

Football fever

Catch the excitement of the Super Bowl in Vegas

By Kristine McKenzie
Vegas.com

Las Vegas is a football fan's paradise and that's never more apparent than at this time of the year when thousands of people converge on the city to watch the Super Bowl and celebrate the culmination of another season of one of America's favorite sports.

The city has sports bars, restaurants and hundreds of sports books where you can catch the big game in style. If you're finding it difficult to decide where to watch Super Bowl XLIII, we have a few suggestions.

Just remember, Super Bowl Sunday is one of the busiest days of the year at Las Vegas sports books and if you want a seat with a prime vantage point to see the Arizona Cardinals take on the Pittsburgh Steelers on Feb. 1 you'd better get there early.

Sportsbook Bar & Grill at Palazzo

The swanky Sportsbook Bar & Grill at the Palazzo is the ultimate venue for football fans. The Palazzo's sports book is made up of just a few betting windows right outside of the bar, but inside is where all of the action is.

The sprawling 24,000-square-foot venue features 85 televisions. Seating abounds, whether you've reserved a VIP room (one of five), choose to sit at one of the many booths lining the club or just kick back in the stadium-style seating white leather "bleachers."

Food and drink are plentiful in the Sportsbook Bar & Grill. There are five bars and the grill serves up the perfect Super Bowl snack food including everything from Buffalo wings to burgers, chili cheese dogs, nachos and pizza. Appetizers range from \$10 - \$15.

Las Vegas Hilton SuperBook

The Las Vegas Hilton is home to a mammoth sports book, aptly called The Superbook, which encompasses 30,000 square feet and offers more than 300 seats. There are 60 viewing monitors, including 27 large screens and one giant 15-foot by 20-foot screen, perfect for watching football.

Jay Kornegay, executive director Race and Sports for the Las Vegas Hilton SuperBook says besides watching the game in the sports book, there will be other opportunities to catch the action at the Hilton on Super Bowl Sunday.

"We'll show the game in the Hilton Theater, which is open to the public. We'll have food and drink specials in the theater. It's free admission and it's a smoke-free environment."

The theater holds 1,500 guests and will feature one gigantic screen for the big game, Kornegay said.

The Superbook is also the place to go if you want to make interesting bets on the game. The book offered more than 300 proposition bets on the Super Bowl last year.

For example, Kornegay said last year, patrons could bet on things like whether Tom Brady would have more touchdown passes than Kobe Bryant had three-point shots in his game or whether Randy Moss would have more receptions than Tiger Woods had fourth round birdies in his tournament.

You never know which bets will be popular when it comes to the Super Bowl, but Kornegay has a few guesses for this year. He said some of the bets offered this year will include which player will score the first touchdown. Guests can also wager on whether or not the game will go into overtime, whether or not there will be a safety and if the player who scores the first touchdown will have an odd or even-numbered jersey.

Planet Hollywood

If you're looking for a spot with a hip and cool, yet intimate vibe to catch the game, Planet Hollywood's Playing Field Race and Sports Book is worth checking out.

It features 33 plasma screens and two jumbo TVs. There are approximately 75 black and red leather lounge chairs with back pillows are scattered about in the small dimly lit area, providing a comfortable atmosphere.

A large bar, specializing in yards of draft beer, is connected to the sports book and provides additional seating in contemporary chairs, chaises and couches. There is also a roped-off VIP area with plush couches.



Photo Courtesy Harrah's

The sports book at Bally's features a large bar where you can get a drink while watching the game.

If you need a snack break during that long Super Bowl broadcast, the sports book at Planet Hollywood is conveniently located next to both the Hawaiian Tropic Zone and Earl of Sandwich restaurants.

Bally's

The sports book at Bally's is a hidden gem, tucked away beneath the main casino floor near the Bally Avenue Shoppes mall.

The large, open sports book has a modern, streamlined look with stadium seating. The book offers great viewing areas, which include 210 individual televisions and 11 big-screens, each 8 feet by 6 feet. In all, there are 285 seats in the book and lounge.

There is also a good-sized bar adjacent to the sports book and lots of table seating available.

Bally's sports book is surrounded by a variety of food options too, like pizza from Sbarro and sushi from Ichiban.

Football central

Kornegay says there's a reason so many people come to Las Vegas to watch the game. "Las Vegas is a unique spot for sports fans. First, there is no other place you can watch and wager on the game in the entire country. The Las Vegas sports books provide so many different wagering options that keep you interested throughout the game despite the score."

No matter where you end up watching the game in Las Vegas, you're sure to have a fun time and share in the camaraderie with other fans on one of the biggest sports weekends of the year.

"Las Vegas gives you plenty of other entertainment options throughout the entire weekend. It's not just about the game, it's about the total weekend experience. First class hotels, restaurants, and entertainment provide sports fans and non-sports fans a very unique experience," said Kornegay.