

ANTHONY CURTIS' **Las Vegas Advisor**

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Issue 1

ATOMIC SALOON SHOW

Vaporized
Vaudevillians at the
Venetian ...
pg. 9

2020 PROG- RESS REPORT

Big four prep for
openings ...
pgs. 1, 4

MRB 2020

Gourmet dining, a
discounted happy
hour, and more
gambling EV ...
pgs. 1, 11

KARAOKE ON THE STRIP

What took 'em so
long? ...
pg. 10

BAR COMPS BACK

Wynn relents
(somewhat) ...
pg. 12



• 2020 LVA MEMBER REWARDS •

BUFFETS

2-For-1 Buffet: (Aliante Casino+Hotel, Arizona Charlie's Boulder, Arizona Charlie's Decatur, Cannery, Fremont, Main Street Station); 2-For-1 Buffet or 50% off one (Boulder Station, Fiesta Henderson, Fiesta Rancho, Gold Coast, Green Valley Ranch, Orleans, Palace Station, Palms, Rampart, Red Rock Resort, Sam's Town, Santa Fe Station, Silverton, Suncoast, Sunset Station, Texas Station); 2-For-1 World Famous Gospel Brunch (House of Blues at Mandalay Bay); 25% Off Buffet (Rio)

DINING

25% Off Bill: Yukon Grille (Arizona Charlie's Boulder), Roni's Steakhouse (Arizona Charlie's Decatur), Top of Binion's Steakhouse (Binion's), Fuego (Fiesta Henderson), Wingin'it Wings & More (Fiesta Rancho), Hooters Restaurant and Saloon (OYO); 20% Off Bill: Pop Up Pizza (Plaza), Happy Hour in Oscar's Steakhouse (Plaza); 2-For-1 Entrée: Whiskey Licker Up Saloon (Binion's), Market Street Café (California), House of Blues Rest. & Bar (Mandalay Bay), Sterling Spoon Café (Silver Sevens); 2-For-1 Entrée or 50% off one: Freedom Beat (Downtown Grand), The Café (Ellis Island), Emerald Grille (Emerald Island), Lucy's Bar & Grill (Lucky Club), The Wrangler (Silver Nugget); 2-For-1: Coney Dog (the D); Menu Item in Siegel's 1941 (El Cortez), Fat Choy (Eureka Casino); BBQ Plate (Ellis Island); Lunch or Dinner Entrée in Magnolia's (Four Queens); Burger in Le Burger Brasserie (Paris); \$30 Off Dining in Charcoal Room (Palace Station); \$25 Off Dining: Sonoma Cellar Steakhouse (Sunset Station), Señor Frog's (Treasure Island); \$20 Off Dining in Cornerstone (Gold Coast); \$15 Off Dining in Bailiwick (Orleans); \$10 Off Dining: Sarah's Kitchen (Klondike Sunset), Boathouse (Palace Station), Wild Grill or Brewer's Café (Wildfire); \$5 Off Dining: the Grand Café (Texas Station), Beaumont's Southern Kitchen (Texas Station)

DINING—"LOCAL CORNER"

Comped Menu Item at G.O.A.T Bar & Grill; Comped Lunch or Dinner at Sporting Life Bar; Comped Steak Special at Jackson's Bar; \$25 Off Dining at Rosati's; \$10 Off Dining at Norm's Diner; 2-For-1 Entrée at Treasures Gentlemen's Club; 2-For-1 Menu Item (Big Dog's), Sagos Ft. Apache; 2-For-1 Burger or Philly (Home Plate); Pizza Upgrade at Naked City Pizza Shop

*The 2020 LVA Member Rewards book is available ONLY with a paid one-year subscription to the Las Vegas Advisor newsletter. No exceptions.

DRINKS

3 Free Rounds (Ellis Island); Free Margarita (Sunset Station)

SHOWS

2-For-1: *Hypnosis Unleashed* (Binion's); *Séance* (Binion's); 52 Fridays (Golden Nugget); 2-For-1 or 50% off one *Righteous Brothers* (Harrah's); \$10-\$20 Off Service Fees (Tix4Tonight); 25% Off: *Carrot Top* (Luxor), *Criss Angel MINDFREAK* (Planet Hollywood); Drink-minimum *Mac King Comedy Magic* (Harrah's)

For additional show discounts, check our Printable Rewards and show codes at LasVegasAdvisor.com.

RIDES/ATTRACTIONS

40% Off Admission to Marvel Avengers S.T.A.T.I.O.N. (Treasure Island); 30% Off Real Bodies (Bally's); Massage Special at NV SPA (El Cortez); Couples Massage Special at NV SPA (El Cortez); Massage Special at V SPA; Grand Canyon West Rim Helicopter Tour (Grand Canyon Tours); Grand Canyon West Rim Tour (Grand Canyon Tours); Hoover Dam Tour (Grand Canyon Tours); Grand Canyon South Rim Tour (Grand Canyon Tours); \$4 Off Admission Mob Museum; 2-For-1 Tower Ride Tickets (The STRAT)

GAMBLING

\$5-\$50 Matchplay (Downtown Grand); \$25 Matchplay: (the D), (Golden Gate), (Plaza); \$10 Matchplay (Aliante), (Arizona Charlie's Decatur), (Ellis Island), (Gold Coast), (Jerry's Nugget), (Lucky Club), (Orleans), (Silver Nugget); \$15 Bonus, 4-of-a-kind, 25¢ machines (Big Dog's); \$10-\$1,000 Slot Free-Play (El Cortez); \$10-\$100 Slot Free-Play (Ellis Island); \$10 Slot Free-Play: (Binion's), (Downtown Grand), (Four Queens), (Jerry's Nugget), (Plaza), (Rampart); \$10 Slot Free-Play Matchplay: (Orleans), (OYO); \$5-\$100 Slot Free-Play Bonus: (the D), (Golden Gate); \$20 Bonus for Slot Play (Klondike Sunset); \$10 Bonus for Slot Play: (Cannery), (Eastside Cannery), (Eureka); \$10 Slot Matchplay: (Gold Coast), (Sam's Town); Push on 22 at Blackjack up to \$25 (the D); 2-1 Payoff on first Blackjack up to \$25 bet: (Golden Gate), (Silver Sevens); Wheel of Cash Spin (Emerald Island); Bingo Bonus (Plaza); 100-Coin Video Poker Bonus: (Sagos Ft. Apache), (Sagos Spring Mtn.)

CASINOS

Toll Free Numbers

(800) (^844) (†855) (†866) (*877) (**888)

Local (702)

	Local	Toll Free
Aliante Casino+Hotel+Spa.....	692-7777	477-7627*
Aria.....	590-7111	359-7757††
Arizona Charlie's Boulder.....	951-5800	362-4040
Arizona Charlie's Decatur.....	258-5200	342-2695
Bally's.....	739-4111	603-4390*
Bellagio.....	693-7111	987-7111**
Binion's.....	382-1600	937-6537
Boulder Station.....	432-7777	683-7777
Caesars Palace.....	731-7110	227-5938††
California.....	385-1222	634-6505
Cannery.....	507-5700	999-4899††
Casino Royale.....	737-3500	854-7666
Circus Circus.....	734-0410	634-3450
Cosmopolitan.....	698-7100	551-7772*
Cromwell, The.....	777-3777	426-2766^
the D.....	388-2400	274-5825
Downtown Grand.....	719-5100	384-7283†
Eastside Cannery.....	507-5700	999-4899††
El Cortez.....	385-5200	634-6703
Ellis Island.....	733-8901	800-8000
Encore.....	770-7100	321-9966*
Excalibur.....	597-7777	937-7777
Fiesta Henderson.....	558-7000	899-7770**
Fiesta Rancho.....	631-7000	731-7333
Flamingo.....	733-3111	732-2111
Four Queens.....	385-4011	634-6045
Fremont.....	385-3232	634-6182
Gold Coast.....	367-7111	331-5334
Golden Gate.....	385-1906	426-1906
Golden Nugget.....	385-7111	468-4438^
Green Valley Ranch.....	617-7777	782-9487††
Hard Rock Hotel.....	693-5000	473-7625
Harrah's.....	369-5000	392-9002
Klondike Sunset.....	826-3866	
LINQ, The.....		328-1888††
Longhorn.....	435-9170	800-8000
Luxor.....	262-4000	288-1000
M Resort.....	797-1000	673-7678*
Main Street Station.....	387-1896	713-8933
Mandalay Bay.....	632-7777	632-7800*
Mandarin Oriental.....	590-8881	881-9578**
MGM Grand.....	891-1111	929-1111
Mirage.....	791-7111	627-6667
New York-New York.....	740-6969	693-6763
Orleans.....	365-7111	675-3267
OYO.....	739-9000	584-6687††
Palace Station.....	367-2411	634-3101
Palazzo.....	607-7777	263-3001††
Palms.....	942-7777	942-7770††
Paris.....	946-7000	266-5687**
Park MGM.....	730-7777	311-8999
Planet Hollywood.....	785-5555	919-7472††
Plaza.....	386-2110	634-6575
Rampart.....	507-5900	869-8777*
Red Rock Resort.....	797-7777	767-7773††
Rio.....	252-7777	746-7482*
Sahara Las Vegas.....	737-2111	761-7757†
Sam's Town.....	456-7777	634-6371
Santa Fe Station.....	658-4900	767-7771††
Silver Sevens.....	733-7000	640-9777
Silverton.....	263-7777	588-7711
Slots A Fun.....	734-0410	354-1232
Stratosphere.....	380-7777	998-6937
South Point.....	796-7111	791-7626††
Suncoast.....	636-7111	677-7111*
Sunset Station.....	547-7777	786-7389**
Texas Station.....	631-1000	654-8888
Treasure Island (TI).....	894-7111	944-7444
Tropicana.....	739-2222	634-4000
Tuscany.....	893-8933	887-2261*
Vdara.....	590-2767	745-7767††
Venetian.....	414-1000	883-6423*
Westin Lake Las Vegas.....	567-6000	563-9792††
Westin Las Vegas.....	836-5900	937-8461
Westgate Las Vegas.....	732-5111	732-7117
Wild Wild West (Days Inn).....	740-0000	777-1514
Wildfire.....	648-3801	
Wynn Las Vegas.....	770-7000	770-7077*

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

FULL MEMBERSHIP: Includes 12 monthly issues of the *Las Vegas Advisor* newsletter, mailed first-class; the LVA Member Rewards book; plus 365 days of complete access to our website: www.LasVegasAdvisor.com.

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(Includes shipping of newsletter. Member Rewards book is shipped at an additional \$3.50, or can be picked up at our office any day after the first business day of the year.)

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Overseas Membership \$70us

(Includes shipping of newsletter. Member Rewards book is shipped at an additional \$5us to Canada, \$7us to Overseas, or can be picked up at our office any day after the first business day of the year.)

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SINGLE ISSUE: Call to order—\$5us hard copy (First-class postage included. Current issue unless otherwise specified. Member Rewards book is not included.)

* The LVA Member Rewards book is available ONLY with a paid one-year subscription to the *Las Vegas Advisor* newsletter. No exceptions. Restricted to one per person and two per household, per year.

To Order Your LVA Call: 1-800-244-2224

Las Vegas Advisor • 3665 Procyon Street • Las Vegas, Nevada 89103

Las Vegas Advisor



COUPONOMY

by Anthony Curtis

Preview 2020—Big Four On the Way

It's 2020, the year *everything* was supposed to happen. Except there've been a few changes in the script over the past 365 days.

For a while, it seemed that every newly announced project was debuting in 2020. Then came word that some of them were gonna take a little longer. First was the MSG Sphere pushback to 2021. Same for Resorts World Las Vegas. Then it was revealed that the Drew would be delayed—not to 2021, but to 2022. While we haven't seen an official announcement of its demise, it's all but confirmed that the Kind Heaven project at the LINQ Promenade is toast. And we've gone ahead and scratched Wynn West—the prospective new casino from Wynn Resorts on the site of the former New Frontier—off the drawing board. That's a pretty big adjustment of the calendar. But while 2020 won't be as big as billed, it still figures to be plenty big, with four major projects scheduled to debut this year.

The "Big Four" consists of Allegiant Stadium, the Las Vegas Convention Center expansion, downtown's Circa resort, and the conversion of the Hard Rock to Virgin Las Vegas. The stadium is on schedule for a July 31 debut, while the rest are expected toward the end of the year, so it's possible that some of these could be pushed back, but in each case it's doubtful. For example, if Allegiant doesn't hit its mark, the Raiders would have to make their Las Vegas debut at Sam Boyd Stadium down on Boulder Highway, and that ain't gonna happen.

Although 2019 was devoid of big openings, it certainly didn't lack in big happenings, and some of last year's developments could add pop to 2020. They include the sale of Hooters and its transition to OYO, the sale of Bellagio, the sale of the Rio, Phil Ruffin's purchase of Circus Circus, and Eldorado's acquisition of Caesars Entertainment. All of these open the door for change (though not necessarily good change). I'm

particularly intrigued by the Rio sale. Given that the CET management team will remain there for two years in the leaseback arrangement, I don't expect anything major to transpire immediately. But I like the idea of this place that has so much potential being in the hands of a forward-looking group with only one casino to think about. Something cool could result.

With all the shuffling of timetables and shaking up of ownership, it's difficult to speculate on what the one Next Big Thing might be. But regardless of what does or doesn't show up, at least we can count on two exciting events coming out of the Big Four. Although the Hard Rock lost some of its luster in recent years, it maintained its reputation for being a party place. Virgin won't want to squander that rep and figures to come up with some interesting and innovative moves to keep the party going. And where it comes to innovation, it's tough to top the Stevens brothers. Circa's sports book is being touted as otherworldly. I don't know how over the top it can possibly be, but I'm looking forward to finding out.

See the complete [Report Card and Progress Report](#) on page 4. ■

Member Rewards 2020

The new Member Rewards Book comes in this year as strong as ever. Most of the best offers from last year have returned and several new ones have been added. There are 24 discounts for buffets, 39 non-buffet dining deals, 41 gambling offers (see [GAMBLING](#) for the value totals), plus a good mix of show, spa, and tour deals.

This year, we have several compelling new offers. Both Arizona Charlie's stepped up with 25% discounts on the entire bill in their top restaurants—Ron's at Decatur and the Yukon Grille at Boulder. These are old-time value gourmet rooms that hardly exist in Las Vegas anymore. We'll be reviewing both in upcoming issues. Binion's added a 2-for-1 entrée in the new Whiskey Licker Up Saloon. And for the first time, we have a discount on a happy hour. The revamped HH in Oscar's at the Plaza (see [ENTERTAINMENT](#)) is a good one and it's even better with an exclusive 20% MRB discount. The Plaza also added a 20% discount at Pop Up Pizza. Another

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

good dining addition is a 2-for-1 entrée at Norm's Diner. This is the breakfast place we've written about often that serves the giant ham & eggs and an extensive selection of eggs Benedicts.

In entertainment, Planet Hollywood surprised us with a 25% discount on its new spectacular, *Criss Angel MINDFREAK*, while the Golden Nugget got back into the book with 2-for-1 tickets for its "52 Fridays" concert series. There's also a twofer for the new show, *Séance*, at Binion's. In another first, Tix4Tonight is in the MRB with a coupon that waives the service charge when you buy discount show tickets there. These fees now run as high as \$10, so it saves up to \$20 on a discount show-ticket purchase. We've also added a helicopter tour to the Grand Canyon at what we believe is the best available price in town. We got the offer from Grand Canyon Tours close to our print deadline, so we haven't done a complete study to verify, but it's the lowest we've seen.

If you haven't gotten a look at the entire list, you can view it on the inside front cover of this issue or in more detail on the Member Rewards page at LasVegasAdvisor.com (in the drop-down menu under Member Benefits). Also, remember to check our Printable Rewards at LasVegasAdvisor.com, where we put up additional offers as we get them. ■

Jean Scott Winds it Down

After many years, Jean Scott, a.k.a. "The Queen of Comps," is leaving Las Vegas and moving to Georgia to be close to her family. Jean and her husband, Brad, have been a huge part of LVA for many years. In addition to hundreds of contributions to the newsletter, Jean authored five books for us—*The Frugal Gambler*, *More Frugal Gambling*, *Frugal Video Poker*, *Tax Help for Gamblers*, and *The Frugal Gambler Casino Guide*—and pens the "Frugal Vegas" blog at LasVegasAdvisor.com (she'll continue to write the blog, at least in the near term). She's most famous, perhaps, for winning a car in a drawing at the Stardust while being filmed for a feature on "48 Hours." When that segment aired, *The Frugal Gambler* went all the way to #2 on the Amazon best-seller list, failing to pass only one of the Harry Potter editions. To this day, the information in Jean's books is highly applicable in casinos and I'd recommend *The Frugal Gambler Casino Guide* as a first book for anyone interested in upping their game in today's casino environment.

Will this retirement stick? I'd make NO the -150 favorite. Regardless, Jean's contribution to the cause of educating players ranks up there with anyone who's ever done it and I'm proud to have had the affiliation. ■

NEWS

Circus Circus/Slots A Fun—Appearing at a licensing hearing, new owner Phil Ruffin revealed that the 10-acre RV park adjacent to Circus Circus will be replaced by a pool complex modeled after Mandalay Bay's Beach. Adventuredome, which Ruffin stated gets an annual 2.5 million admissions and makes \$30 million in profits, will stay. Slots A Fun will be completely remodeled and the Circus casino will be upgraded in stages, with William Hill taking over the sports book. An \$11 million 2,000-seat theater will be built at the front of the property to house a new Cirque du Soleil production, *The Illusionists*, now playing in New York. The family-friendly price point of the rooms will remain the same and as for paid parking, Ruffin told the Board, "I think it's a stupid idea." He didn't address plans for the 37-acre Las Vegas Festival Grounds that came with the deal, other than saying a number of developers want to buy it, but it's not for sale (yet).

Treasure Island—Radisson Rewards members can now redeem points in exchange for rooms at Ruffin's TI. It's Radisson's first property on the Strip, resultant of efforts by Ruffin to forge the partnership that go back to the days when he owned the New Frontier.

Circa—The first downtown hotel-casino since 1980 to be built from the ground up has reached the halfway mark in its 22-month gestation and is on track for a December 2020 opening. The 600 construction workers on the job have been adding one floor to the 44-story tower every week, a pace that will result in the structure being topped off this summer. When Circa opens, its six-tier fifth-floor rooftop pool complex will be open year-round, due to "superheated" pool water.

Rainbow Club—Henderson's Rainbow Club has been acquired by the owners of Emerald Island. No plans have been disclosed, but we view this as a positive development given Emerald Island's player-friendly disposition (including the good offers in this year's Member Rewards Book).

Strip Bridge—The new pedestrian bridge over the Strip has finally opened. Connecting Park MGM and the Showcase Mall, it's the 17th pedestrian bridge to be built

LAS VEGAS ADVISOR

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over the Strip since 1995 (when the first two opened at the corner of Tropicana) and the first since the Harmon Avenue overpass opened in 2012. More than 10,000 people cross the Strip at this intersection every day.

Las Ramblas Site—Clark County Commissioners have approved zoning permits for a 60-acre parcel at the northeast corner of Koval Lane and Harmon Avenue, often referred to as the “Las Ramblas site.” The location has a long history of projects that never came to fruition, including two megaresorts announced in 2005-2006 (W Hotel-Casino and Las Ramblas), plus the short-lived Ice nightclub; they were part of an envisioned “Harmon Strip,” which also didn’t happen. The commissioners approved plans that reportedly include a hotel-casino with high-rise towers, a shopping center, and a five-level underground garage. We’ll see.

Siegel Suites—After sitting vacant behind cyclone fencing for eight years, the Atrium hotel, located next door to the Hard Rock, will be razed and replaced by a five-story 480-unit Siegel Suites that’s scheduled to open in the fall.

Strip Road Construction—Expect more delays on the Strip, due to the start of Phase 1 of a nearly \$50 million road-construction project that will close lanes from Spring Mountain to Sahara through early 2021. The entire project will ultimately comprise seven phases along Las Vegas Blvd. between Sahara Avenue and the 215 Beltway, which will take more than five years to complete.

Primm Outlet Mall—The name is being changed from Primm Fashion Outlets to Prizm Outlets. A \$2 million cosmetic renovation has added murals and street art (some visible from I-15) in an attempt to make it “the largest street art and mural location in the country.”

Cal Neva—The shuttered Cal Neva in Crystal Bay on the north shore of Lake Tahoe will be converted to a Nobu-branded casino. The Cal Neva has been closed since 2013. No date for the reopening has been divulged.

Mississippi—After announcing that it would close in early 2019, Tunica Roadhouse finally shut its doors this month. The casino had operated as Sheraton Casino and Hotel Tunica and Tunica Roadhouse since 1994.

Statistics—Nevada’s statewide gambling win was down 5.1% in October compared to the same month last year. The Strip win declined 9.2%, while downtown logged a 7.2% increase. Nevada sports books had another good month, further supporting the notion that the national sports betting expansion is good for the state—year-to-date, the sports betting handle is up 6.9% and the win is up 14.5%.

Visitor volume fell .3% ending its run of increases after five months. A 21% drop in convention traffic was cited as the primary reason for the decline.

Airline traffic was up 4.2% for a 13th straight month of increases. The 4.6 million passenger count was a

Las Vegas’ Top Ten Values

1. **Steak Dinner** • *Ellis Island* • 24 hours • \$7.99
2. **Buffet** • *Palace Station* • Daily • \$9.99-\$16.98
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** • *Arizona Charlie’s* • Daily • \$5.99
8. **\$1 Blackjack** • *OYO* • 24 hours • \$1.20
9. **Lunch** • *Planet Hollywood* • Daily • \$4.99
10. **No Resort Fees** • *Four Queens* • Daily • \$49 and up

The new year begins with the Ellis Island steak dinner in its usual spot as the #1 deal in the Top Ten. The complete steak dinner is served 24/7 in the Café; get the \$7.99 price by playing at least \$5 in any slot machine with your club card inserted, then downloading the required discount coupon from an EI kiosk. If you don’t want to play, you can get it for \$9.99 (\$3 off the listed price) just by downloading a coupon from the kiosk that’s available to everyone with a club card. 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 and Michelob Light are \$1 at the Stage Door slot house on Flamingo, just east of the Strip (#5); a ¼-pound hot dog and a Michelob is \$3. The Skyline shrimp cocktail (#6) is available 24/7 at the main bar. The steak or ham & eggs at either Arizona Charlie’s (#7) is served in the Sourdough Cafés for \$5.99 when you show your club card, available 24 hours at Decatur and 6 am-mid-weekdays and 24 hours weekends at Boulder. OYO’s \$1-minimum blackjack game (#8) runs 24/7 in the pit; naturals pay even money on bets of \$1-\$4. The \$1.20 listed cost is your expected loss for one hour of play at these stakes. Everything on the lunch menu is \$4.99 at Ocean One (#9) in the Miracle Mile Shops at Planet Hollywood; lunch hours are 11:30 am to 4 pm daily. The Four Queens is the last major casino in Las Vegas still not charging a resort fee (#10).

record for October and the second monthly record of the year. For the first time in seven years, Hawaiian Airlines is offering four weekly flights between Maui and Las Vegas on 189-seat Airbus A321neo aircraft; Hawaiian Air flew the same route from 2010 to 2012. Hawaiian also has

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

2019 REPORT CARD

Opened		Expanded/Renovated		Changed	Closed	
MGM Grand Convention Center ¹ Ellis Island Front Yard ² Las Vegas Ballpark ³ Shanghai Plaza ⁴	Apache Hotel ⁵ Wynn Golf Course ⁶ Strip Bridge ⁷ Hillside Lodge ⁸	Palms ⁹ The LINQ ¹⁰ Colosseum at Caesars ¹¹ The STRAT ¹²	Sahara ¹³ Cosmopolita ¹⁴ Project Neon ¹⁵ FSE canopy ¹⁶	Stratosphere ¹⁷ Lucky Dragon ¹⁸ Hooters ¹⁹ Wynn ²⁰	SLS ²¹ Bellagio ²² Rio ²³ Circus Circus ²⁴	Bonnie Springs ²⁵ Cannabition ²⁶

2020 PROGRESS REPORT

Opening	Changing
Allegiant Stadium ²⁷ Las Vegas Convention Center ²⁸ Circa ²⁹	Virgin Las Vegas ³⁰ Caesars Forum Center ³¹ Wynn Convention Center ³²
Expo at World Market Center ³³ Downtown Grand tower ³⁴	Caesars Entertainment ³⁵ Hard Rock ³⁶

2020 and BEYOND

In Progress	On the Drawing Board
Resorts World ³⁷ The Drew ³⁸ MSG Sphere ³⁹ the D ⁴⁰	Google ⁴¹ Neon Museum ⁴² Downtown Enchilada ⁴³
Hawaiian Marketplace ⁴⁴ Majestic ⁴⁵ Atrium ⁴⁶ Astral ⁴⁷	Summerlin Hotel ⁴⁸ Harmon/Koval ⁴⁹ Strip Bridges ⁵⁰ Pinball Hall of Fame ⁵¹
	Monorail ⁵² Virgin Trains USA ⁵³ Bleu Tech Park ⁵⁴ Ivanpah ⁵⁵

1. \$130 million 250,000 square feet of expanded convention space opened in March
2. Two-story indoor-outdoor beer garden and sports bar/restaurant opened in November
3. New 10,000-seat stadium for the Oakland A's Triple A affiliate Las Vegas Aviators opened in April
4. All-new retail center in Chinatown opened in April with spaces for more than 30 restaurants, shops, and salons
5. 81-room boutique hotel-within-a-hotel opened in July at Binion's, along with a 6,500-square-foot restaurant-bar, Whiskey Licker Up Saloon
6. Completely renovated 18-hole course, among the most expensive in the U.S., reopened in October after closing in 2017
7. \$17 million pedestrian bridge between Park MGM and Showcase Mall opened in November
8. New two-story 10,000-square-foot ski lodge with ski-in bar, new restaurant, heated terrace, and event space
9. Massive \$690 million refurbish of casino, restaurants, pool complex, suites
10. Transformed into "casino of the future," with holographic displays and games, interactive exhibits, virtual-reality grottos, and small e-sports arena
11. Added more rows of VIP seating and bars, upgraded video screens, and created general-admission standing space on the floor
12. \$140 million upgrade to casino/sports book, restaurants, rooms, and tower's indoor-outdoor observation deck
13. \$100 million complete overhaul of casino, rooms, restaurants, showroom, and pool area; new day/nightclub and more renovations continuing into 2020
14. \$100 million renovation of all 2,900 rooms
15. \$1 billion four-mile-long widening of I-15 from the Spaghetti Bowl to Sahara Avenue with 22 miles of HOV lanes
16. \$32 million upgrade with new LED panels, making the new screen seven times brighter with four times more resolution
17. Name changed to The STRAT
18. 2.5-acre failed casino bought for \$36 million by Las Vegas-based Ahern Rentals; will be reopened as non-casino hotel under different name
19. Sold to OYO Hotels and Homes for \$135 million, name changed to OYO
20. Rescinded all fees for parking (first valet, later self-parking)
21. Name changed back to Sahara Las Vegas
22. Sold by MGM Resorts for \$4.2 billion to Blackstone Group (also owns Cosmopolitan), including a lease-back arrangement for at least two years
23. Sold by Caesars Entertainment to New York-based Dreamscapes Companies for \$516.3 million, including a lease-back arrangement for two years
24. Sold by MGM Resorts to Phil Ruffin (of TI) for \$825 million
25. Longtime Old West attraction sold to developer planning homes, 25-room motel, restaurant, and 5,400-square-foot event barn
26. World's first interactive cannabis museum closed at Neonopolis after 11 months in existence
27. Raiders' stadium scheduled to open on July 31
28. 600,000-square-foot expansion out to the Strip, plus people-mover subway with three stops, scheduled to open by the end of the year
29. 44-story tower with 777 rooms, plus 1,200-space garage, two-level casino, five restaurants, multi-tiered pool area, and tri-level sports book, largest in Vegas, to open by the end of the year
30. Opening in November after transformation from Hard Rock to Virgin brand
31. New \$375 million 550,000-square-foot convention center next to High Roller observation wheel will host its first convention in March
32. New \$300 million 430,000-square-foot convention center scheduled to open in February
33. \$76 million 315,000-square-foot convention facility scheduled to open in time for the five-day 2020 Summer World Market in July
34. New eight-story 495-room tower will open toward the end of the year
35. Acquisition by Eldorado Resorts will be completed in 2020; big changes expected to the CET portfolio
36. Closing in early February, will reopen as Virgin Las Vegas
37. Opening pushed back to 2021 to complete 3,500-room megaresort with 5,000-seat theater, 75,000-square-foot day/nightclub, and 220,000-square-foot pool area
38. Opening pushed back to 2022 to complete 67-story 3,800-room tower that was mothballed in 2009
39. Opening pushed back to 2021 for \$1.2 billion-plus 18,000-seat sphere-shaped arena
40. Showroom closed and work started on new sports book
41. \$600 million 750,000-square-foot data center to open on Boulder Highway in early 2021
42. Expanding into nearby 32,000-square-foot building and part of its parking lot for more boneyard space
43. Work continues on E. Fremont beautification project, upgrading building facades and landscaping
44. Bought by New York-based Gindi Capital for \$172 million to build new retail, entertainment, and dining center
45. \$850 million 45-story 720-room non-casino hotel announced for Convention Center Drive location of former Clarion
46. Long-shuttered hotel next to Hard Rock to be replaced by Siegel Suites
47. \$350 million 32-story 620-room hotel announced for Strip site across from Mandalay Bay occupied by Motel 8
48. Unnamed 14-story 267-room hotel announced for 4.3-acre vacant lot next to Las Vegas Ballpark
49. Hotel-casino zoning permits approved for 60-acre site of failed W and Las Ramblas projects
50. Work on four new pedestrian bridges over Sahara and the Strip announced to begin in summer 2022 and finish in winter 2024
51. Single-story 27,000-square-foot arcade planned for vacant lot north of the Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas sign
52. \$33.6 million in financing obtained to build new station connecting to the Sands Convention Center and MSG Sphere
53. 35 miles of 170-mile high-speed rail route from southern CA to Las Vegas could break ground in mid-2021
54. Grandiose plan to build a \$7.5 billion "smart city"; 210 acres at Cactus Ave. and LV Blvd. "secured," but not paid for
55. Environmental impact statement proceeding for planned new airport on 6,000 acres of federal land near Jean

three non-stop flights to Honolulu every day and transported 470,000 passengers on the route last year. ■

Sports Betting Scorecard

Sports betting is now legal in Michigan, along with online gambling and fantasy sports. The Michigan Gaming Control Board must now set rules and regulations for the new laws, which could be in place in time for March Madness.

On the flipside, things continue to move slowly in Illinois. Though legal since June, it's still not expected that wagers will be accepted for several months.

A second proposal calling for a constitutional amendment to allow sports betting has been introduced in California. It will be debated, along with the first proposal from the state's Native American tribes, but no one's expecting a resolution this year.

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

Top-Grossing Restaurants

Restaurant Business' 2019 list of the U.S.' Top 100 highest-grossing independent restaurants has been released with 10 in Las Vegas (compared to 23 in New York, 16 in Chicago, and 9 in Washington, D.C.). The Las Vegas restaurants are led by Joe's Seafood, Prime Steak and Stone Crab at Caesars Palace in the #18 spot, grossing \$22.3 million, generated by an average check of \$77. The other Las Vegas restaurants on the list are Bazaar Meat/Sahara #21 (\$20.8 million sales and \$114 average check), SW Steakhouse/Wynn #23 (\$20.6 million/\$142), Mon Ami Gabi/Paris #38 (\$18.1 million/\$72.50), Prime/Bellagio #47 (\$16.6 million/\$168), LAVO/Palazzo #54 (\$16.6 million/\$92.50), Delmonico/Venetian #58 (\$16.4 million/\$100), Jean-George/Aria #67 (\$15 million/\$118), Beauty & Essex/Cosmopolitan #89 (\$12.8 million/\$92), and Carmine's/Caesars Palace #92 (\$12.7 million/\$41.50). Topping the list was the Miami location of Joe's Seafood, Prime Steak and Stone Crab with \$38.4 million in sales. Strangely, after being the nation's highest-grossing restaurant for several years, TAO at the Venetian didn't make the list. ■

Another Secret Entryway

When the Flamingo closed the Center Cut steakhouse in September, it was announced that the replacement would be a new restaurant called Steaks & Alibis. That concept apparently got updated and the new restaurant will now be called Buggy and Meyer's Steakhouse, referring to Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel and Meyer Lansky, who opened the Flamingo in 1946. Joining the rush to the secret-entryway format that's all the rage of late, customers will enter through a faux bakery into The Count Room speakeasy attached to the restaurant. Buggy and Meyer's is set to open early this year. ■

Another Restaurant Fee

Last month we reported that the original Lotus of Siam had reopened in the Commercial Center. That's good news for lovers of Thai cuisine, as Lotus is rated among the best in the country in that category. However, a little surprise came with the reopening. In an interview on Nevada Public Radio, the chef and co-owner of Lotus disclosed the addition of a 3% dining-bill surcharge that will go toward paying the employees' contribution to their health-insurance premiums. Management pays 60% of the insurance, while employees pick up the other 40%. Reportedly, this practice began in California and Lotus is the first in Nevada to try it. While we're not sure about this, it sounds like the 3% surcharge is optional, meaning you can have it removed if you ask your server, but this is another fee to watch for in the event that it becomes more widespread. ■

Shanghai Plaza

The restaurant roster in the Shanghai Plaza on Spring Mountain Rd. in the heart of Chinatown is beginning to fill out. Already open are Weera Thai (reviewed this issue), along with Yummy Rice, Myungrang Hot Dog, Kura Revolving Sushi, Pho Kinh Do, 88 Noodle Papa, Orchid Vietnamese, Sharetea, and Pepper Lunch. Additional restaurants are coming soon, making this plaza one of the top dining destinations for Asian cuisine in town. ■

Station Ham & Eggs

The Station Casinos ham & eggs special that we referenced in a "[Reader Leader](#)" in the November issue

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

ADVANCE PLANNER—HEADLINERS AND EVENTS

JANUARY

1/1-1/4	• Paula Abdul Flamingo LV • \$69-\$199	1/18	• UFC 246 • T-Mobile • tba	2/6-2/20	• Frankie Moreno South Point • \$20-\$30
1/3	• Jack Russell's Great White Golden Nugget • \$29-\$99	1/18	• Uncle Kracker Boulder Station • \$25	2/7	• Yardbirds Golden Nugget • \$29-\$99
1/3	• Kenny Cetera's Experience Green Valley Ranch • \$19	1/18	• Will Downing Santa Fe Station • \$36-\$56	2/7-2/8	• Dermot Kennedy Palms • \$32-\$73
1/3-1/4	• Fortress Invitational T-Mobile • \$30-\$99	1/18	• Zoology Part II • Downtown LV Events Center • \$31/\$49	2/7-2/8	• Iliza • Mirage • \$43-\$174
1/4	• Queen Nation: Queen Tribute Green Valley Ranch • \$19	1/19	• Black Keys • Cosmo • \$49-\$99	2/7-2/8	• Neil Sedaka • Orleans • \$59-\$90
1/8-1/11	• David Lee Roth • MBay • \$63-\$129	1/19	• Chris Tucker Wynn LV • \$59.95-\$139.95	2/7-2/9	• Good Vibrations: Beach Boys South Point • \$20-\$30
1/9-1/11	• Tim Meadows • Plaza • \$25/\$50	1/19	• Styx • Palms • \$45-\$229	2/7-2/22	• Doobie Brothers Venetian • \$62.95-\$325.95
1/9-1/12	• Disney on Ice • T&M • \$20-\$98	1/22-1/31	• Carlos Santana • MBay • \$99-\$373	2/7-2/22	• Gwen Stefani Planet Hollywood • \$40-\$250
1/10	• Gary Puckett and The Union Gap Golden Nugget • \$39-\$129	1/24	• Cowsills Golden Nugget • \$29-\$99	2/8	• 4NR: Foreigner Tribute Suncoast • \$20-\$25
1/10-1/12	• My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish ... • South Point • \$30-\$40	1/24	• Raphael Saadiq Brooklyn Bowl • \$35-\$175	2/8	• Brian McKnight Encore • \$49.50-\$115
1/10-1/18	• Keith Urban Caesars Palace • \$79-\$249	1/24	• Dia Nacional De La Banda T-Mobile • \$39-\$439	2/8	• NXT Live • Palms • \$19-\$79
1/11	• JTruthPA • Aliante • \$20-\$42	1/24-1/25	• Ron White • Mirage • \$68-\$88	2/9	• Black Uhuru Brooklyn Bowl • \$25/\$30
1/11	• Joyce Manor • Hard Rock • \$21	1/24-1/26	• Rob Schneider South Point • \$30-\$40	2/13-2/22	• Barry Manilow Westgate LV • \$49-\$350
1/11	• King James Brown Cannery • \$19.95/\$24.95	1/24-2/1	• Foreigner • Venetian • \$45-\$256	2/14	• Blue Oyster Cult Golden Nugget • \$49-\$109
1/11	• Lion Fight 61 Full Rules Muay Thai Hard Rock • \$50	1/25	• Arch Allies • Cannery • \$20-\$33	2/14	• Next Movement Cannery • \$30/\$40
1/11	• Liverpool Legends M Resort • \$23-\$43	1/25	• Calibash • T-Mobile • \$80-\$577	2/14	• Reckless In Vegas Suncoast • \$15/\$20
1/11	• Petty & The Heartshakers Suncoast • \$19-\$24	1/25	• Heart of Rock & Roll: Huey Lewis Tribute • Suncoast • \$19-\$24	2/14	• Shaun Cassidy Green Valley Ranch • \$29-\$59
1/11	• Queen Nation: Tribute to Queen Boulder Station • \$15	1/25	• Kuh Ledesma Silverton • \$35/\$55	2/14	• Taylor Dayne • Silverton • \$35
1/11	• Zoology Part I LV Events Center • \$31/\$49	1/25	• Tommy Davidson Aliante • \$19-\$49	2/14-2/15	• Dierks Bentley Cosmo • \$40-\$275
1/12-1/26	• Matt Goss • Mirage • \$27-\$91	1/25	• Tyler Henry Palms • \$39.95-\$249.95	2/14-2/15	• Jim Jefferies • Mirage • \$54/\$76
1/14	• Rex Orange County Brooklyn Bowl • \$35/\$40	1/25	• Zoology Part III LV Events Center • \$31/\$49	2/14-2/29	• Mariah Carey Caesars Palace • \$55-\$250
1/16	• Thomas John Caesars Palace • \$49-\$119	1/25-1/26	• Joey Yung • Palazzo • \$68/\$108	2/15	• Bobby Caldwell Santa Fe Station • \$24-\$44
1/16-1/31	• Dionne Warwick Caesars Palace • \$125-\$150	1/29-1/31	• Aerosmith • Park MGM • \$68-\$821	2/15	• Box Tops • Suncoast • \$19-\$34
1/17	• Ambrosia Golden Nugget • \$29-\$109	1/30	• Marcus King Band Brooklyn Bowl • \$27.50-\$77.50	2/15	• Edwin McCain Sunset Station • \$36.50
1/17	• Emo Night Tour Hard Rock • \$10/\$25	1/30-2/1	• Brooklyn Bowl • \$27.50-\$77.50	2/15	• Ladies Night Out Comedy Paris • \$39-\$99
1/17	• Tool w/Author & Punisher T-Mobile • \$85-\$125	1/31	• Growlers • Hard Rock • \$45/\$60	2/15	• Los Temerarios MBay • \$49-\$245
1/17-1/18	• Frankie Moreno South Point • \$20-\$30	1/31	• Black Tiger Sex Machine Brooklyn Bowl • \$30	2/15	• MJ DeJa Vu: MJ Tribute Cannery • \$20-\$27
1/17-1/18	• Ray Romano & David Spade Mirage • \$87-\$126	1/31	• Shin Lim • Mirage • \$43-\$250	2/15	• Rob Lowe Planet Hollywood • \$59-\$149
1/17-1/19	• Kenny "Babyface" Edmonds Mirage • \$40-\$61	1/31	• Tina Turner Tribute w/Cookie Watkins • Texas Station • \$20	2/15	• Shirelles • M Resort • \$23-\$43
1/18	• 5 th Dimension Cannery • \$29.95/\$39.95	1/31	• Van Morrison Caesars Palace • \$70-\$329	2/16	• EFX All-Stars • Aliante • \$25-\$50
1/18	• Little River Band Orleans • \$50-\$60	1/31-2/1	• George Strait T-Mobile • \$75-\$499	2/16	• Jeff Dunham Caesars Palace • \$46-\$83
1/18	• Long Run: Tribute to the Eagles Suncoast • \$19-\$24	1/31-2/1	• Theo Von • Mirage • \$43-\$76	2/19-2/22	• Sarah McLachlan Wynn LV • \$59.50-\$179.50
1/18	• Tiffany Haddish Park MGM • \$45-\$137	FEBRUARY		2/19-2/29	• Classic Cher Park MGM • \$55-\$362
		2/1	• Carlos Santana • MBay • \$99-\$373	2/20	• Dweezil Zappa Brooklyn Bowl • \$35-\$75
		2/1	• Periphery: Hail Stan Brooklyn Bowl • \$27.50	2/21-2/22	• Tim Allen • Mirage • \$65-\$87
		2/1-2/8	• Van Morrison Caesars Palace • \$70-\$329		
		2/1-2/29	• Dionne Warwick • Caesars Palace • \$125/\$150		
		2/1-2/29	• Shin Lim • Mirage • \$43-\$250		
		2/2-2/23	• Matt Goss • Mirage • \$27-\$91		
		2/3-2/15	• Aerosmith • Park MGM • \$68-\$821		
		2/6	• Nikki Glaser • Mirage • \$40-\$150		

ADVANCE PLANNER—HEADLINERS AND EVENTS

2/21-2/23 • Herman's Hermits w/Peter Noone • South Point • \$45-\$55
 2/21 • Grand Funk Railroad Golden Nugget • \$59-\$195
 2/22 • Mirage: Fleetwood Mac Tribute Suncoast • \$19/\$24
 2/22 • Relive the Miracle T&M • \$40-\$500
 2/22 • Vegas McGraw Cannery • \$20/\$25
 2/26-2/29 • Christina Aguilera Planet Hollywood • \$60-\$226
 2/26-2/29 • Harry Connick, Jr. Wynn LV • \$59.50-\$300
 2/27 • Thrice • Brooklyn Bowl • \$28/\$32
 2/28 • Amanda Miguel y Diego Verdaguier Texas Station • \$39-\$60
 2/28 • Dave Matthews Band Cosmo • \$500-\$1,890
 2/28 • FireHouse Golden Nugget • \$29-\$109
 2/28 • Joey Diaz • TI • \$30-\$54
 2/28-2/29 • Chicago • Venetian • \$45-\$275
 2/28-2/29 • Ray Romano & David Spade Mirage • \$87-\$126
 2/28-3/1 • Capitol Steps South Point • \$25-\$35
 2/29 • Arrested Development Aliante • \$25-\$60
 2/29 • Barbra and Frank Green Valley Ranch • \$15
 2/29 • Loverboy • Orleans • \$50-\$70

MARCH

3/1 • Shin Lim • Mirage • \$43-\$250
 3/1-3/29 • Matt Goss • Mirage • \$27-\$91
 3/4-3/6 • Christina Aguilera Planet Hollywood • \$60-\$226
 3/4-3/7 • Dwight Yoakam & The Bakersfield Beat Kick Wynn LV • \$59.50-\$175
 3/4-3/14 • Chicago • Venetian • \$45-\$275
 3/5 • Donavon Frankenreiter Brooklyn Bowl • \$25/\$27
 3/5-3/8 • PAC-12 Women's Basketball • MBay • \$105-\$360
 3/5-3/26 • Frankie Moreno South Point • \$20-\$30
 3/5-3/28 • Barry Manilow Westgate LV • \$49-\$350
 3/6 • Dennis DeYoung w/Music of Styx Golden Nugget • \$59-\$179
 3/6 • Richard Cheese Red Rock • \$44-\$69
 3/6-3/7 • Bruno Mars Park MGM • \$195-\$385
 3/6-3/7 • Tom Segura • Mirage • \$65-\$87
 3/6-3/8 • Atlantic City Boys South Point • \$20-\$35
 3/6-3/14 • Billy Idol • Palms • \$39.50-\$159.95
 3/6-3/21 • Rod Stewart Caesars Palace • \$49-\$239

3/7 • First Ladies of Disco Orleans • \$24-\$54
 3/11-3/13 • 311 Day • Park MGM • \$184
 3/11-3/13 • Ultimate 311 Park MGM • \$199.50-\$299.50
 3/11-3/14 • Lionel Richie Wynn LV • \$69.50-\$350
 3/11-3/14 • Pac-12 Men's Basketball T-Mobile • \$236-\$546
 3/13 • Dance Gavin Dance Brooklyn Bowl • \$29.50-\$40
 3/13 • Foghat Golden Nugget • \$39-\$109
 3/13-3/14 • Bill Maher • Mirage • \$65-\$104
 3/13-3/28 • Shania Twain Planet Hollywood • \$70-\$289
 3/14 • 38 SPECIAL • Orleans • \$39-\$79
 3/14 • Post Malone MGM Grand • \$83-\$403
 3/15 • Jeff Dunham Caesars Palace • \$46-\$83
 3/15 • IL Volo • Palms • \$45-\$275
 3/15 • Rebel Souljahz Brooklyn Bowl • \$27.50/\$30
 3/18-3/28 • David Lee Roth • MBay • \$63-\$129
 3/19-3/22 • Ween • Brooklyn Bowl • \$178
 3/20 • André Rieu • T-Mobile • \$74-\$144
 3/20 • Melanie Martinez • Palms • \$162
 3/20 • Tommy James and the Shondells • Golden Nugget • \$59-\$139
 3/20-3/21 • Brunch & Bowling Tournament • Brooklyn Bowl • \$99
 3/20-3/21 • Daniel Tosh • Mirage • \$65-\$106
 3/20-3/22 • Donny Edwards South Point • \$30-\$40
 3/20-3/28 • ZZ Top • Venetian • tba
 3/21 • Ana Gabriel • MBay • \$49-\$119
 3/21 • Bill Burr • Cosmo • \$119-\$159
 3/21 • Monster Jam Sam Boyd Stadium • \$20-\$70
 3/21 • Prince Royce • Palms • \$36-\$275
 3/24 • Silverstein • Brooklyn Bowl • \$25
 3/24-4/4 • Robbie Williams Wynn LV • \$69.50-\$325
 3/25 • Galactic • Brooklyn Bowl • \$30
 3/27 • Bad Religion & Alkaline Trio Brooklyn Bowl • \$35-\$55
 3/27 • Zac Brown Band T-Mobile • \$39.50-\$99.50
 3/27-3/28 • George Lopez • Mirage • \$65-\$87
 3/27-3/29 • Lettermen • South Point • \$34-\$45
 3/28 • Brantley Gilbert Cosmo • \$29-\$325
 3/28 • Tracy Morgan Palms • \$19-\$159.95

SHOW NOTES

- *Soul of Motown* has opened at the Westgate; tickets are \$68.18/\$79.38/\$101.73.
- *The JETS '80s & '90s Experience!* has opened in the V Theater at Planet Hollywood; tickets are \$86.98/\$106.98.
- Ticket prices for *R.U.N.* at Luxor have been decreased from \$105.06-\$269.65 to \$83.26-\$187.90.
- Ticket prices for *Mat Franco: Magic Reinvented Nightly* at the LINQ! have been decreased from \$77.47-\$211.07 to \$65.07-\$196.97.
- Ticket prices for *Tenors of Rock* at Planet Hollywood have been decreased from \$91.50/\$126.70/\$162.40 to \$62.74/\$85.49/\$120.49/\$162.90.
- Ticket prices for *Australian Bee Gees Show* at Excalibur have been decreased from \$65.14-\$97.84 to \$53.15-\$86.94.
- *Raiding the Rock Vault* has closed at the Hard Rock. It will reopen in the 172 Live Music Club at the Rio on Jan. 11; tickets are \$65.07-\$143.33.
- *Elvis Presley's Heartbreak Hotel in Concert* has closed at Harrah's.

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

Dining continued ...

is available 24/7 in the coffee shops at all Stations and Fiestas and at the Palms. It's two eggs, hash browns, toast, and a giant slice of ham for just \$6.99. The ham is impressive, and while not quite the size or quality of our favorite at Norm's Diner ([LVA 10/19](#)), it's definitely a deal for \$4 less and more convenient with so many locations and 24-hour availability. We also tried the \$9.99 prime rib special, but were less impressed. By the way, there's a reason the knife in the photo is under the ham. When it's not anchored, there's a good chance that it rolls right off the plate. No kidding, ours rolled off three times before we recognized the design flaw. When we brought it up to our waiter, he told us that when the cutlery was introduced, knives were flying everywhere until the wait-staff figured it out. ■



Giant ham and rolling knife at Palace Station

Opa! of Greece

The highly successful restaurant chain, Opa! of Greece, has opened nearly 100 locations across Canada since 1998, from quick-service counters to full-service restaurants. Its first U.S. restaurant debuted in the third-floor food court at the Fashion Show Mall last June. The food is noticeably fresh, the service is fast and friendly, and the prices are reasonable: calamari and salad \$10.99, souvlaki and salad \$9.49, calamari without the salad \$8.49, pita wraps with chicken, gyro, beef, shrimp, or falafel \$6.99, Caesar or Greek salad \$5.99, spanakopita \$4.99, lamb skewers \$3.49 each, special Opa fries tossed in herbs and lemon juice \$3.79, hummus or tzatziki and pita \$2.99, and baklava or baklava cheesecake \$2.99. We tried the souvlaki plate that comes with a Greek salad, a big pile of tender and tasty gyro meat, and several triangles of pita, along with a falafel wrap and baklava, paid just over \$20, and made two meals out of it. Fast and good Greek on the Strip—that can't be bad. ■

Catcher's Fish House

Every so often we like to check on what's happening at the Commercial Center at E. Sahara Ave. and Maryland Pkwy. (location of the reopened Lotus of Siam). So when we heard of a new fish-and-chips place opening, we put it on the list to try. Catcher's Fish House is a little hole in the wall with a big menu. The baskets are the main attraction: hand-breaded snapper, catfish, shrimp, or soft-shell crab (\$12.99) and lobster (\$19.99) that come with fries, slaw, and a soda. The snapper, catfish, shrimp, and chicken are also served in sandwich baskets (\$12.99), taco and salad baskets (\$10.99), burritos (\$9.99), and gluten-free lettuce wraps (\$7.99); Catcher's also offers appetizers of fish nuggets, popcorn shrimp, lollipop chicken wings, and shrimp on a stick (all \$4.99), burgers (\$6.99), and mac and cheese, loaded potato (\$3.99), and sweet potato fries.

Order at the counter and sit at one of the eight tables or on stools along two walls. The cashier recommended the catfish basket, five good-sized pieces of fish, with light breading and not too oily, and a big pile of fries. It's a lot of food for the money—our bill came to \$14 and it was enough for a second meal the next day. Open 11-11 daily, on Mondays buy a basket and get half off the second, Tuesdays get 10% off the full menu, and on Wednesdays buy two baskets and get one free. ■



Catfish basket at Catcher's Fish House

Weera Thai Lunch Special

Shanghai Plaza, on Spring Mountain between Arville and Wynn in the heart of Chinatown, opened last April and has been filling up ever since with Asian shops and eateries, including Weera Thai Kitchen. Weera is a new entry in the "Essential 52" restaurants in [Eating Las Vegas](#), but it was the \$8.99 lunch special that sent us there. Pick your base from chicken, pork, tofu, or vegetable (beef is \$9.45, shrimp \$10.49), then choose the preparation: pad Thai, pepper-garlic sauce, cashew, fresh ginger, spicy Thai sweet basil, broccoli oyster sauce, or

pad ka pow; red or yellow curry chicken is \$9.99. A cup of tom kha kai (tofu instead of chicken) and salad, plus an eggroll come with the meal. The soup and salad arrive fast and the specials follow right on their heels. It's a lot of food, but we weren't overly impressed with the three we tried. We'll go back, but in the near term, there will probably be better options in this plaza. ■



Ginger chicken lunch special at Weera Thai

Dining Notes

Buffet Updates—Excalibur's Buffet-To-Go take-out option is now offered seven days a week for \$19.99. The all-day pass at Luxor is now \$41.99 Mon.-Thurs. and \$49.99 Fri.-Sun., up from \$39.99/\$44.99. The price for breakfast at MBay is up \$1 to \$19.99 and breakfast at Paris is up \$2 to \$23.99. But while everyone is raising prices, Texas Station has dropped theirs by \$1 on two specialty nights—\$16.99 for prime rib night and \$18.99 for Fish Fry Friday.

Tacos and Totals—In a study by ApartmentGuide.com, Las Vegas placed number one for the most taco shops per capita in cities with populations of more than 100,000. According to the study, Las Vegas is home to 454 taco restaurants, for a whopping 70.4 per 100,000 residents, followed by Salt Lake City (52.8), Orlando (51.1), and Bakersfield (47.9). ApartmentGuide also counted the total number of restaurants in the top 50 cities: New York 7,088; Houston 5,667; Chicago 5,359; Los Angeles 4,960; and Las Vegas at number five with 3,307, beating out such big cities as San Francisco 2,971, San Diego 2,823, and Dallas 2,806.

Vegan Market—Veg-In-Out, the first all-vegan grocery store in the city, has opened at 2301 E. Sunset Rd. at Eastern. The store features boxed, canned, refrigerated, and frozen products, including vegan ice cream and candy bars, though no produce. A portion of the net proceeds are donated to a different animal nonprofit each month.

English to Area15—Celebrity chef Todd English is

returning to Las Vegas to run a “food hall” at Area15, the non-casino retail and entertainment center opening just west of I-15 this spring. ■

Openings/Closings

David Chang's Majordomo Meat & Fish has opened at Palazzo. It's Chang's second Las Vegas restaurant, along with Momofuku at the Cosmopolitan.

Dandelion Chocolate, a small-batch bean-to-bar chocolate maker from San Francisco, has opened at the Venetian.

LVB Burger & Bar has closed and been replaced by Diablo's Cantina at the Mirage.

Pierogi Village has opened at 8540 W. Lake Mead Boulevard. It was formerly Pierogi Café ([LVA 10/16](#)).

China Tang has closed at MGM Grand. ■

ENTERTAINMENT

Atomic Saloon Show

Venetian

Mon.-Tues. 8 p.m.; Thurs.-Sun. 7-9 p.m.
\$96.34/\$118.14/\$139.94/\$161.74

You're introduced to the *Atomic Saloon Show* right from go, when the bolo-tied and cowboy-hatted Will Call attendant says, “Howdy, pardner” and the ticket-takers, ushers, and cocktail waitresses are all in western-style uniforms. The sensation continues as you wind through one of the more unusual entrances to a Las Vegas showroom and emerge in a full-scale Old West saloon-hotel-brothel. The room is situated just up the escalator from the Palazzo lobby; the space formerly housed the Act Nightclub (which closed abruptly in 2013 over obscenity charges).

Atomic Saloon has more of a plot than producer Spiegelworld's other two shows, *Absinthe* at Caesars and *Opium* at the Cosmo, so it helps to know the backstory. Shortly before the original Nevada saloon was vaporized by aboveground atomic testing, all its bartenders and waitresses, entertainers, and working girls, along with the little town's inhabitants—the mayor, the reverend and two nuns, cattle, and horses—accompanied the ferocious redhead owner, Boozy Skunkton, to the new saloon on the third floor of the Grand Canal Shoppes. Themes of love and unrequited love are shoe-

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Entertainment continued ...

horned into all the lowbrow, screwball, and sideshow action—smoldering tumbleweed, hula hoops, pole- and dirty-dancing, aerial acrobatics, spaghetti, even a nun's unique talents with ping-pong balls and a xylophone. The soundtrack perfectly fits the theme, with Bon Jovi's "Wanted Dead or Alive," Glen Campbell's "Rhinestone Cowboy," Jace Everett's "Bad Things," "Moon River," and "That's Amore," among others, adding to the seamlessness of the entertainment. A banjo, of course, accompanies a surprise character's appearance that launches the inescapable barroom-brawl finale.

The venue accommodates only 250, including 28 all-front-row seats in the balcony, and the stage is in the middle of the room, so no seats are bad, though if you want to be involved in the cornbread fight or spaghetti kissing, sit right up against the stage. The "pews" in the back of the room are slightly less than optimal, as most of the acts face front, but because they're on the way to backstage, you have close encounters with the performers throughout the show. Also, with the [discount code](#) from LasVegasAdvisor.com, the least expensive seats are \$48, but only if you download the AXS ticket app and use your phone at the door. If you don't want to or can't do that, it's \$5 extra for getting your tickets at Will Call.

All in all, with its premise, set, plot, characters, costumes, music, and vast amounts of talent on display, we reckon *Atomic Saloon* delivers the thigh-slappingest, rib-ticklingest, and foot-stompingest fun you can currently have in a Las Vegas showroom. ■

Mayfair Supper Club

The Bellagio's Mayfair Supper Club debuts as this issue goes to press in the space previously occupied by Hyde ultra-lounge. Even at this late date, the menu details haven't been released, so we don't know about cuisine or pricing. We do know that the restaurant-club is described as a throwback to an earlier era in Las Vegas, featuring a multi-act production that aims to "embrace the glamorous entertainment of the 1920s and 1930s with a modern, sultry, and sexy edge." The producer is No Ceilings Entertainment, which has been a part of the creative mix on shows such as "America's Got Talent" and "The X-Factor," and includes one of Beyoncé's choreographers. A 360-degree stage that raises and lowers, showcasing performances from all angles, hosts music (nightly DJ, jazz trio, and two vocalists), a dance ensemble, comedy, and interactive elements. The show varies night to night and will be completely made over every three months. The late-night menu should attract performers from other Strip

shows. All in all, the Mayfair could turn out to be quite the scene. ■

Karaoke on the Strip

When it opens in early February in a long-vacant space next to SushiSamba in the Grand Canal Shoppes at the Venetian, KAMU Ultra Karaoke will be the first high-end karaoke club on the Strip. The lounge and restaurant will be open to all ages from noon to 8 pm daily, then change to adults-only from 8 pm to 8 am. Few details have been released, other than L.A. celebrity chef Chris Oh will oversee the menu and 40 private luxury suites and six VIP suites will be available. ■

Bars and Happy Hours

The happy hour in Oscar's Steakhouse at the Plaza has changed, offering a new selection of appetizers for \$6-\$14. This is one of our favorites for quality and the ambience in the bar overlooking the Fremont Street Experience and the [Member Rewards Book](#) has a new offer for 20% off your bill.

The Oyster Bar & Grill at Harrah's has a happy hour Mon.-Thurs. from 2 to 4 pm, with \$6 Coronas, \$10 Grey Goose martinis, \$2.25 oysters and \$11-\$15 appetizers.

Hecho en Vegas at MGM Grand has a happy hour daily from 4:30 to 6:30 pm, with \$8 beer and margaritas and \$5-\$8 appetizers. Tacos are \$5 on Tuesdays.

Crack Shack at Park MGM has a happy hour Mon.-Fri. from 3 to 6 pm, with \$3 off specialty cocktails, \$2 off beer and wine, and "crack snacks" starting at \$3.

Steiner's Pub on Las Vegas Blvd. has a happy hour Mon.-Fri. from 4 to 7 pm, with 2-for-1 drinks. There's also "Appie Hour" on the same days from 3 to 6 pm, with appetizers for \$4, \$8, or \$12. Get both from 4 to 6 pm.

Hardway 8 in Henderson has a happy hour daily from 3 to 6 pm, with \$8 (natch) drinks and appetizers.

Vesper Bar at the Cosmopolitan has reopened after a makeover.

Icebar has opened in the LINQ Promenade.

In the High Limit Bar at Encore, a Heineken is \$10.83. At Caffe Restaurant Prince, a Karlovacko beer is \$8.10. At Bund Shanghai, a Tsingtao is \$7.58. At Crown & Anchor West, a draft Stella Artois is \$7. At Scenic Brewing Company, a draft Vegas Sipper is \$6.50. At Paradise Cantina, a Tecate is \$5.50. At Irene's, a draft Shiner Bock is \$5. At Distill Durango, a draft Stella is \$5. At The Bar Durango, an Angry Orchard is \$4.75.

Notes: Formerly a bargain bar for food and drinks, Irene's on Spring Mountain has been steadily raising prices and no longer offers draft PBR. ■

Entertainment Notes

Blanc Blanks—*Blanc de Blanc*, the cabaret-style production show at the Sahara, has closed. The avant-garde production that featured two hot tubs for VIP guests was apparently a bit too snooty (much like everything we've encountered at the Sahara since it changed ownership) and over-the-top, even for Vegas. A replacement has not been announced, though *Magic Mike Live* is moving to the Sahara this spring.

Nay on Beyoncé—Rumors that Beyoncé would play a residency making her the highest paid performer on the Strip appear to be only that. A Beyoncé spokesperson has denied the reports, although denials have a way of becoming realities in these situations.

No Telling—For the first time in the 19 years that *Penn & Teller* has played in Las Vegas, Penn is performing in a ticketed show without his silent sidekick Teller, who underwent spinal-fusion surgery last month. Filling in for Teller are Mac King, Piff the Magic Dragon, and Matt Donnelly, through early January. Then it goes dark until Teller returns to the show at the Rio on February 4.

Crazy Girls at 33—*Crazy Girls* is entering its 33rd year of performing on the Strip. It ran for 28 years at the Riviera, then moved to Planet Hollywood in 2015. The bronze "No ifs, Ands, or ..." sculpture that advertised the show in front of the Riviera (and on billboards and taxicab banners) for many years is on display at Planet Hollywood.

L8NITE—Jimmy Kimmel's Comedy Club at The LINQ Promenade has initiated midnight shows called "L8NITE" on Saturdays.

Viva Vision—The new light show on the Viva Vision Canopy at the Fremont Street Experience debuted on New Year's Eve. The world's largest single video screen (1,375 feet long and 90 feet wide) has been enhanced to the point where images can now be seen 24 hours a day and will continue to host nightly shows. The light shows run on the hour from 6 pm to 1 am, with programming (graphics, ads, and music) the rest of the time.

\$10,000 Cocktail—It's not in Las Vegas, but the San Manuel Casino in San Bernardino, CA, is now serving one drink for \$10,000. What's in it? First, a shot of A. H. Hirsch 16 Year Old whisky, then a 100-point 1996 Château Lafite-Rothschild Bordeaux, and a bit of ultra-rare Hardy cognac. The cocktail is served in a Lalique crystal glass with a cocktail pick made from 14-karat gold and a small diamond tip (you get to keep the glass and pick). San Manuel isn't saying if it's sold any.

Greens Fees—Wynn Las Vegas' renovated golf course has opened with greens fees of \$550 per person per round. Though it's now among the most expensive courses in the U.S., it's the only course on the Strip and is being touted as a luxury experience, complete with battery-powered golf carts and caddies, plus Rolls Roy-

ces to pick up golfers around town. Golfers with a room reservation at Wynn/Encore can reserve tee times 90 days in advance, 30 days for non-guests.

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

GAMBLING

MRB Gambling

It's another good year for gambling offers in the **MRB**. The combination of 38 matchplay, free-play, and special bonuses creates a total value that's \$6 above last year's and \$5 more in the easy-to-play offers that we designate by "AI Value" (see below). Add in the comp deals at Sporting Life Bar, Jackson's, and G.O.A.T. and there are 41 gambling offers in all.

	2019	2020
Total Value	\$559	\$565
AI Value*	\$278	\$283
Free-Play Value	\$65	\$65

*AI stands for "any idiot," as achieving at least close to optimal value from an AI offer requires no skill aside from just showing up to play it.

To be honest, the \$565 total value will be achieved by only a few who maximize the high-variance video poker bonuses, of which there are several. The value for most will be in the AI offers, which are made up mostly of the table game matchplays and slot free-plays. And even if you did nothing but play the seven free-play offers, you'd have an expected win of \$65—more than your membership cost—without a penny of risk.

Once again, the most value in one area is easily downtown. And as good as downtown was last year, it's better now. Fremont, California, and Main Street Station didn't renew their matchplay offers, but that was made up for with a new \$50 MP at Downtown Grand. Added to the \$25 MPs at the D, Golden Gate, and Plaza, you can capture almost \$60 in EV at these four casinos alone. Adding in another \$55 in slot bonuses (mostly free-play) brings the AI value downtown to nearly \$115. Playing all of the downtown gambling offers results in \$246 in total EV.

The D, Golden Gate, and Silver Sevens are all back with their creative blackjack bonuses—push on 22 at the D and 2-1 on your first natural at GG and SS. Play these for added time-on-game entertainment value, along with

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Gambling continued ...

a combined EV of more than \$40 that doesn't require a special playing strategy to realize. ■

Sports Betting HoF

Five new members have been inducted into the Sports Betting Hall of Fame. Heading the class is legendary Las Vegas oddsmaker Roxy Roxborough, who for many years set the opening lines for sports books in Las Vegas and around the world. He's joined by Vic Salerno, founder of the Leroy's sports books chain that was acquired by William Hill to launch its U.S. line; Jay Rood, the long-time sports book director at MGM Grand; Raymond Lesniak, the former state senator from New Jersey who was the driving force behind New Jersey's challenge to the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act (PASPA) that was overturned by the Supreme Court last year; and Sara Slane, former "face of sports betting" as the American Gaming Association vice president of public affairs. The five join 11 existing members of the Hall of Fame, which has been established only since 2016. ■

Gambling Notes

Jackpots—Two slot jackpots were hit on Wheel of Fortune machines—one at Caesars Palace for \$1.2 million and the other at the Mirage for \$2.2 million.

WSOP 2020—The 2020 World Series of Poker will run May 26 through July 15, with the Main Event starting on July 1. The meet will be held at the Rio as usual, but it might be the last time. Due to the sale of the Rio, the location for 2021 and beyond is in question.

Boston Buckles—After five months of offering lowest table game minimums of \$50, Encore Boston Harbor now offers some \$15 games. Encore's president commented: "We want to be a Boston casino in Boston. The last thing we want to do is be a Vegas casino in Boston." Huh? We've never seen a Las Vegas casino without at least a few games with minimums below \$50. ■

Video Poker Lost and Found

We were told by an Encore bartender that as of a month ago, Wynn Las Vegas is comping drinks for video poker play in the sports book bar. It's been a decade since a full no-comp policy was put in place at Wynn

and Encore bars, so this is significant. We'll check it out and convey the details next month.

At first glance, the games in Tempo Bar at the Westgate don't look very inviting; however, a couple of quarter progressives are worth taking a look at. The royal flush progressive on 7/5 Bonus Poker was \$1,295 (98.62%) when we were there and the royal on Deuces Wild was \$1,864 (98.43%). These aren't compelling returns, but they're better than their non-progressive counterparts, while also having the potential to go positive on two separate meters. The Bonus Poker game reaches breakeven at \$1,900 and the Deuces Wild at \$2,600.

So much for the grand experiment at the Downtown Grand. After installing several games with returns above 100% (at high denoms) last year, then quickly dialing back, it appears that the schedules there are now worse than when it all started. According to the online database vpFREE2, the best game at DG is now 8/5 Bonus Poker (99.17%), available from 25¢ to \$2.

Also reported by vpFREE2, Poker Palace in North Las Vegas has removed all of its 8/5 Bonus Poker and 9/7/5 Double Bonus. There are no longer any listings for the casino, indicating that none of its games return above 98%.

The promos have changed again at Jackpot Bar & Grill. The play-\$500-get-\$25 deal now runs on Wednesdays only. There's also a Tuesday deal for a \$100 bonus when you hit quad 2s playing max coins at 25¢ or higher. That raises the payout on the 7/5 Bonus Poker games (available on two multi-line machines only) to 99.44% with perfect play at 25¢. Nothing to rush over for, but likely as good as you'll find in a bar on any given Tuesday. And if you aren't already a member of Jackpot Rewards and sign up on a Monday, you'll get a play-\$50-get-\$50 sign-up bonus.

On the subject of sign-up bonuses, if you want to do the daily play-\$200-get-\$20 promo at Crown & Anchor East or West and you're not already a club member, you can't get both the \$20/\$20 sign-up bonus and the promo bonus at the same time. You can play the promo bonus once per day (midnight-1 am, noon-1 pm, or 5-6 pm), so show up prior to promo hours to get the sign-up bonus first.

Bob Dancer's free video poker classes start again this month, running on Tuesdays in the Silverado Lounge at South Point—beginner's classes at noon and intermediate at 2 pm, except where otherwise noted. Must be 21. Topics are 9/6 Jacks or Better (on 1/14); 9/7 Double Bonus, beginner's class only at noon, and 9/6 Double Double Bonus, beginner's class only at 2 pm (1/21); 9/6 Double Double Bonus Quick Quads Wheel Poker, one class only at noon (1/28). 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](#). ■

KEY DATES

FEBRUARY

- 2-5 Off-Price Specialist 2020—11,500
- 4-7 World of Concrete 2020—60,000
- 5-7 MAGIC Marketplace Spring 2020—78,000
- 15-17 Nat'l Automobile Dealers Winter '20—30,000
- 16-19 Western Veterinary Annual Conf.—15,000
- 23-27 Wedding & Portrait Photographers—10,000

MARCH

- 10-14 ConExpo—129,000
- 17-20 Int'l Security Conference 2020—29,000
- 22-25 ASD Market Week Spring 2020—46,000
- 31-4/1 Nightclub & Bar Show 2020—39,000
- 31-4/2 Int'l Pizza Expo 2020—12,000

APRIL

- 1-2 Int'l Wireless Communications 2020—12,000
- 19-22 Nat'l Assoc. of Broadcasters 2020—103,000

WEATHER

JANUARY

Mean 45° Avg. Max. 57° Avg. Min. 32° Pools: Closed
Cool and dry. Days are crisp, but pleasant. Cold evenings.

Attire: Sweater and jacket—desert winters are cold.

FEBRUARY

Mean 50° Avg. Max. 62° Avg. Min. 37° Pools: Closed
Days begin to warm, evenings still cool

Attire: Light jacket for the day, something warm for evenings.

MARCH

Mean 56° Avg. Max. 69° Avg. Min. 42° Pools: Closed
A fickle month for weather. Occasional rain and high winds, warm days.

Attire: Light jacket or sweater for evenings.

ROOM

FEBRUARY

WEEKDAY

- Wild Wild West • \$45
- El Cortez • \$47
- Silver Sevens • \$48

- Circus Circus • \$51
- Downtown Grand • \$53
- Tuscany • \$55

- Palms • \$98
- Paris • \$102
- Mirage • \$116

WEEKEND

- Plaza • \$74
- Wild Wild West • \$75
- El Cortez • \$91

- Downtown Grand • \$86
- Circus Circus • \$96
- Tuscany • \$98

- Palms • \$121
- Mirage • \$166
- Paris • \$196

MARCH

WEEKDAY

- El Cortez • \$47
- Silver Sevens • \$54
- Plaza • \$56

- Circus Circus • \$51
- Downtown Grand • \$53
- Tuscany • \$58

- Palms • \$98
- Paris • \$106
- Mirage • \$116

WEEKEND

- Fremont • \$97
- Main Street Station • \$97
- California • \$117

- Downtown Grand • \$102
- OYO • \$118
- Circus Circus • \$121

- Palms • \$144
- Caesars Palace • \$194
- Palazzo • \$194

APRIL

WEEKDAY

- Four Queens • \$49
- Plaza • \$55
- California • \$57

- Circus Circus • \$51
- Downtown Grand • \$53
- Tuscany • \$57

- Paris • \$96
- Palms • \$98
- Mirage • \$136

WEEKEND

- El Cortez • \$107
- Fremont • \$107
- Main Street Station • \$107

- Downtown Grand • \$88
- Circus Circus • \$117
- OYO • \$118

- Palms • \$143
- Mirage • \$176
- Paris • \$186

RATES

Best rates at press time from sample of 54 Las Vegas casinos. Rates NOT guaranteed, subject to change without notice, and do not include tax. Lower prices may be available online.

Eating Las Vegas 2020 is now shipping

Publisher's Discount: \$12.99 shipping included to U.S. addresses (valid through 1/31/20)

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