

taste las vegas

DINNER AND SHOW'S OF SIN CITY

BY G. DOUGLAS DREISBACH

Las Vegas is the most celebrated adult playground in the world. Boasting endless opportunities to live and play like a king, every visit is sure to be a time to remember. According to the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, the average length of stay for visitors of Sin City is about three days. That equates to nine meals consisting of three breakfasts (if you are awake for breakfast), three lunches and three dinners. Given the fact that there are literally thousands of dining options, it would take a lifetime to try to experience them all, and then there would be new ones to add to the list. *Southern Gaming* has hit the streets and seen the sights and come up with a few suggestions for a perfect night consisting of a fine dinner and high-end production show. In this article, you will find an array of some of the best restaurants in the world ranging in cuisine, atmosphere and price. In addition, we paired each restaurant with their respective properties and highlighted their production show to go a long with it. We hope you like what we have come up with...see you in Las Vegas!

B & B Ristorante & Phantom of the Opera

Property: **The Venetian Resort Hotel Casino**

Contact: 1-877-283-6423 - Venetian.com

Cuisine: Italian

Chef: Mario Batali

Dinner Pricing: \$31 - \$50

Ticket Price: \$55 - \$150

Show Times: Monday – Saturday: 7:00 p.m. with a 9:30 performance on Mondays and Saturdays. Sundays are dark.



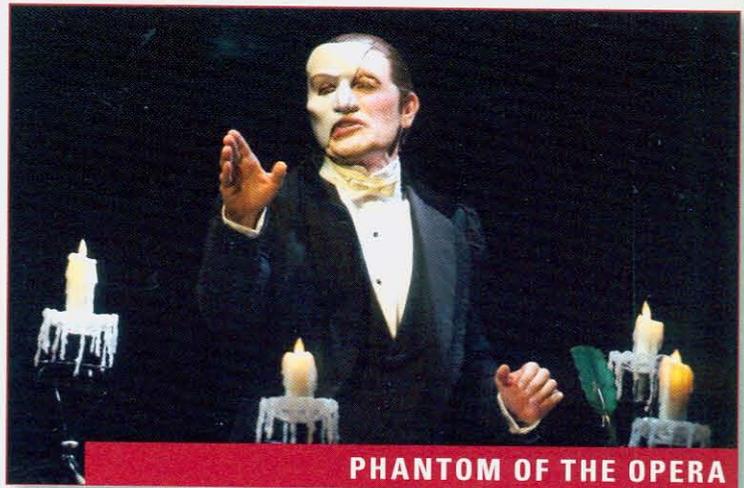
A world awaits you at The Venetian. Experience the imagination and brilliance of chairman, Sheldon Adelson, as you stroll through a replica of Venice with gondolas and street magicians in addition to an eclectic array of high end shops and restaurants throughout the property. Although The Venetian boasts nineteen restaurants and several different shows and attractions, our pairing for the property goes to **B & B Ristorante** with *Phantom of the Opera*. Let Chef Mario Batali and his partner/winemaker Joseph Bastianich take you on an Italian journey at their award-winning New York City based restaurant. Featuring the duo's acclaimed blend of exquisite Italian food, the signature dishes appeal to all personalities- from the classics to the adventurous. Enjoy specialties such as *Mint Love Letters with Spicy Lamb Sausage* or *Whole Grilled Branzino* with Fennel, Gaeta Olives and Lemon Oregano Jam. Guests will also enjoy the comprehensive Bastianich signature wine list with selections from every region in Italy.



B & B RISTORANTE

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After dinner, take a causal stroll to the \$40-million custom built theatre and home of *Phantom of the Opera*. This classic production is enhanced with the ambiance of a theatre resembling a storied Paris Opera House and part of *The Phantom's* world. It is an experience that promises surprises that will astound new audiences as well as loyal Phantom fans alike.



PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

Japonais & The Beatles™ LOVE™

Property: The Mirage Hotel and Casino

Contact: 1-800-456-4564 - Mirage.com

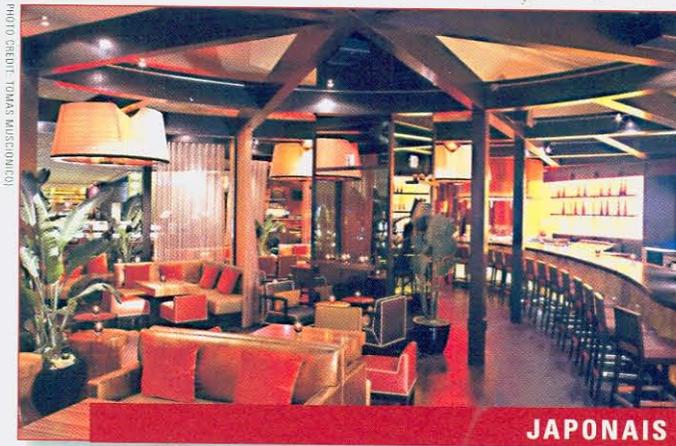
Cuisine: Contemporary Japanese

Chefs: Sushi: Jun Ichikawa - Hot Entrees & Appetizers: Gene Kato

Dinner Pricing: \$60

Ticket Price: \$69 - \$150

Show Times: Monday – Saturday: 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.. Tuesdays and Wednesday are dark.



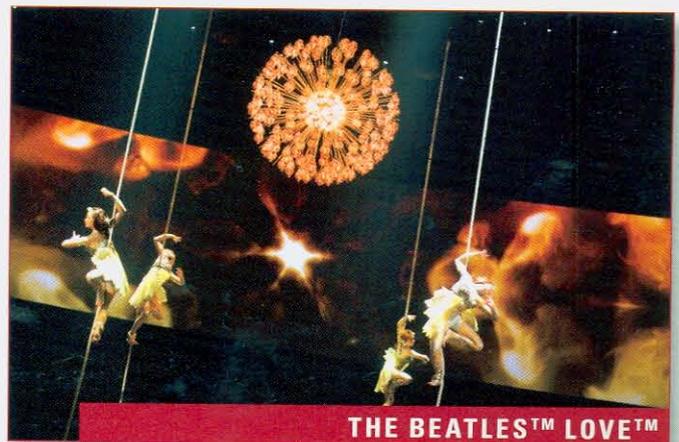
JAPONAIS

The Mirage Hotel and Casino was one of the first creations of Las Vegas casino mogul, Steve Wynn. Serving as one of the charter properties recreating the famous Strip as we know it today, there are endless opportunities for entertainment and eateries all under one roof. We recommend letting your senses go and pair the contemporary Japanese cuisine of Japonais with the latest Cirque du Soleil® production, *The Beatles™ LOVE™*

Upon entering the dimly lit relaxing atmosphere of Japonais, you are immediately removed from the elaborate casino resort environment and warped into a contemporary restaurant you might find in Japan or an area of the Orient. The sounds of water trickling down wall mounted fixtures and the aroma drifting from the kitchen that is open to the dining room, make for a unique, casual dining experience. The vast appetizer selections

range from *Maki Mono with Snow Crap topped with Massago* to the “*The Rock*”, an appetizer featuring a 500 degree rock upon which you flash cook raw, thinly-sliced pieces of marinated New York Strip. Entrees offered include *Le Quack Japonais*, a half-maple leaf smoked duck with hoison sauce, mango chutney and other flavors, and *Ahi Tuna Steak* grilled over a roasted potato scallion potato puree, tempura maitake mushrooms and served with a wasabi glaze as well as American favorites such as an 8 oz. filet mignon grilled with uni butter and served with white miso truffled potato puree and asparagus. After feasting at this trendy restaurant, you will be ready to kick back and enjoy a world class performance in the Mirage auditorium.

Cirque du Soleil® performances are known for taking their audiences on journey's to places their imaginations could only dream of. The latest production is *The Beatles™ LOVE™* and is worth every penny of the ticket price. Created by Cirque founder, Guy Laliberte and late *Beatle*, George Harrison, the two have pieced together some of the most popular songs from *The Beatles* and paired them with a choreographed team of dancers and acrobats making a perfect combination of rock and roll and the art of performance. This has been one of the toughest tickets to get in Las Vegas since it opened and regularly sells out so be sure to get your tickets in advance.



THE BEATLES™ LOVE™

Isla & Mystère

Property: Treasure Island Resort & Casino

Contact: 1-800-963-9634 – TreasureIsland.com

Cuisine: Mexican with a modern twist

Chef: Richard Sandoval

Dinner Pricing: \$20-\$31

Ticket Price: \$60 - \$95

Show Times: Performances Monday through Wednesday and Saturday at 7:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Sunday performances are at 4:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Thursday and Friday are Dark.



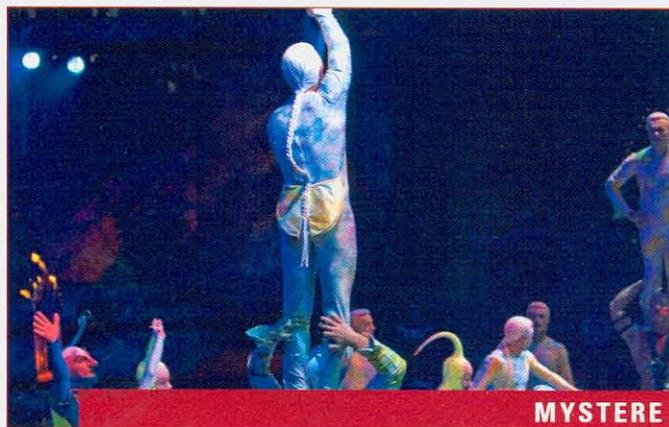
ISLA

Treasure Island is another original Steve Wynne masterpiece and *Mystère* is another Cirque production. However, they both warrant being added to any Las Vegas itinerary as we have found a uniquely elegant atmosphere at Isla and the staple of Cirque in *Mystère*.

Chef Richard Sandoval explores traditional Mexican cuisine with a modern twist at *Isla*. Holding the honor of Best Mexican

Restaurant in Las Vegas by the Las Vegas Life Magazine the appetizer menu features *Crunchy Corn Masa Cakes*, *Isla's Famous Guacomole Cart*, *Empanadas* and several other unique starters while entrees consist of everything from tacos filled with Red Snapper and Cole Slaw to Lobster served rosarito style. The combination of flavors and selections will have your taste buds screaming for more. If you are looking for a casual atmosphere with superior cuisine, this is the spot for you.

Boasting over 8 million spectators since opening in 1993, *Mystère* was the launch of the *Cirque du Soleil*® productions in Las Vegas. A world of imagination waits, where dreams become reality and reality is only a dream. This production opens the audience to a world of incredible human strength and stamina, a world of *Mystère*. A profoundly artistic rendition of the circus tradition, *Mystère* is a vibrant kaleidoscope of breathtaking athleticism and gravity-defying acrobatics.



MYSTERE

Bradley Ogden Restaurant & Bette Midler

Property: Caesars Palace

Contact: 1-866-227-5938 - Harrahs.com

Cuisine: Seasonal Farm-fresh American

Chef: Bradley Ogden

Dinner Pricing:

Ticket Price: T.B.D.

Show Times: T.B.D. Show begins in February 2008.



BETTE MIDLER

Caesars Palace is the staple of Las Vegas and home to names such as Celine, Elton and soon to be Bette. That's right, Bette Midler has aigned on with entertainment promoter AEG Live for a minimum two year deal as the new resident artist at The Colosseum at Caesars Palace starting in February 2008. When asked about her upcoming run in Las Vegas – The Divine Miss M had this to referred to the deal, "Get ready Vegas 'cause here I come! Caesars Palace will never be the same and to all those critics who have accused me of being 'tacky,' 'too much' and 'over the top' I say, you ain't seen nuthin' yet!" With plenty of girls, gags and guffaws, her incomparable humor, the best song catalogue in American music and her fabulous "Kiss My Brass" section, audiences will be treated to an experience that can only be referred to as "divine" and we look forward to the show.

The perfect prelude to the divine Bette Midler's all-new theatrical production, which opens Feb. 20, 2008, in The Colosseum at Caesars Palace, is the quiet elegance of Bradley Ogden. Named for the acclaimed California chef who creates exquisite farm-fresh seasonal American cuisine, the Caesars Palace restaurant was named 2004 Best New Restaurant in the nation by the distinguished James Beard Foundation.