**THE LATEST FROM VEGAS**

**February 2015**

**Issue #69**

**Las Vegas Global Business Takes Major Step Forward—LVCVA Buys Riviera Hotel & Casino**

The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority (LVCVA) Board of Directors voted on Friday, Feb. 20 to approve a contract for the purchase of the historic Riviera Hotel & Casino’s 26-acre site as the cornerstone for its planned Las Vegas Global Business District. [View release](http://www.lvcva.com/article/las-vegas-global-business-district-takes/997/). For more information, contact, Heidi Hayes, LVCVA, [hhayes@lvcva.com](mailto:hhayes@lvcva.com).

**The International Tourism Safety Conference, April 26-29**

The International Tourism Safety Association, Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and the Las Vegas Security Chiefs Association will host the 22nd International Tourism Safety Conference at the Las Vegas Convention Center April 26-29, 2015.  The International Tourism Safety Conference is a gathering for safety and security officials in the travel and tourism industry focused on providing delegates with new information, trends, equipment, strategies and best practices in keeping visitors safe.  For more information or to register for the conference, visit: [www.touristsafety.org](http://www.touristsafety.org)

**ARIA Sky Suites, SKYLOFTS and Joël Robuchon at MGM Grand Earn 2015 Five-Star Awards**

Forbes Travel Guide honored ARIA Sky Suites, SKYLOFTS at MGM Grand and Joël Robuchon at MGM Grand with the prestigious 2015 Five-Star Award. This recognition distinguishes the trio among the premier luxury destinations in the world. Over the past year, Forbes’ professional inspectors have traveled the world to uncover the finest hotels, restaurants and spas. To achieve this award, hotels are evaluated on a multitude of guest experience factors and must provide an extraordinary stay through the finest in service and amenities. In the restaurant category, Five-Star venues must deliver a spectacular dining experience with exquisite food, service and presentation. This year, Joël Robuchon received its sixth consecutive Forbes Five-Star Award. ARIA Sky Suites and SKYLOFTS have earned the Forbes Five-Star designations since 2013 and 2010, respectively. For more information, contact Dara Cohen, MGM Resorts, [dcohen@mgmresorts.com](mailto:dcohen@mgmresorts.com).

**Wynn Las Vegas’ Restaurants Earn 32 Forbes Travel Guide Stars**

Forbes Travel Guide unveiled its 2015 Forbes Travel Guide Star Rating list, awarding an unprecedented eight Wynn Las Vegas and Encore restaurants with four stars as part of the sixty total stars bestowed among Wynn Las Vegas and Encore’s hotel towers, spas and restaurants. With its 32 stars, Wynn Las Vegas holds the most restaurant stars at a single resort in the world. Six Wynn Las Vegas restaurants have been recognized for continued high standards by once again winning Forbes Travel Guide Four Stars Award: Sinatra, serving modern takes on Italian classics in tribute to Frank Sinatra; Michelin-starred Chinese restaurant Wing Lei; BARTOLOTTA, Ristorante di Mare with over forty species of fish indigenous to Italian waters flown in daily; imaginative Japanese restaurant Mizumi offering four distinct dining experiences; SW Steakhouse overlooking the signature Lake of Dreams; and Country Club – A New American Steakhouse overlooking the spectacular waterfall on the 18th hole of the golf course. Two restaurants have been elevated to Forbes Travel Guide Four Star Award status for the first time including Botero, the steakhouse at Encore paying homage to Colombian sculptor Fernando Botero; and Andrea’s, with Asian-inspired dining in a vibrant and social dining room. For more information, contact Taylor Shields, Wynn Las Vegas, [taylor.shields@wynnlasvegas.com](mailto:taylor.shields@wynnlasvegas.com).

**Topgolf Announces Flagship Las Vegas Location at MGM Grand**

Topgolf International, Inc. recently announced plans to build a state-of-the-art flagship location at MGM Grand Hotel & Casino on the Las Vegas Strip. The entertainment destination is expected to open in spring 2016. Topgolf is the only entertainment center of its kind, offering competitive golfing games for all ages and skill levels and advanced technology to track the accuracy and distance of players’ shots. The four-level, 105,000-square-foot Topgolf Las Vegas will sit on eight acres and overlook a 215-yard outfield. There will be 102 hitting bays among the first three levels while the fourth level will showcase VIP areas with water features. The building’s plans also include a stage for live musical performances and 3,000 square feet of private meeting space. The facility will comfortably cater to intimate events ranging from 10 to 2,000 people. For more information, contact Scott Ghertner,[sghertner@mgmresorts.com](mailto:sghertner@mgmresorts.com)

**First-of-its-Kind Swarovski Boutique to Debut at Grand Bazaar Shops**

The leading designer and producer of fashion jewelry and crystal décor objects, Swarovski, will debut a unique boutique and crystal installation at the new Grand Bazaar Shops at Bally’s Las Vegas. Towering above the Swarovski pavilion, a glittering 14-foot-diameter, custom-designed crystal-and-LED-light Swarovski Starburst emits 911 “rays” capped by custom-cut crystal spheres. In keeping with the Grand Bazaar theme, the boutique will feature Swarovski’s first-ever “bartering window,” allowing passersby to negotiate the price they ultimately pay for select items. Among the items slated to be featured in the barter window are only-in-Vegas creations such as crystallized Beats Headphones in white, black and blue; a Martin custom-designed crystal classic acoustic guitar; a Gibson Les Paul electric guitar and crystallized white, black and pink skulls. Each night at midnight, the boutique will become the focal point for the Swarovski Midnight Celebration at Grand Bazaar Shops, a dazzling three-minute-long light-and-sound show designed to mark the dawn of a new day. For more information, contact Marina Nicola or Erika Pope, Vox Communications, [mnicola@wearevoxsolid.com](mailto:mnicola@wearevoxsolid.com), [epope@wearevoxsolid.com](mailto:epope@wearevoxsolid.com).

**Hakkasan Group to Debut Exclusive Ultra-Lounge Concept, Heart of Omnia**

Hakkasan Group announces its first premiere ultra-lounge concept, Heart of OMNIA, located within OMNIA Nightclub at Caesars Palace set to open Friday, March 13.  The VIP destination will be owned and operated by Hakkasan Group with assistance from The h.wood Group, previously acquired by the global hospitality company last June. The seductive Heart of OMNIA is a dark, plush and intimate space highlighting a rich and sultry material palette that plays on masculine and feminine design elements. Positioned strategically next to the nightclub’s entrance and adjoining the main club, Heart of OMNIA invites VIP guests to experience its powerful beauty and sophistication. The venue will welcome a legendary collection of iconic artists to perform including DJ Ruckus and Rev Run, Questlove, DJ Irie, DJ Jazzy Jeff, D-Nice and Eric D-Lux & Five to create the most immersive, open-format experience in Las Vegas. For more information, contact Stephanie Capellas or Kristina Bello, Hakkasan Group, [scapellas@hakkasan.com](mailto:scapellas@hakkasan.com) or [kbello@hakkasan.com](mailto:kbello@hakkasan.com)

**WENDOH Media Acquires Share in Life is Beautiful Festival, 2015 Dates Announced**  
WENDOH Media, a Las Vegas-based publishing and events company, has acquired a 50 percent stake in the Life is Beautiful Festival. The festival, which has brought headliners such as Imagine Dragons, Kings of Leon, Lionel Richie, Skrillex; and world-class chefs such as Hubert Keller, Scott Conant, Jose Andres and more to Downtown Las Vegas, will return for its third annual event Friday, Sept. 25through Sunday, Sept. 27. Founded by Rehan Choudhry in 2013, the Life is Beautiful Festival is a three-day celebration in Downtown Las Vegas featuring 15 city blocks of programming built around four key pillars: music, food, art and learning. With more than 90,000 people in attendance last year, the event boasts a cornucopia of activity: music stages featuring a diverse blockbuster line-up, culinary villages serving world class food, iconic inspirational speakers and an interactive urban street art gallery. The lineup for the 2015 Life is Beautiful Festival will be announced in the coming months. For more information, contact Stephanie Wilson, Wicked Creative [Stephanie.wilson@wickedcreative.com](mailto:Stephanie.wilson@wickedcreative.com) or Erika Williams, WENDOH Media [erika.williams@wendohmedia.com](mailto:erika.williams@wendohmedia.com)

**The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas Debuts New Digital Art by Yoko Ono and Sarah Rara**

The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas recently introduced an enhanced digital lobby experience, and two new moving digital art works, *Imagine Peace* by activist Yoko Onoand *The Pollinators* by Los Angeles-based multimedia artist Sarah Rara. The two new works further expand on The Cosmopolitan’s aim to inspire and surprise guests with their dynamic visual arts program. The nearly 11 minutes of stunning imagery will run on the half hour, every other hour on the lobby columns and registration desk displays. Recently, The Cosmopolitan enhanced the technology behind the installation to include 408 new LCD displays with nearly 100 new computers working together to deliver content to bezel-less, smart displays packing in over 100 million pixels on each column, with each face having 12 times better resolution than a single HD channel.  Similar to the New York Stock Exchange’s display system, the lobby control system’s intelligent, fully-redundant design allows for uninterrupted playback by self-monitoring and automatically switching to backup hardware in case of failure. The digital experience also integrates lighting and audio controls to create a multi-sensory experience. For more information, contact Wendy Sloan, Kirvin Doak Communications, [wsloan@kirvindoak.com](mailto:wsloan@kirvindoak.com).

**XS at Wynn Las Vegas Named the Top Grossing Nightclub by *NIGHTCLUB & BAR’S* 2015Top 100 List** XS at Wynn Las Vegas announced that it has been  ranked as the top grossing nightclub in the country based on annual revenue by *Nightclub & Bar’s* 2015 Top 100 list. This year marks the fifth time that XS has claimed the number one position – a first in industry history. XS has received numerous awards and accolades since opening, including the number one position as the top grossing nightclub by *Nightclub & Bar’s* Top 100 list in 2010, 2011, 2013 and 2014. It was also deemed New Club of the Year in 2010 and Mega-Club of the Year by *Nightclub & Bar* in both 2010 and 2013. XS recently completed a $10 million technology renovation. For more information contact Erika Gutierrez, 42West, [Erika.Guterrez@42West.net](mailto:Erika.Guterrez@42West.net).

**Chefs to Honor André Rochat** **for his 35th Anniversary in Las Vegas on Sunday, March 29**

Legendary Las Vegas chef André Rochat will be honored by his past and present peers and protégés on Sunday, March 29 at Andre’s Restaurant & Lounge at Monte Carlo Resort and Casino. Rochat, who is celebrating 35 years in Las Vegas in 2015, will host the evening as a team of chefs create a one-night only menu that will feature exquisite culinary creations. Ticket proceeds from the event will benefit the James Beard Foundation and are priced at $225 per person for JBF members; $275 per person for non-members (inclusive of tax and gratuity). Seating will be limited to 120 guests. For more information, contact Marina Nicola or Erika Pope, Vox Communications, [mnicola@wearevoxsolid.com](mailto:mnicola@wearevoxsolid.com), [epope@wearevoxsolid.com](mailto:epope@wearevoxsolid.com).

**JuiceFarm Adds New Location on the Strip**

JuiceFarm has opened a new location in The Venetian, featuring cold pressed, organic juices, smoothies, superfoods, cleanses and "Rescue Remedy Kits." The California-based company opened first in Pasadena and its location at The Palazzo recently celebrated its one year anniversary. The new location will feature a variety of juice blends including Just Greens and Apple or Radiant Blend with apple, strawberry and lemon as well as fresh smoothie options such as Nice Dates, Kalefornia and Popeye Protein. "Mylks," shakes and lattes tempt sweet tooths while organic superfoods like acai bowls provide a bit of crunch. For more information, contact: Carrie Giverson, One7 Communications, [carrie@one7communications.com](mailto:carrie@one7communications.com).

**Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino Contracts with BeyondTV® Wireless Streaming Player**

Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino has partnered with Hotel Internet Services for the installation of its BeyondTV Wireless Streaming Player, allowing guests to experience the Internet, live TV, video-on-demand, personal media sharing, Internet radio and social media via their guest room TV or personal mobile devices while staying at the resort. Guests at Westgate Las Vegas can view their personal subscribed content such as Netflix, Pandora and Hulu directly on their hotel room TV. In addition guests also have access to amenities including reservations, spa, restaurants, transportation, in room dining and more. This state-of-the-art system will allow guests to view their own videos, movies and photos or listen to their own music securely on BeyondTV, simulating an at-home experience not currently available at any other property. For more information, contact Tana Shivers, Preferred Public Relations [tana@preferredpublicrelations.com](file:///C:\Users\KelliM\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.Outlook\2IEBA72B\tana@preferredpublicrelations.com).

**Tickets Now on Sale for UNLVino 2015, April 16-18**

Celebrating more than 40 years of hospitality excellence, UNLVino invites guests to “take a sip for scholarship” April 16-18, 2015. Three evenings of events – including Bubble-Licious at The Venetian, Sake Fever at Red Rock Casino Resort & Spa and the Grand Tasting at Paris Las Vegas – will continue Southern Wine & Spirits of Nevada’s mission to rally the Las Vegas community in support of UNLV’s William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration. Tickets are now on sale at UNLVTickets.com. UNLVino will also continue its tradition of recognizing hospitality industry leaders with the Dom Pérignon Award of Excellence. The 2015 honorees include culinary icon Daniel Boulud and the “Godfather of Italian-American cooking” Chef Steve Martorano and UNLV’s Presidential Advisor for Strategic Initiatives, Don Snyder. For more information, contact Kara Rutkin or Kaity Cash, Kirvin Doak Communications, [krutkin@kirvindoak.com](mailto:krutkin@kirvindoak.com) or [kcash@kirvindoak.com](mailto:kcash@kirvindoak.com).

**Newly Remodeled LAX Nightclub Lights Up Luxor Hotel &Casino**

**LAX Nightclub** recently remodeled the 26,000 square-foot venue. New features include a larger dance floor, state-of-the-art lighting and sound systems, refreshed interior décor emphasized by silver and gold hues along with enhanced VIP service and bottle selections. Also new is LAX Lounge – an intimate space with a full bar and DJ booth where guests can enjoy a cocktail before entering the nightclub. The club’s second story serves as an exclusive level featuring seven VIP lofts as well as a private dance area. In addition to the design changes, LAX has revamped its programming and will feature music with widespread appeal focusing on emerging artists. Thursday evenings at the nightclub are #TBT (Throwback Thursday) as hits from the ‘80s, ‘90s and 2000s play throughout the evening. Friday and Saturday night s feature “Commercial Pop” – music and remixes from the top of today’s charts and scheduled performances from emerging artists. For more information contact, Kristen Cadenhead or Desiree Garrett, MGM Resorts International, [kcadenhead@mgmresorts.com](mailto:kcadenhead@mgmresorts.com) or [dgarrett@mgmresorts.com](mailto:dgarrett@mgmresorts.com).

**Fantasy Sports Combine to Focus on Strategies to Win Daily, Weekly and Season Long Leagues**

The first ever Fantasy Sports Combine will offer serious fantasy sports enthusiasts game-changing insights and strategies on how to win daily, weekly and season long leagues. **The world’s most elite collection of fantasy experts will help you gain an edge. Learn unique insights from championship-winning coaches, legendary general managers, world-class professional athletes and some of your favorite sports media personalities** for the education and experience of a lifetime at the Wynn Las Vegas and Encore July 17-19, 2015. For more information, contact Brad Seidel or Wendy Sloan, Kirvin Doak Communications, [bseidel@kirvindoak.com](mailto:bseidel@kirvindoak.com) or [wsloan@kirvindoak.com](mailto:wsloan@kirvindoak.com)

**2015 Stellar Gospel Music Awards Makes Its Las Vegas Debut at Orleans Arena on March 27-28**

The first and oldest televised awards show honoring gospel music artists, The Stellar Gospel Music Awards, is heading to Orleans Arena on Saturday, March 28 with additional events held on Friday, March 27. The annual Stellar Awards recognizes the accomplishments of gospel music icons and individuals instrumental in advocating for gospel music. This year’s show will be co-hosted by gospel singer Tamela Mann, comedian Rickey Smiley and comedian David Mann. For more information, contact Jasen Woehrle or Lauren Sasso, The Firm Public Relations & Marketing, [jasenw@thefirmpr.com](mailto:jasenw@thefirmpr.com) or [laurens@thefirmpr.com](mailto:laurens@thefirmpr.com).  
   
**Legendary Speakers, Scavenger Hunts, Flexible Meetings Packages Await Guests at The Mob Museum**

The Mob Museum, recently announced a collection of new group packages. This spring, the Museum launches its Speakers Bureau, featuring members of the Museum’s board of directors which includes professionals from local and state government, law enforcement, the judicial system, media and the business community, such as former Mayor of the City of Las Vegas **Oscar B. Goodman.** For groups seeking team-building activities or simply to be active and entertained as part of the company gathering, Museum Scavenger Hunts provide an intriguing solution. The Mob Museum offers flexible space and can accommodate group events from 10 to 400. For more information, contact Marina Nicola or Erika Pope, Vox Communications, [mnicola@wearevoxsolid.com](mailto:mnicola@wearevoxsolid.com), [epope@wearevoxsolid.com](mailto:epope@wearevoxsolid.com).