

ACSUS 2017 Biennial Conference

Celebrating Canada's Sesquicentennial Journey

October 18 - 21, 2017

Tuscany Suites and Casino, Las Vegas, NV

ACSUS is providing a variety sampling of information for conference attendees, friends and families in the hopes of enriching the Las Vegas experience. For any of the information, please be sure to check in case there have been changes. Most of the information was found online from sites such as Yelp and TravelAdvisor, plus visitor guides from DK (*Top 10 Las Vegas, 2015*), Frommer's (*Frommer's Easy Guide to Las Vegas 2017*) and Fodor's (*Las Vegas 2016*). **Many family friendly options are in bold print.**

After ACSUS 2015, a survey was conducted to gain feedback about the conference experience in Las Vegas at the Tuscany Suites. The majority of comments were very positive, in particular about the kitchenettes, the size of the suites (particularly amenable to attendees sharing accommodation as well as families), the landscaping and pool areas as well as the quality of the staff. The property is convenient to the interstate and the airport. The price of the rooms for ACSUS is low, in large part because the Tuscany is a couple blocks off the Strip and an older property.

There are relatively low cost flights to the city from both US and Canadian airports. The low ACSUS conference hotel rates combined with the all-suite accommodations provide a wonderful opportunity for attendees with tighter budgets to share or bring their families. The rooms either have a king with a foldout couch or two double beds. Each room has a dining and a living room area as well as refrigerators, microwave, coffee maker and sink. Please join ACSUS in encouraging students and junior faculty to attend and participate at our 24th Biennial Conference, October 18-21!

www.acsus.org

www.tuscanylv.com

The following information is a sample of the many reasons over 40 million people are anticipated to visit Las Vegas this year.

History

The first people to live in this area, the Kawaiisu, Kitaneck, Seranno, Koso and Chemehuevi, are believed to have arrived about 2000 years ago. Spanish explorers first came to the area in 1820s, followed by John Fremont of the US Army Corps of Engineers in 1844. A Mormon trading post was established in 1855 and Nevada became a state in 1864. Historians disagree on the role of the 1864 US election, some claiming a Union rush for Nevada statehood to increase pro-Lincoln votes in his bid for re-election. Others point out the Lincoln won Electoral College 212 to 21, so that may just be one of the many colorful stories in US western mythology. Gambling, already existing in back rooms, became legal in 1931, the same year the Hoover Dam was begun. Although it was a key component of FDR's New Deal Public Works Administration, the project was approved by Congress in 1928. Hoover Dam was completed in 1935.

“Las Vegas” means “the meadows”. As was true in other parts of the US, such as Florida, development took off with the introduction of air conditioning in the 1940s. Combined with the Hoover Dam, irrigation agriculture also increased dramatically in the mid-20th century. The first major hotel and casino, the Flamingo, was built by Benjamin “Bugsy” Malone and opened in 1946. Initially linked closely to the mob, Las Vegas also became the playground for famous people from all walks of life, with the “Rat Pack” as one of the most well-known (Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr., Dean Martin, Peter Lawford and Joey Bishop).

Today Las Vegas is not only one of the US's youngest cities, but also one of the fastest growing, with a population of over two million in the greater metropolitan area. Beyond the glitter, the city is considered one of the best for raising families. A leading financial and cultural center for the desert southwest of the US, almost one-third of households have children under the age of 18. Residents come from all over North America and the world, including many of the best chefs, entertainers and artists.

To learn more about the history of Las Vegas and Nevada, visit the Las Vegas Natural History Museum, the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, the Clark County Heritage Museum, and the Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort Historic State Park.

The best way to enjoy visiting an area is to read about it ahead of time in order to better appreciate what you see and experience. A recommended book is Land, Barbara and Myrick Land, *A Short History of Las Vegas* (Las Vegas: University of Nevada Press, 2004), which is available used on paperback starting at \$2.48 plus shipping or \$10.99 on Kindle (www.amazon.com).

Budget-Friendly Activities (many of these are family friendly)

There are numerous ways to enjoy Las Vegas on a budget. Most visitors begin by walking along the Strip. There also is a monorail and many free trams (<http://www.lasvegas-how-to.com/free-tram.php>).

The Strip is worth a stroll, especially at night, with lights and fountains. The main area is Las Vegas Boulevard, which is about a third of a mile from the conference hotel (west on Flamingo Road), and extends a total of four miles north and south of its midpoint at Flamingo Road. Just west of the hotel, at the intersection with Koval Lane, are gas stations as well as two convenience stores.

Along the Strip there are many attractions. Often there are roving impersonators (Elvis Presley and Marilyn Monroe are the most popular). Other sights and theme hotels/casinos that can be enjoyed for free (please check their websites to confirm times if relevant):

Fountains of Bellagio
Flamingo Wildlife Habitat
Caesars' saltwater aquarium (diver feeding times and tours available)
Caesars Palace Grounds
The Mirage Volcano (best after dark, on the hour)
Mandalay Bay Shark Reef Aquarium
Paris Las Vegas
Venetian's Gondoliers and Minstrels
Silverton Aquarium
M&M's World
The Sphinx at Luxor
Grimaldi's Pizzeria fashion show
Wynn Conservatory
Wynn Lake of Dreams

Some theme hotels visitors particularly enjoy include:

New York-New York
Hard Rock Hotel
Planet Hollywood
Circus Circus
Excalibur

About a dozen miles outside the city is the **Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve**. Fall is one of the best times to visit this 100-acre preserve as its nine ponds are a favorite stop for migratory waterbirds. The office has binoculars and can provide advice on the best times to visit. The preserve is free. For information see www.cityofhenderson.com.

A favorite is the **Fremont Street Experience**, located north of the Strip in the downtown area. The street is covered by a 90-foot-high canopy, and has 24/7 integrated video, music and graphics.

The downtown area has been, since 1998, a designated arts district. There are many art galleries and art-oriented eateries and bars, many proud to cater to alternative art, music and literature.

Before you leave downtown, check out the **Downtown Container Park**, an open air mall made literally from shipping containers. It includes a three-story treehouse with “grown-up friendly slides”. A favorite of visitors is a big, fire-breathing praying mantis that began its life at the (in)famous Burning Man festival held annually in northern Nevada.

Closer in, across from Caesar’s, is the **LINQ**, a \$550 million entertainment-style streetscape with eateries, stores and bars (including self-serve margaritas) as well as strolling entertainers.

With, or Without, the Kids

Circus Circus has a permanent indoor circus as well as an Adventure Dome. Excalibur has a Tournament of Kings, where the kids actually have to eat dinner with their hands and are encouraged to be noisy while viewing knights jousting. The Excalibur also has a Fun Dungeon for kids of all ages.

Museums oriented to families with children include the Discovery Children's Museum and the Las Vegas Natural History Museum. The kids will also enjoy the Flamingo Wildlife Habitat (close to hotel, 24 hours and free), the Children's Park at Town Square, the Shark Reef Aquarium at the Mandalay Bay, Siegfried and Roy's Secret Garden and Dolphin Habitat at the Mirage, and the Las Vegas Mini Grand Prix.

Families may want to check out the Rainbow Company, whose stage productions all are geared toward children (www.rainbowcompany.org). The SoBe Ice Arena, of course, may draw a few Canadian-friendly folks as well.

For the older kids seeking a thrill, and for older folks who are not faint at heart, there is the Big Apple Coaster, the Big Shot, the High Roller, the Desperado, and the Canyon Blaster (all roller coasters).

Further south on the Strip is Hershey's Chocolate World (yes, there is a testing area) and at the Luxor, Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition.

About a dozen miles outside the city is the Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve. Fall is one of the best times to visit this 100-acre preserve as its nine ponds are a favorite stop for migratory water birds. The office has binoculars and can provide advice on the best times to visit. The preserve is free. For information see www.cityofhenderson.com.

Twenty-five miles away is Red Rock Canyon. In addition to the spectacular Red Rock Vista Overlook, there is a Children's Trail, as well as a Junior Explorer discovery book available at the visitor center. While there, look for the desert tortoises, prehistoric petroglyphs and pictographs, bighorn sheep, desert whiptail lizards and *tinajas*, rock water catchments that attract local wildlife. While driving along Hwy 159, be watchful of cyclists, who often frequent the route.

Thirty miles outside of town is Hoover Dam, the 8th wonder of the modern world. The views are breathtaking, and the museum, the visitor center and tours are excellent. There are three-hour rafting trips that usually are calm float trips (please check conditions).

Further out, but well worth the drive, is Lake Mead. Cruises on the lake are great for wildlife viewing. If time allows, consider renting a house boat for a few days.

Another possible day trip would be to combine a 0.8 mile trail in Petroglyph Canyon (Valley of Fire State Park) and the Lost City Museum of Archeology (Overton, NV), both relatively close to Interstate 15. Hiking and rock climbing also are popular activities at Mount Charleston (formally

Springs Mountain National Recreation Area), at 11,918 feet visible from the city, and just 35 miles away.

An excursion that would be best with a couple days to travel and enjoy is the Grand Canyon. The Grand Canyon is one of those places for which words fail. Its official website is <https://www.nps.gov/grca/index.htm>. Other national parks in the Southwest that will be experiences your kids will never forget include Death Valley in California and several parks in Utah (Zion, Arches, Bryce Canyon, Canyonlands).

When taking the kids to outside adventures, bear in mind that there can be very hot days in October (the average high in October 81F/21C). Combined with the low humidity, it is not uncommon to underestimate how much water you will need to bring and be drinking. Don't forget the sunscreen.

Nine Best Places to View Las Vegas*

Las Vegas has a skyline like no other city. The Strip's neon glow can be seen from across the valley. And with views this spectacular, it'd be a shame not to feast your eyes on the best places to catch a glimpse.

1. The Foundation Room at Mandalay Bay

You'll find that this lounge is a little more unique than some of the others you might visit. The Tibetan-themed venue is decorated with lush carpets and Eastern artifacts. It's even known to host burlesque dancers on occasion.

Venue Type: Lounge

Type of View

Located on the 43rd floor of the hotel, this lounge offers a view of the entire Strip from the farthest point south. Standing on the balcony, you'll get a great view of the MGM Grand, all the way to the Eiffel Tower at Paris Las Vegas, and everything in-between. It's one of the best places to take a photo with the entire Strip in the background.

2. Hyde Bellagio

Hyde Bellagio is one of the more decadent places on this list, mainly because of the ambiance. It's said that it draws its mystery from having been an Italian-themed villa for a famed artist, complete with marble floors, chandeliers and even a Tuscan-themed garden that leads straight to the outdoor terrace, which frames the famous Fountains of Bellagio.

Venue Type: Lounge/Nightclub

Type of View

This venue offers an up close and personal view of the Bellagio fountains. If you're standing close enough to the edge, you may be able to feel a few drops of water.

3. The Eiffel Tower Experience at Paris Las Vegas

The Eiffel Tower in Las Vegas might not be as tall as the one in Paris, France, but it's certainly worth the trip to the observation tower.

The attraction provides guests with an interactive tablet that allows them to see what it would be like to be standing on the tower as though they were actually in France by holding the tablet over the city skyline.

Venue Type: Attraction

Type of View

360-degree view, 460 feet in the air, with ambassadors to help point out various Vegas attractions.

4. Maverick Helicopter Tours

This experience is fairly self-explanatory. You'll ride in a Maverick helicopter high above the Las Vegas Valley, seeing the city from several unique vantage points.

Venue Type: Tours

Type of View

It's one of the only ways you can see a full 360-degree view of the entire valley. That alone makes it worth the ride.

5. Top of the World at The Stratosphere

Top of the World is known as one of the most romantic restaurants in the city. It offers an intimate dining setting paired with an extravagant view of the entire city, all encompassed in a 360-degree revolving frame. Yes, that's right, this restaurant allows diners the opportunity to see Las Vegas in its entirety if they're able to stay for at least 80 minutes, the time needed for one full rotation.

Venue Type: Restaurant (Fodor's Best Romantic)

Type of View

It might surprise you, but this is the only revolving restaurant in Las Vegas. Located 844 feet in the air, you're bound to get a great view of the city with its massive floor-to-ceiling windows.

6. Mandarin Bar at Mandarin Oriental

This is a bar you don't want to miss out on; offering an intimate appeal in an upscale setting, enjoying a cocktail here will make you feel like you've become an elite among the Vegas crowds. The chic design and color pallet go hand in hand with the dimly lit ambiance. The bar even offers handcrafted cocktails, ingeniously designed by its own team of mixologists.

Venue Type: Lounge

Type of View

Due to the central location of Mandarin Oriental, Mandarin Bar offers patrons a direct view of the Las Vegas skyline from within the skyline itself. But depending on where you sit, you can either get an impressive view of the south end facing toward New York-New York, or the north end, toward Planet Hollywood.

7. Boulevard Pool at The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas

You won't find a venue quite like the Boulevard Pool at The Cosmopolitan anywhere else in Las Vegas. It's a space that doubles as a pool and event venue. During the summer, guests can hang out and relax at the pool, but when it's not being used as a pool, the hotel turns it into a concert venue and even an ice-skating rink.

Venue Type: Pool/Concert Venue

Type of View

The location of the pool, which was ingeniously planned, is positioned at eye level with all of the surrounding hotels. It's here where you can catch the best view of the Eiffel Tower at Paris Las Vegas, without having to look up at it.

8. Ghostbar at The Palms

Ghostbar may be a Vegas nightclub, but it doesn't come with the feeling of being too crowded due to its spacious outdoor terrace. After being remodeled in 2013, the bar's new design gives it a chic and sophisticated modern edge with glass chandeliers; black, white and fuchsia décor; and steel-framed accents.

And unlike other clubs, it offers a champagne happy hour from 8-10 p.m.

Venue Type: Nightclub

Type of View

Situated just west of the iconic Strip, club-goers are able to view the entire Las Vegas valley and, of course, the Strip, with a direct view of Bellagio and Caesars Palace.

9. High Roller Observation Wheel at The LINQ

One of the newer attractions in Las Vegas, the High Roller offers visitors a 360-degree glimpse of the city. The entire ride takes only 30 minutes and offers ticket holders historical information about Las Vegas while on their ride.

Venue Type: Attraction

Type of View

A 500-foot-high view of the city, 360 degrees around. It's cheaper to ride during the day, but the view is better at night.

* <http://viva.lasvegas.com/vegas-hacks/eye-candy-9-incredible-places-to-view-vegas/>

Indoor and Outdoor Adventures

In Las Vegas, you can be an “Airline Captain for a Day” in a Boeing 737 simulator. At SkyJump Las Vegas, you can jump off the 108th floor of the Stratosphere onto a landing pad, or try your hand at Vegas Indoor Skydiving. If that is not enough, go to the Richard Petty Driving Experience to satisfy your inner NASCAR.

Outside of Las Vegas are many outdoor opportunities. Just 25 miles away is Red Rock Canyon, a wonderful way to experience the Mojave Desert. There is a 13 mile drive and more than 30 miles of hiking trails, including a Children’s Discovery Trail. While there, look for the desert tortoises, prehistoric petroglyphs and pictographs, bighorn sheep, desert whiptail lizards and *tinajas*, rock water catchments that attract wildlife. Guided walks are available with specialists in, for example, geology and wild flowers. Cyclists also frequent Hwy 159; be sure to share the road!

Seeing the Las Vegas valley can be enjoyed by bicycle and horseback.

- All-Mountain Cyclery - www.allmountaincyclerly.com
- McGhie’s Bike Outpost - www.mcghies.com
- Cowboy Trail Rides - www.cowboytrailrides.com

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For organized tours, see:

- Gray Lines Tours - www.graylinelasvegas.com
- All Las Vegas Tours - www.alllasvegastours.com
- Pink Jeep Tours - <https://www.pinkjeeptours.com/>
- Awesome Adventures - www.awesomeadventures.com
- ATV Wilderness Tours (Utah) - <https://atvadventures.com/>
- Lake Mead Cruises - www.lakemeadcruises.com
- Maverick Helicopter Tours - www.maverickhelicopter.com
- Papillon (also helicopter) - www.papillon.com
- Sundance Helicopters - www.sundancehelicopters.com

Retail Therapy

Of the many ways Las Vegas provides opportunities to go broke outside the casinos, the following are of note.

On the way to Caesars, you will pass (or go through) the Grand Bazaar Shops in front of Bally's. On to the **Forum Shops at Caesars**, which has over 160 stores, is open 24 hours, has strolling performers, a unique Sky Ceiling that cycles a full day and night each hour. In addition there are streetscapes inspired by the ancient Roman Forum, a three story high free-stranding spiral escalator, and an aquarium (divers feed the fish daily at 1:15pm and 5:15pm, behind-the-scenes tours are available).

Across the street from Caesars is the LINQ, a \$550 million entertainment-style streetscape with eateries, stores and bars (including self-serve margaritas). Visit as well the Crystals at City Center, which includes designer stores and works of art in an eco-friendly site that has been certified by the US Green Building Council and is host to multiple Cirque de Soleil shows.

If you have any money (or credit) left, check out the Miracle Mile Shops at Planet Hollywood, Via Bellagio, the Galleria at Sunset, the Grand Canal Shoppes at the Venetian, Mandalay Place and the Town Square Las Vegas.

Shows (please check these venues to determine adult vs. family-oriented content)

Las Vegas has many music and performing arts venues. Many are in the casinos and theme hotels. As you know, the city is famous for its showgirls. Some of these shows have earlier performances geared (dressed?) for **families**. To check what is available during your stay, the following sources are available online.

- www.vegas.eater.com
- <https://lasvegasmagazine.com/>
- <http://www.reviewjournal.com/>
- <https://lasvegassun.com/>
- <https://lasvegasweekly.com/>

Long running shows include Cirque de Soleil venues of *O*, *Mystère*, *KÀ* and *The Beatles LOVE*. Other favorites are *Penn & Teller* (comic/magic, Fodor's Choice), *Le Rêve*, *Jubilee!*, *Blue Man Group*, *Absinthe*, *Mac King Comedy Magic Show*, *Human Nature: The Motown Show* and *Jersey Boys*. Performers who are considered "resident headliners" include Britney Spears, Carrot Top, Celine Dion, magician David Copperfield (**a favorite with the kids**), Donny and Marie Osmond, Elton John, Canadian impressionist Gordon Brown, ventriloquist Jeff Dunham, Rod Stewart, impressionist and puppeteer Terry Fator and comedian Vinnie Favorito.

They can be a bit harder to find (there are so many!) but Las Vegas has many tribute bands that usually are very good. Some of the best are off the Strip. So whether you want the Bee Gees, Sinatra, or Motown sound, these acts may or may not have a cover charge.

For performances by the **Nevada Ballet Theater** and the **Las Vegas Philharmonic**, see:

- www.nevadaballet.com (in nearby Summerlin)
- www.lvphil.org (downtown)

Addition theater options include:

- Las Vegas Little Theater - www.lvlt.org
- Onyx Theatre - www.onyxtheatre.com
- University of Nevada - Las Vegas Theater Department - www.unlv.edu/theatre
- The Smith Center for the Performing Arts - www.thesmithcenter.com

Tickets can be expensive and some shows can sell out well ahead of time. Many are available through Ticketmaster as well as Tickets and Tours. Tix4tonight has last minute deals, especially for the non-headliners. The closest Tix4tonight location to the hotel is Bally's Grand Bizarre at the intersection of Flamingo and Las Vegas Boulevard. They sell same day tickets, as well as some in advance, and can make some reservations over the phone.

- www.ticketmaster.com
- www.ticketsandtours.com
- www.tix4tonight.com - 877-849-4868

For sold-out shows, many venues hold out a few tickets and it may be possible to get in as a standby. Please contact the individual venues for their policies and recommendations.

Las Vegas also has many preview TV studios, some actually pay you for your feedback! A top recommendation is the CBS Television City Research Center at the MGM - www.tvcityresearch.com (702-891-5752).

Museums

Again, there is a wide variety of choices, and some already have been mentioned in other sections. Here is a summary. Beginning with uniqueness, Las Vegas has (of course) the Mob Museum and the Neon Museum. Related to the area's history is the Atomic Testing Museum (close to the hotel on Flamingo). For additional knowledge about Nevada and Las Vegas, consider visiting the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society and the Clark County Heritage Museum.

Art is found all around the streets and buildings of Las Vegas. Collections can be seen at the Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art (temporary exhibitions of 19th and 20th century works) and the Marjorie Barrick Museum on the UNLV campus (contemporary and ethnographic art, crafts from Mesoamerican are, and the "Xeriscape", an arboretum of drought-tolerant plants).

The downtown area (north of the Strip) is a designated art district.

Museums oriented to families with children include the **Discovery Children's Museum** and the **Las Vegas Natural History Museum**.

Outside of town, near the Valley of Fire State Park is the Lost City Museum of Archeology (Overton, NV). There also is a museum at Hoover Dam.

For other museums, try Tripadvisor.

- at www.tripadvisor.com, in the box "find" type in "museum", and "Las Vegas" under "near".

Restaurants

There are so many options. The restaurants mentioned here, unless noted, are in the middle or central Strip area, closest to the Tuscany Suites.

If you have to ask the price, you probably shouldn't go, "gourmet" restaurants.

Andre's (French/American)

Picasso (French, Fodor's Star Choice and Best by Price)

Jaleo (Tapas, Zagat Must-Try Celebrity Chef)

Joël Robuchon Restaurant (French with Asian and Spanish influences, Fodor's Star Choice,

Fodor's Best by Price, Fodor's Best French, Fodor's Best Decor)

Mastro's Ocean Club (surf and turf, Fodor's Best by Price, Fodor's Best Seafood, Fodor's Best

Décor, Zagat's Best Seafood)

Prime Steakhouse (French, Fodor's Best Steak House)

Restaurant Guy Savoy (French, Zagat Must-Try Celebrity Chef)

Roy's (Pacific Rim cuisine)

Scarpetta (Italian, Zagat Must-Try Celebrity Chef, Zagat's Best Italian)

Bouchon Bistro (Fodor's Best Breakfast)

More moderately priced restaurants.

Brooklyn Bowl (eclectic)

Buddy V's Ristorante (Italian)

Cabo Wabo Cantina (Mexican)

Carmine's (Italian)

China Poblano (Chinese/American, Zagat's Best Chinese)

Giada (Italian)

Gilley's (BBQ)

Gordon Ramsay Pub & Grill (pub/British)

Guy Fieri's Vegas Kitchen (American)

Hash House a Go Go (American, Fodor's Best by Price, Fodor's Best Breakfast)

Holstein's Shakes and Buns (American, "emphasis" on organic)

Hofbräuhaus - (away from the Strip, near UNLV, which is off Flamingo - walk along Flamingo in the opposite direction from the Strip, turn right on Paradise, Fodor's Best **Child-Friendly**)

Lagasse's Stadium (American)

Mon Ami Gabi at Paris Las Vegas (Bistro - listed as a top ten by DK)

Nobu - (Sushi, Zagat's Best Sushi, Zagat's Best Japanese)

Payard Patisserie & Bistro

Pink Taco - (away from the Strip, near UNLV, which is off Flamingo - walk along Flamingo in the opposite direction from the Strip, turn right on Paradise, Fodor's Best Mexican)

Public House (Gastropub, serves a duck confit *poutine*)

Serendipity 3 (American - try the **Frrrozen Hot Chocolate** on warm days)

Yardbird (Eclectic)

Inexpensive Eateries

Ellis Island Café - diner in the Ellis Island Casino, steps away from the Tuscany Suites at the intersection of Koval and Flamingo, open 24 hours

-- also in the Ellis Island Casino, Metro Pizza (Zagat's Best Pizza, Zagat's Most Popular)

Forum food court

Fulton Street food court

Gordon Ramsay BurGR

Pinks (deli)

Las Vegas is known for its buffets (some of these are a bit farther out).

Expensive

- Bacchanal

- Bellagio (Zagat's Most Popular)

- Caesars Palace Bacchanal Buffet

- Mirage Cravings Buffet (**ages 5 - 10 reduced cost, free 4 and under**)

- Paris Las Vegas Le Village Buffet

- Village Seafood Buffet

- Wicked Spoon Buffet

Moderate

- The Buffet at Treasure Island (**ages 4 - 10 reduced cost, and under free**)

- Flavors at Harrah's (**ages 4 - 10 reduced cost, 3 and under free**)

- Carnival World Buffet

- Le Village Buffet

Further away, but a good deal

- Main Street Station Garden Court (**downtown - 3 and under free**)

- Gold Coast's Ports O'Call - (**Gold Coast - ages 4 - 9 reduced cost, 3 and under free**)



Special Sweets - Jean-Phillippe Patisserie in Bellagio (Fodor's Star Choice, Zagat's Most Popular, **kids will love the chocolate fountain**)

Additional Information

Smoking was an issue for some at the 2015 conference, and is addressed here.

Smoking is legal in public places in the state of Nevada, including casinos. This is unusual these days, and businesses in the city of Las Vegas have addressed the concern. The newer casinos have high ceilings and powerful, sophisticated air circulations systems to mitigate the effects of smokers. Many are very effective. It is not surprising that the most popular casinos have the best interior air quality; some have gambling areas that are smoke-free. These casinos include:

Artisan
Bellagio
Caesar's Palace
MGM Grand
The Mirage
Palazzo
Venetian
Wynn Encore

Bellagio and Caesar's Palace are just a couple blocks from the Tuscany Suites. Within the Tuscany Suites, smoking is noticeable in the casinos and stairwells from the casino. Smoke was not a factor in the breakout rooms and non-smoking suites are available. Marilyn's Café, a 24/7 restaurant, can only be accessed through the casino, but smoking is not a problem in the restaurant itself, which serves simple but good food at very economical prices. The hotel also has an upscale Italian restaurant as well as coffee and take-away options.