

# Vegas puts on its Sunday best ...



BY NIKKI NEU | *Vegas.com*

There's no better way to spend a Sunday morning, and maybe a little of the afternoon. You wake up late after Saturday night festivities, groggy, slightly hung over, possibly in a strange hotel room and hungry — really hungry.

It seems the munchies have gotten the best of you. What do you have? Breakfast? Lunch?

Just when you're ready to pull the blankets over your head, it hits you: It's Sunday. It's Vegas. It's Sunday brunch, Vegas style.

No day-old bagels and cream cheese here.

Las Vegas puts on its Sunday best and steps out with fresh ingredients, multiple food stations, and some pretty fancy menus that take hungry guests from late morning through the afternoon.

These brunches will be sure to tide you over until dinner.

From Simon's gourmet take on chicken and waffles to a gourmet all-the-way spread including sturgeon caviar and champagne at the Sterling Brunch, there's something for everyone on Sunday.

## Musical meals

At Envy The Steakhouse, you can have a little piano music with your meal. Pianist Wes Winters, formerly of "A Musical Tribute to Liberace," performs popular favorites while you sip on your mimosa. The elegant ambiance and smooth sounds of Winters' rendition of hits like "That's Life" give Envy a pleasant, relaxing atmosphere.

If you enjoy a little music with your organic eggs Benedict, The Springs Café by Wolfgang Puck has live jazz entertainment.

This boutique-style buffet displays smaller quantities of food to keep things hot and fresh. The kitchen is constantly cooking small batches of buffet items to ensure quality. The mouthwatering options include a tangy Chinois chicken salad, organic eggs Benedict with crab and a lobster hollandaise sauce.

A unique item is the in-house smoked salmon and a halibut with a tender meaty texture, a perfect balance of smoky flavors. Also try an incredibly tender and succulent Mongolian duck. "Everything we



Courtesy Palms Place

The Sunday brunch at Simon Restaurant and Lounge at Palms Place features house made junk food platters next to fresh made sushi, fruit smoothies and chicken and waffles.

make is from scratch ... ninety percent of everything we make we cook the day of [so] the end result is every plate is fresh," says Executive Chef Peter Sherlock.

If you're looking for brunch and a show, head down South with House of Blues' Gospel Brunch. The buffet features Southern food favorites and the music, costumes and entertainers make you feel like you're in church, only with a fabulous buffet to keep you occupied.

## Quiet dining

If that might be too much excitement for your Sunday morning, you might prefer Brio Tuscan Grille in Town Square Plaza. Situated on the south end of the Strip, Town Square

is a Tuscan-inspired shopping center and Brio is a great place for a casual brunch.

Enjoy a frozen Bellini at the indoor-outdoor bar or around the outdoor fire pit in a comfortable armchair.

Or, enjoy a fluffy brioche French toast topped with fresh berries and mascarpone cheese in an oversized booth in the main dining room area.

With a coliseum-like semi-private dining room and large outdoor patio, Brio sets the mood for a more elegant, tranquil setting.

The Country Club is also a tranquil place to have Sunday brunch. With an amazing patio overlooking the 18th hole of the Wynn golf course and the waterfall, The Country Club doesn't really have a bad seat in the house. Even inside, guests can view the serene course and views of Las Vegas.

"We use the patio for parties, weddings, for private events, for

conventions, people have a rough day they want to come sit outside and enjoy the peacefulness," says Executive Chef Rene Lenger.

With those stunning views, Lenger offers a great place to enjoy sweet corn chowder, lobster and crab eggs Benedict, and French toast bread pudding.

With old-school country club-like décor, beautiful views and a secluded setting, The Country Club is far away from the bustle of the crowd and large parties.

## Dressing down

The Palms hotel has always been known for its serious party vibe. The mile-long club lines, countless 20-somethings staggering about trying to get from point "A" to point "B" without falling off the edge of their 6-inch high Christian Louboutin heels.

But on Sunday morning, the mood transforms from pumps to Uggs; from sassy Nanette Lapore dresses to favorite sweats and jeans.

This is the atmosphere of the Sunday brunch at Simon Restaurant and Lounge at Palms Place featuring house made junk food platters next to fresh made sushi, fruit smoothies and chicken and waffles.

Simon offers a relaxed Sunday morning brunch, buffet style and for a variety of tastes.

## Dressing up

On the opposite end of the culinary spectrum: sturgeon caviar, champagne, oysters and Maine lobster.

The Sterling Brunch is a Las Vegas classic. With its over-the-top indulgent cuisine, tuxedoed waiters and old-school ambiance, you might not want to leave.

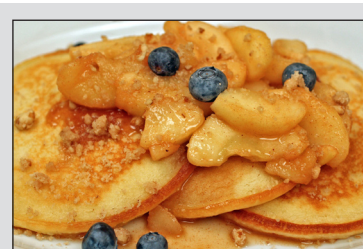
The Steakhouse at Bally's transforms into a buffet with everything from eggs to caviar. But it's not just the exceptional cuisine that makes the Sterling brunch special. In addition to sighting celebrities like Celine Dion and Jim Belushi, if you go on any given Sunday, you might find you were sitting next to the same people you sat next to last Sunday.

You would definitely see the same staff. Many of the waiters have been with the Sterling brunch for over a decade, including Dave Habart, who has been there since 1998.

Ilario Pesco, restaurant manager, has been with Harrah's for 35 years, and with the Sterling Brunch since it opened in 1990. When asked why he stays, Pesco says he's well taken care of at the company, enjoys seeing his customers and he enjoys the hotel.

The Sterling brunch is someplace where grandparents bring their children and their grandchildren to celebrate special occasions, holidays or just Sunday. The tempo of the restaurant isn't to eat quickly and go do something else, the meal at Sterling is the something else. It's where families and friends go to spend time with each other and relax, knowing they are in good hands.

From casual and elegant, to over-the-top and indulgent, brunches in Las Vegas are like no other. So, get out of bed and enjoy what Las Vegas has to offer.



Courtesy Brio

Cinnamon apple pancakes and French toast with berries from Brio.

## Where to munch on Vegas brunch

\*Prices and items on buffets are subject to change without notice.

**Brio Tuscan Grille at Town Square Las Vegas**  
Brunch hours: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Price: À la carte menu, prices vary. \$10 - \$25  
Brunch Bites: French toast with berries.

**Envy Music and Mimosas Brunch at the Renaissance Hotel**  
Brunch hours: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., reservations recommended  
Brunch Bites: Bloody Mary bar.

**House of Blues Gospel Brunch at Mandalay Bay**  
Brunch hours: 10 a.m. show  
Price: \$50 for adults, \$20 ages 11 and under  
Brunch Bites: Chicken jambalaya, biscuits and gravy.

**Simon Restaurant & Lounge at Palms Place**  
Hours: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Price: \$38 per person  
Brunch Bites: Chicken & waffles, junk food platter.

**Springs Café Sustainable Sunday Brunch at the Springs Preserve**  
Brunch hours: 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., reservations recommended  
Price: \$28.95 per person, \$12.50 for children 4 – 17 and children under 3 are free.  
Brunch Bites: Smoked halibut, Mongolian duck.

**The Steakhouse Sterling Brunch at Bally's**  
Brunch hours: 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., reservations recommended  
Price: \$85 per person, \$30 for children ages 8 and under.  
Brunch bites: Maine lobster, sturgeon caviar.

**The Country Club at Wynn**  
Brunch hours: Saturday & Sunday, 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
Price: À la carte menu, most items \$15 - \$25  
Brunch Bites: Lobster and crab eggs Benedict \$22, brioche French toast \$16.



Courtesy Palms Place

Chicken and waffles from the Sunday Brunch at Simon Restaurant at Palms Place.



Courtesy Brio

Brio Tuscan Grille in Town Square Plaza serves crab crepes for brunch.