

Welcome to Fabulous (Downtown) Las Vegas!

While this list is certainly not inclusive of everything you'll want to experience, I thought I would suggest some local favorites that are not found in a mega-resort on the Strip. For those who care to venture down Las Vegas Blvd, you will surely find a number of wonderful restaurants, but if you want an off the beaten path Las Vegas dining and/or drinking experience, consider one of these fine establishments. Of course, you can always check out these sites for a few of the critic' choices:

Dining:

Eating Las Vegas - John Curtas gives the low down on fine (and not so fine) dining in Las Vegas...

<http://www.eatinglv.com/>

The Second Deadly Sin - Al Mancini is a local food critic who regularly dishes about his favorite sin on our NPR affiliate...

<http://seconddeadlysin.com/>

Nightlife & Entertainment:

Xania Woodmen - She provides a pretty good scoop on what's what in LV...

<http://weeklyseven.com/author/Xania%2BWoodman>

Las Vegas City Life - our fair city's alternative weekly featuring biting commentary, witty, if not snarky reviews, and few recommendations for us locals in need of entertainment...

<http://www.lasvegascitylife.com/>

Desert Companion - our monthly NPR affiliate's arts and culture rag w/ helpful information about our humble little valley...

<http://www.knpr.org/culture/>

Finally... If you have any questions about what to do or where to go in while in town feel free to call my cell - 702-561-9093. We'll also have 7-8 board members attending that live in Las Vegas, so feel free to ask them what they enjoy as well.

Restaurants near Downtown Area

Some of these restaurants will require a brief cab ride and some are w/in walking distance of the hotel.

- 1. The Peppermill Restaurant & Fireside Lounge - Bus or Cab**
2985 Las Vegas Blvd S, Las Vegas, NV 89109
(702) 735-4177
<http://www.peppermillasvegas.com/>
A Vegas original - big plates for big spenders... and plastic plants galore!
- 2. Firefly - Cab**
3900 Paradise Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89119
(702) 369-3971
www.fireflylv.com
Tapas Bars - great sangria
- 3. The Beat Coffee House - Walking**
6th & Fremont Street, Las Vegas, NV 89101
(702) 409-5563
<http://www.thebeatlv.com/>
Coffee shop w/ great sandwiches and serves beer/wine after 7pm...
- 4. Casa Don Juan - Walking**
1204 S Main St, Las Vegas, NV 89104
(702) 384-8070
<http://www.casadonjuanlv.com/>
Mexican food, great tamales.
- 5. Triple George Grill - Walking**
201 N 3rd St, Las Vegas, NV 89101
(702) 384-2761
<http://www.triplegeorgegrill.com/>
Near the hotel, solid food.
- 6. Kabob Korner - Walking**
507 E Fremont St, Las Vegas, NV 89101
(702) 384-7722
<http://www.yelp.com/biz/kabob-korner-las-vegas>
Greek, Indian, Mediterranean, Pakistani - Cheap eats and late night snacking!

7. **Chicago Joe's - Walking**

820 S Fourth St, Las Vegas, NV 89101

(702) 382-5637

<http://chicagojoesrestaurant.com/>

Inexpensive Italian – walking distance from hotel, another Friday night option b/c of its proximity to the Arts District. Try the house wine w/ peaches.

8. **Bar + Bistro @ The Arts Factory - Walking**

107 E Charleston Blvd #155, Las Vegas, NV 89104

(702) 202-6060

www.barbistroaf.com

American, Seafood, International, Tapas – GREAT option for those planning spending Friday night at the First Friday Art Festival near the hotel.

9. **Lotus of Siam – Cab (Reservations STRONGLY recommended.)**

953 E Sahara Ave # A5

Las Vegas, NV 89104-3028

(702) 735-3033

<http://www.saipinchutima.com/#/HOME-01-00/>

The BEST Thai food in the West if not the country!

10. **Namaste - Cab**

953 East Sahara Avenue A#6

Las Vegas, NV 89104

(702) 892-9695

<http://www.namastelasvegas.com/>

The often over-looked next door neighbor to Lotus of Siam... great food Indian food and if you're lucky, the owner will serenade you w/ the sounds of Bette Midler or Celine Dion

Restaurants worth the drive – Reservations STRONGLY recommended!

1. **Rosemary's – Cab**

8125 West Sahara Avenue

Las Vegas, NV 89117

(702) 869-2251

<http://www.rosemarysrestaurant.com/>

An excellent restaurant by a local award winning chef.

2. Nora's Wine Bar & Osteria – Cab

1031 South Rampart Boulevard
Las Vegas, NV 89145-8504
(702) 940-6672

<http://www.noraswinebar.com/>

Slow food restaurant, excellent wine list, and a great place to spend a couple hours. I might be able to take a couple people in my car if there's interest.

3. Jaleo – Bus or Cab

Located in the Cosmopolitan
(702) 698-7950

http://www.jaleo.com/index.php/contact/las_vegas

Okay, so this is one of two Strip restaurants that I had to include, but this one is in a super cool hotel. Those who have experienced Jaleo elsewhere can attest – they rock the tapas, paella, and sangria here.

4. Sage – Bus or Cab

Located in Aria @ City Center
(877) 230- 2742

<http://www.ariasvegas.com/dining/sage.aspx>

Number 2 on my Strip recommendations, this restaurant pretty much makes one of the best dishes I have ever had as a proud, but sometimes reluctant omnivore: braised veal cheeks... This is also a slow food restaurant. Make sure you give the absinthe cart/bar a try after dinner.

Bars near Downtown Area (and pretty much the only ones I frequent).

1. The Griffin - Walking

511 Fremont St, Las Vegas, NV 89101
(702) 382-0577

<http://www.vegas.com/nightlife/bars/thegriffin.html>

Beer and whisky bar, cool kids hangout.

2. Beauty Bar - Walking

517 Fremont St #A, Las Vegas, NV 89101
(702) 598-1965

http://www.thebeautybar.com/las_vegas/

Live music venue

3. **Don't tell Mama - Walking**

517 Fremont St, Las Vegas, NV 89101

(702) 207-0788

<http://www.vegas.com/nightlife/bars/donttellmama.html>

Piano Bar, but so much more...

4. **Vanguard Lounge - Walking**

516 Fremont St, Las Vegas, NV 89101

(702) 868-7800

<http://www.vanguardlv.com>

GREAT COCKTAILS – make sure you order an Old Fashion, not muddled at this fine establishment!

5. **Downtown Cocktail Room - Walking**

111 Las Vegas Blvd South, Las Vegas, NV 89101

(702) 880-3696

<http://thedowntownlv.com/>

GREAT COCKTAILS – very cool place, thoughtful drinks... try a Huntridge, or two!

6. **Sidebar - Walking**

201 N 3rd St, Las Vegas, NV 89101

(702) 259-9700

<http://www.sidebarlv.com/>

GREAT COCKTAILS

7. **Dino's Lounge – Bus or Cab**

1516 Las Vegas Blvd S, Las Vegas, NV 89104

(702) 382-3894

<http://www.vegas.com/nightlife/bars/dinos.html>

“Las Vegas’ Last Neighborhood Bar” – dive bar, karaoke anyone? Our board member Chris Brooks LOVES this place and would probably lead a few of you on a field trip...

8. **Frankie's Tiki Room - Cab**

1712 W Charleston Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89102

(702) 385-3110

<http://www.frankiestikiroom.com/>

Worth taking a cab to if you're a fan of rum and all things tiki. Can get a little smoky, but you're in Las Vegas, so go figure...

9. **The Artisan Café and Lounge - Cab**

1501 W Sahara Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89102

(702) 214-4000

http://www.vegas.com/nightlife/bars/artisan_lounge.html

Strange décor and lots of mirrors... but Democratic operatives seem to love it...

10. **Herbs & Rye - Cab**

3713 W. Sahara

Las Vegas, NV 89102

(702) 982-8036

<http://www.herbsandrye.com/>

GREAT COCKTAILS – recipes dating back to the late 19th century – and good food

Shows/Attractions near Downtown Area

I've only been to one show in seven years of living in Las Vegas, so don't ask me which ones or what my opinion is... you're better off asking others who have been or perhaps checking with the local entertainment news. Why don't I go to shows? Simple, I'd rather visit the sports book or the black jack table when I'm at a casino....

1. **First Friday**

What: This month visual artists, Improv, street musicians, bands, great food and more art. Come out to support the arts community, enjoy the entertainment and find new work by your favorite artists.

When: Friday, April 1, 2011

Where: In the Arts District, from Holsum Lofts (Just east of I-15 on Charleston) to 3rd Street and from Wyoming (a few blocks south of Charleston) to Boulder Ave

Cost: Ranges from \$5-10.

Website: <http://www.firstfriday-lasvegas.org/>

2. **Zip Lining down Fremont Street**

What: What's 800 feet long, taller than a 6 story building and lets you fly above the crowded Fremont Experience? The new Zip line ride and it's now up and running.

When: Weekends: Fri, Sat – 12pm-2am; Weekdays : Sun-Thurs 12pm-midnight

Where: Fremont Street

Cost: \$15 from 2-6pm; \$20 from 6pm-midnight; \$5 off for a re-ride

Website: <http://fremontstreetflightline.com/>

3. **Cirque du Soleil** (Including The Beatles Love, Viva La Elvis, O, Ka, Mystere, Le Reve, Zumanity, Criss Angel Believe)
What: Cirque du Soleil
When: Nightly, depending on show
Where: Varies by show
Cost: \$69-\$200 depending on show and seating
Website: <http://promo-www.cirquedusoleil.com/las-vegas/home.html>

4. **Blue Man Group**
What: Musical/Comedy Show
When: Nightly at 7pm & 10pm
Where: The Venetian Hotel and Casino
Cost: \$65-\$150
Website: <http://www.bluman.com/tickets/las-vegas>

5. **Jersey Boys**
What: Broadway Musical: The story of Frankie Valli & the Four Seasons
When: Thursday 7pm; Friday 7pm; Saturday 6:30pm & 9:30pm; Sundays 3pm & 7pm
Where: The Palazzo Hotel and Casino
Cost: \$73-\$161
Website: <http://www.jerseyboysinfo.com/vegas/>

6. **Lion King**
What: Broadway Musical
When: Thursday 7:30pm; Dark Friday; Saturday 4pm & 8pm; Sunday 4pm & 8pm
Where: Mandalay Bay Hotel and Casino
Cost: \$71-\$178
Website: <http://disney.go.com/theatre/thelionking/lasvegas/>

7. **Penn & Teller**
What: Magic and Comedy Show
When: Saturday & Sunday 9pm
Where: Rio Hotel and Casino
Cost: \$82-\$104
Website: <http://www.pennandteller.com/>

8. **V – Ultimate Variety Show**
What: Variety show which includes magic, special effects, death-defying stunts, wild comedy, visual artists, physical insanity and much more.

When: Nightly at 7pm & 8:30pm
Where: Planet Hollywood Hotel and Casino
Cost: Tickets starting at \$60
Website: <http://www.vtheshow.com/>

9. **Bodies – The Exhibition**

What: BODIES...The Exhibition provides an intimate and informative view into the human body. Over 200 actual human bodies and specimens, meticulously, dissected and respectfully displayed, offer an unprecedented and wholly unique look into your amazing body.

When: Daily 10am-10pm
Where: Luxor Hotel and Casino
Cost: \$32
Website: <http://www.bodiestheexhibition.com/lasvegas/>

10. **Madame Tussauds Wax Museum**

What: A museum of life size wax figurines of some of our most historic icons. They look so incredibly real you will think you are looking at the real thing!

When: Sun-Thurs 10am-9:30pm; Fri-Sat 10am-10:30pm
Where: The Venetian Hotel and Casino
Cost: \$25 (if purchased from website save \$5)
Website: <http://www.madametussauds.com/LasVegas/>

11. **American Superstars**

What: Las Vegas impersonators pay tribute to stars such as Lady Gaga, Michael Jackson, Charlie Daniels, Carrie Underwood, Elvis Presley, and many more.

When: Sun-Tues 7pm; Wed-Saturday 6:30pm & 8:30pm
Where: Stratosphere Hotel and Casino
Cost: \$39.99 (Show & Dinner package only \$5 more)
Website: <http://www.stratospherehotel.com/Hotel/Nightlife/Shows/American-Superstars>