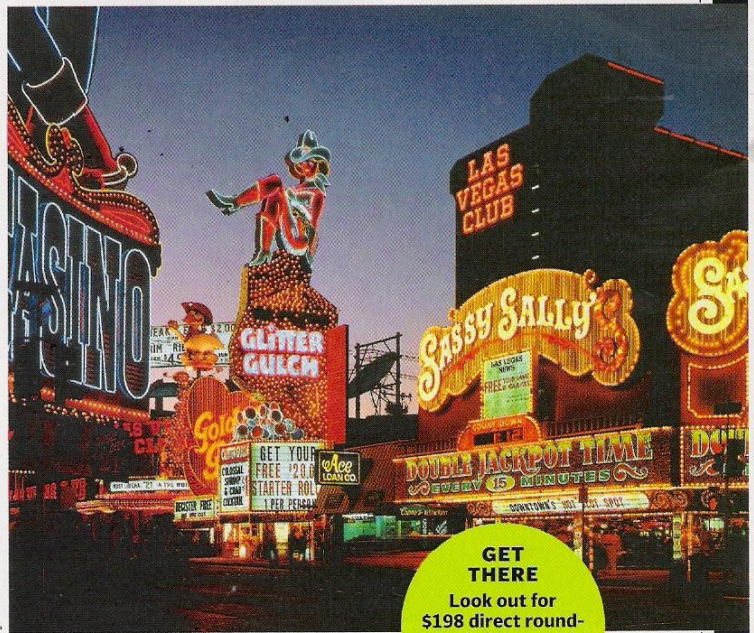


Greetings from...

# Las Vegas

Topless pools, zero-gravity plane rides, Hugh Hefner hotel suites for \$40,000 a night—it seems every time we blink, Sin City is offering something bigger, better, and dramatically more expensive to wow the 40 million people passing through each year. But sometimes we crave a slice of cool, old-school Vegas, a side of kitsch with all the shiny new thrills. So we went to the desert and had a little of both. —Victor Fiorillo



**GET THERE**  
Look out for \$198 direct round-trip fares on Southwest and US Airways.



**STAY**

The \$500 standard Wynn rooms? Getting into one is a little like trying to rent in Avalon next week. The new vintage-tinged (but with wi-fi) Go Rooms at one of the Strip's eldest members, the **Flamingo**, will do just fine, with their \$225 weekend price tag, kick-ass views, padded white-pleather headboards, and plasma screens. 3555 South Las Vegas Boulevard, 888-902-9929, harrahs.com.

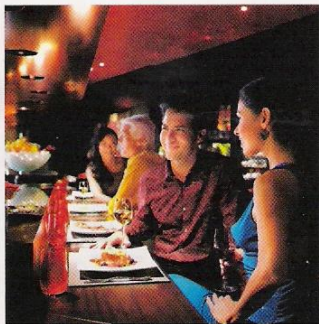


**SEE**

Take in **Barry Manilow** on his never-ending ride at the Hilton (3000 South Paradise Road, 702-732-5111, lvhilton.com), or, for actual 100 percent verified gayness, visit rhinestone remnants at the **Liberace Museum**. 1775 East Tropicana Avenue, 702-798-5595, liberace.org.

**EAT**

When you get *très* tired of the waitlist at legendary French chef Joël Robuchon's incredibly expensive 38-seat namesake at MGM Grand, seek out his small plates and stiff cocktails (the ones that won't deplete your gambling funds) at the nearby **L'Atelier** (below). 3799 South Las Vegas Boulevard, 702-891-7358, mgrand.com. For late-night munchies, nothing beats the circa-1972 **Peppermill Fire-side Lounge**, with its loaded nachos, flaming indoor fountain, and an unmistakable makeout vibe. 2985 South Las Vegas Boulevard, 702-735-4177, peppermill-lasvegas.com.



**THRILL**

Skyscraper-top roller coasters and zero-G plane rides sound a bit much? **Flyaway Indoor Skydiving** might be the right speed. Basically, you don a skydiving outfit and jump out over a turbine that blasts you up to 20 feet in the air for three minutes at a time. [flyawayindoor-skydiving.com](http://flyawayindoor-skydiving.com).

**PARTY**

When it comes to drinking, sex, and other more serious vices, the celeb-frequented **Palms** (4321 West Flamingo Road, 866-942-7777, palms.com) is the devil's own hot spot. In addition to the thong-filled pool, in-house tattoo parlor and Hugh Hefner megasuites (we can't even imagine what goes on in a room that costs as much for a night as a Lexus), the Palms offers the 52nd-floor **Playboy Club**. Think expensive drinks, an insurmountable line, and impossibly proportioned—though not nude—waitresses. And if you think the view is good there, just head upstairs to the **Moon** nightclub's 53rd-floor roof deck.



VEGAS STRIP: FRIDMAR DAMM/ZEEFA/CORBIS; L'ATELIER: COURTESY OF MGM MIRAGE; PLAYBOY, MANILOW AND LIBERACE: ERIN FITZGERALD