson and his wife, Lakiha Spicer, are pictured here. [Erik Kabik]

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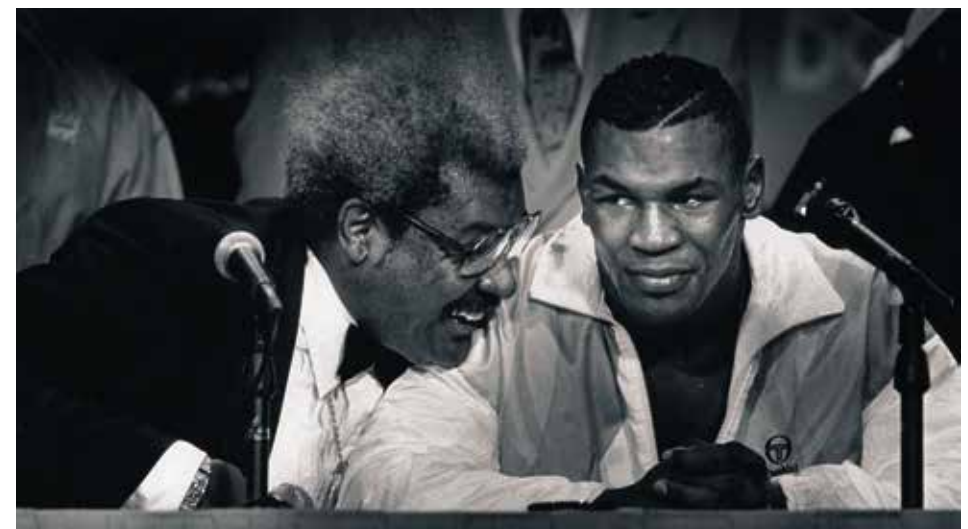
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File photo of Don King and Mike Tyson. July 22, 1991.

STAFF PICKS



The exterior of Casa Don Juan is shown in Las Vegas on Thursday, March 12, 2015.
[Bill Hughes/Las Vegas Review-Journal]

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Martin Lawrence Gallery at The Forum Shops at Caesars Palace.

ARTS & CULTURE MARTIN LAWRENCE GALLERIES AND REGIS GALERIE

martinlawrence.com and
regisgalerie.com

Who says art galleries have to be stuffy? Martin Lawrence Galleries at The Forum Shops at Caesars Palace and Regis Galerie at the Grand Canal Shoppes at The Venetian | The Palazzo offer pop culture and kitsch in the form of paintings, rugs, woodwork, jewelry, collectibles and much more, and the world is a brighter place for the laughs and smiles that they elicit.

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BOLV winners



Human Nature



Craig Moon, BOLV winner, Vinnie Favorito, Las Vegas Showgirl



BOLV winner and Robin Leach



BOLV guests

STAFF PICKS



The trio of colorful seahorses is shown at the Bellagio Conservatory on Friday, May 20, 2016. [Caitlin Lilly | Las Vegas Review-Journal]

HOTEL & CASINO BELLAGIO CONSERVATORY & BOTANICAL GARDENS

bellagio.com

This free attraction is a feast for the senses

and must-see for locals and visitors. A colorful display of flowers, trees, gazebos, bridges, ponds and water features fills the 14,000-square-foot space off the Bellagio lobby. There's always something new to see because it changes each season. The current display, Vintage Autumn Chateau, runs through Nov. 25.

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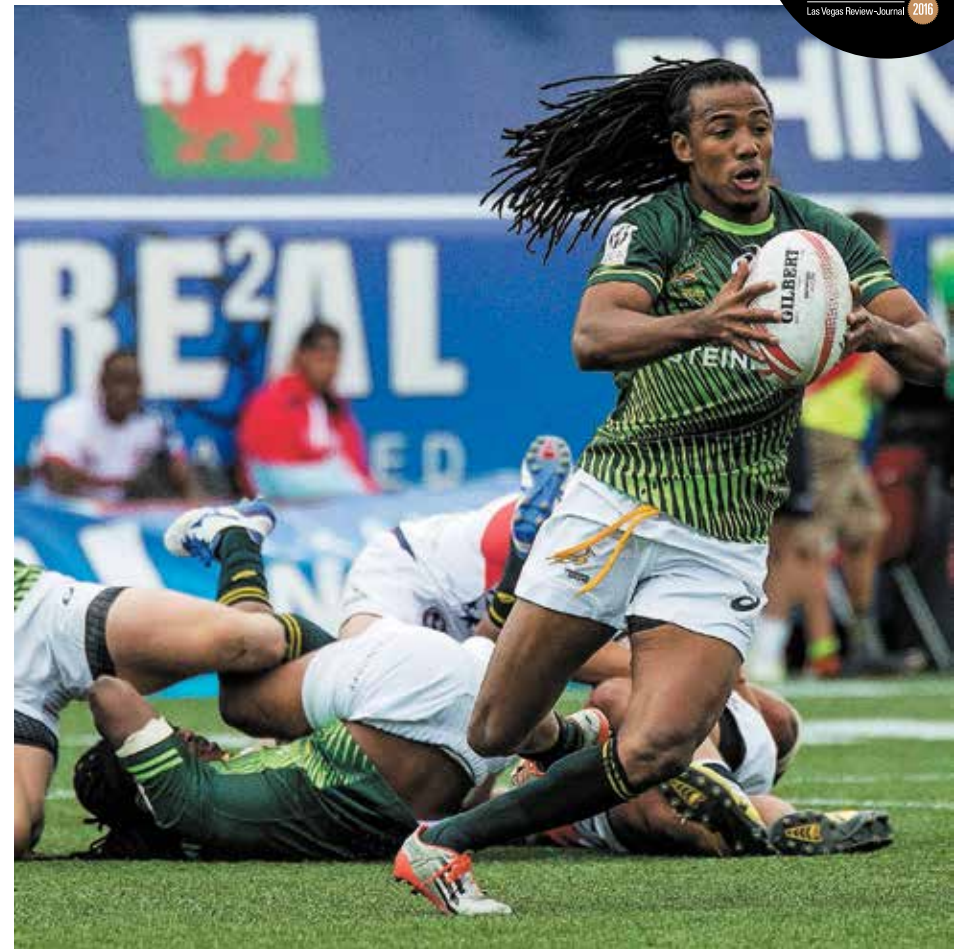
710 S. Rampart Blvd., Las Vegas, 702.951.4488, rei.com

REI, short for Recreational Equipment Inc., is the place to find gear if you love to go out and play. From backpacking to cycling to working out in the gym, REI has it all. The friendly, knowledgeable salespeople know how to assist without being pushy, and the store's popular classes are sell-outs.

HEALTH & BEAUTY RAPID REHAB

Various locations, rapidrehablv.com

Pilates studios come and go, but Rapid Rehab has been offering Pilates at its West Charleston location for 10 years; two of its certified instructors have been there from the beginning. Rapid Rehab, also in Henderson, offers physical therapy, private lessons and group classes on Pilates equipment.



South Africa's Justin Geduld scores against the United States during their match in the USA Sevens rugby tournament at Sam Boyd Stadium in Las Vegas on Saturday, March 5, 2016. [Jacob Kepler | Las Vegas Review-Journal]

ATHLETICS & SPORTS USA SEVENS RUGBY TOURNAMENT

usasevens.com

Sixteen of the top international rugby Sevens sides compete at Sam Boyd Stadium in the fifth meeting of an annual 10 tournament series. The three-day event, which began in 2004 and has been hosted here since 2010, is the largest annual global rugby competition. See if Fiji can retain its crown beginning March 3.

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SOCIALITE ELAINE WYNN

Mother, grandmother, business mogul and philanthropist, she is a trustee of the Elaine P. Wynn & Family Foundation and is personally and actively involved with her family and a variety of community organizations with passions and priorities that mirror her own, including Communities in Schools.



Elaine Wynn sits courtside as the United States takes on Argentina during a USA Basketball showcase exhibition game at T-Mobile Arena. [Sam Morris/Las Vegas News Bureau]



Elaine Wynn. [JEFF SCHEID/LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL]

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STAFF PICKS



Robin Slonina's body painting work is displayed in this promotional picture provided by Skin City Body Painting. [F. Andrew Taylor | View]

VEGAS PERSONALITY ROBIN SLONINA

robinslonina.com

This multimedia artist and owner of Skin City Body Painting is known for producing

and appearing in "Skin Wars," but Robin Slonina's body of work is complex, often whimsical and always thought-provoking. She opened a new studio at the Arts Factory in January and uses her work to promote local philanthropic and social causes.

LEISURE & RECREATION BOULDER THEATRE

1225 Arizona St., Boulder City,
702.293.3171, bouldertheatre.com

It doesn't have a state-of-the-art sound system or reclining seats with flip-out trays, but this 84-year-old movie house does have the ability to connect you with the Golden Age of cinema. The theater now principally hosts live performances but returns to its roots each February with the Dam Short Film Festival.

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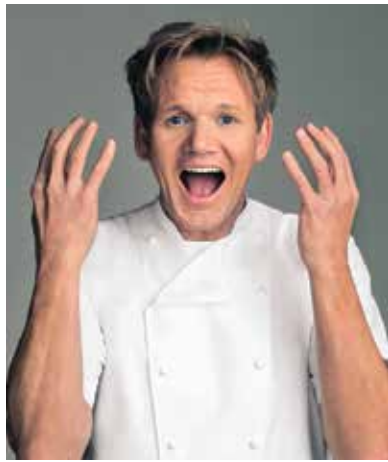
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