

LIGHTS. VEGAS ACTION.

'Tis the Season

Vegas decks the halls with festive holiday displays

The holiday season is the one time of the year when the neon lights lining the Strip aren't necessarily the brightest in town. Las Vegas is home to some breathtaking holiday displays. From pecan-encrusted reindeer and white carnation snowmen to a three-acre cactus garden full of lights and a floating ice skating rink, this city definitely knows how to celebrate in style.

An enchanting display

The Bellagio Conservatory, located at the heart of the Strip, features an enchanting display that captures the essence of winter. With fresh pink and red poinsettias, a 21-foot-tall holiday wreath and other fine creations, visitors strolling through this attraction will definitely get into the holiday spirit.

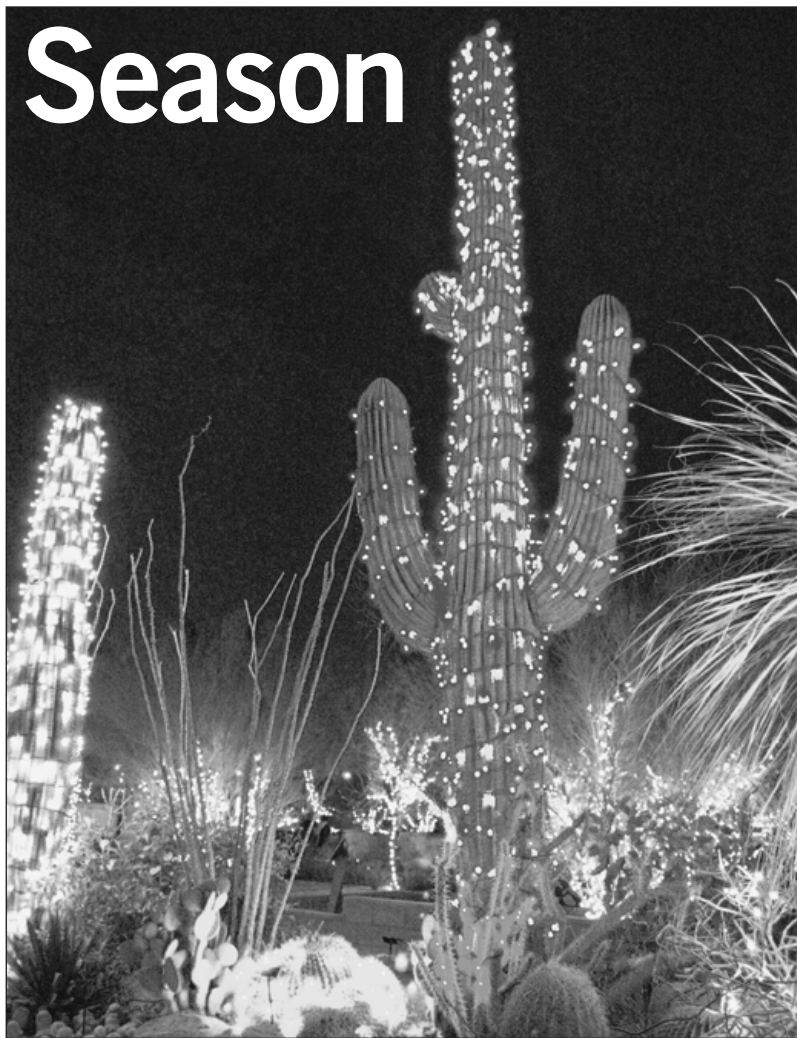
"Bellagio's Conservatory is a must-see attraction known worldwide and free for people of all ages," said Andres Garcia, assistant director of horticulture.

Each year, the Conservatory showcases a new holiday display. This year's features a snowman family made up of 15,000 white carnations. Set in a wintery landscape, the family is dressed in brightly colored hats, scarves, coats and earmuffs.

In addition to the snowmen, the conservatory also features six pecan-encrusted "flying" reindeer wearing yokes made of cranberry-red dried botanicals. Another fun animal display includes a 7-foot-tall, custom-sculpted rocking horse.

The Conservatory would not be complete without its towering holiday tree. Adorned with 12,000 colorful lights and twinkling jewels, the 32-foot-tall Shasta fir tree makes the perfect centerpiece. The "floating" gigantic ornaments surrounding the tree provide the finishing touch.

Guests can enjoy the Conservatory's winter wonderland from Dec. 7 - Jan. 3, 2009.



Winter Lights Festival: Enjoy half a million LED lights shining in an eight-acre garden while listening to carolers and enjoying holiday refreshments at the Las Vegas Springs Preserve, 333 S. Valley View Blvd., from 5 - 9 p.m. Fri. - Sun., Nov. 28 - Dec. 21 and 5 - 9 p.m. daily, Dec. 22 - 24, and 26. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$6 for children ages 5 - 17, and free for kids under 4. (Photo Courtesy Springs Preserve).

Desert lights and lots of chocolate

For those who like gourmet chocolate creations along with their holiday displays, the Chocolate Wonderland at Ethel M Chocolate Factory is a treat. Located in Henderson, just 15 minutes away from the Strip, this attraction is worth the visit.

"Probably one of the best things about our Ethel's holiday cactus garden and factory tour is that they are both free to the public,"

said Susan Saideman, president of Mars Retail Group. "This is a great place to visit with friends and family to truly get into the holiday spirit."

Guests can view the festive chocolate displays inside the factory's candy shop and can also sample holiday bite-sized sweets. The Ethel's brand has a special assortment of holiday creations designed by the company's chocolate chef.

"No chocolate lover has a reason to leave disappointed," said Saideman. "After all, the holidays are about fun, and what says fun more than chocolate?"

And for those who want to walk off those extra (but well worth it) calories, the Cactus Garden offers an astounding holiday light show. Featuring 300 different species of Southwest cacti, the three-acre cactus garden is decked out in 650,000 lights. It takes staff members up to six weeks to complete.

Visitors can admire its illuminating beauty by strolling through the winding paths or sitting on one of the secluded benches. And even though this is an off-Strip attraction, Chocolate Wonderland still gets its share of attention.

"Our visitors are amazed that we can create such a festive environment," said Saideman. "The popularity of the Chocolate Wonderland continues to grow each year. We expect to have 100,000 visitors passing through the garden throughout the holiday season."

The Chocolate Wonderland display is open through New Year's Day. Guests can also enjoy Santa visits and carolers on Fridays and Saturdays.

A peaceful, quiet holiday escape

For those wanting to venture even further from the city, visitors can enjoy a secluded holiday experience at MonteLago Village in Lake Las Vegas. Located just 30 miles from the Strip, this destination features a floating ice skating rink that sits on a stage on top of the lake. Cost is \$15 for adults and \$12 for children 12 years old and younger.

"Twirling around the frozen surface while floating above the Lake Las Vegas waters [with] beautiful desert scenery is an experience like no other," said Andrea Day, events manager for MonteLago Village.

There are also many other activities to enjoy at Lake Las Vegas.

"Everyone [who] comes out to Lake Las Vegas' MonteLago Village is thrilled with the quaint, cobblestone streets, carolers, Santa, the unique shopping and all of the fine dining options throughout the village," said Bob Crow, executive director of MonteLago Village.

"The cheerful festivities offered at MonteLago Village create the opportunity for guests to make memories that will last a lifetime," added Day. "A 40-foot Christmas tree illuminates the resort with twinkling holiday lights."

More holiday fun

"The Polar Express" 4-D motion ride at the Excalibur

Based on the popular movie, this magical journey to the North Pole comes alive in an unforgettable 4-D experience complete with faux snow.

Hours: Through early Jan. 2009: Mon. - Thurs., from 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.; Fri. - Sat., 10 a.m. - midnight; Sun., 10 a.m. - 11 p.m.

Cost: \$12.95

Santa Visit at Mandalay Bay's Shark Reef

Enjoy a visit from Santa in the aquarium's shipwreck exhibit. With each paid admission, kids 12 and younger receive a candy cane and a photograph with Santa.

Hours: From Dec. 21 - 24: Sun. - Thurs., 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Fri. - Sat., 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Last admission is sold one hour prior to closing.

Cost: \$16.95 for adults, \$10.95 for children ages 5 - 12. Children age 4 and under are free.

Opportunity Village Magical Forest

The Magical Forest, 6300 W. Oakey Blvd., features hundreds of festive trees, holiday displays, Santa visits, train rides and other winter-themed attractions.

Hours: Through Dec. 30: Sun. - Thurs., 5:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.; Fri. - Sat., 5:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Cost: \$9.50 for adults and \$7.50 for children ages 3 - 11.

To complete the MonteLago experience, guests can order gourmet hot chocolate from the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory and enjoy views of the village-like atmosphere as well as the shimmering lake and desert mountains.

"Lake Las Vegas is the candlelight side of Vegas as opposed to the neon side," said Crow. "[It's] the perfect place to enjoy a crisp, winter landscape in the middle of the desert."

This advertising supplement was written by Jeannie Borbe and prepared by the VEGAS.com staff and did not involve the reporting or editing staff of the Los Angeles Times. To reach VEGAS.com e-mail story@vegas.com.

THIS WEEKEND IN VEGAS



For the latest Vegas information and what's hot this weekend, watch the 'Vegas Minute' Thursday Morning Show and the 'Vegas Live' report every Thursday evening during KTLA Prime News.



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Thunder From Down Under

Where there's thunder, there's usually rain. And so it's no surprise that at the "Thunder From Down Under" at Excalibur, it's always raining men. The all-male dance revue makes one promise of the night: to make sure you get exactly what you came for. And the Aussie imports make good on their promises, giving the females a feast of flesh and fantasy the Greek gods would be proud of. See it at Excalibur at 9 p.m. nightly, plus 11 p.m. Fri. - Sat.



Tao

Dance off your Thanksgiving feast at the 4th Annual Terminate the Turkey party Thursday night at Tao inside Venetian. Start a new holiday tradition at one of the hottest night clubs on the Las Vegas Strip. After being greeted by the exotic woman bathing in rose petals, entering Tao feels like you are being transported into a nightlife carnival. You're sure to have a wild night. Hours: Nightclub 10 p.m. - 4 a.m. Wed. - Sat.; Lounge 5 p.m. - 4 a.m. Mon. - Sun.

WEEKEND HEADLINERS

Tony Bennett 8 p.m., 11/28 - 11/29, Las Vegas Hilton
David Spade 10 p.m., 11/28 - 11/29, Planet Hollywood
Bret Michaels 7 p.m., 11/28, Aliante Station
The Sisters of Mercury 8:30 p.m., 11/28, House of Blues
Frank Caliendo 8 p.m., 11/28, Treasure Island
Chris Botti 7 p.m., 11/29, Aliante Station
The Smashing Pumpkins 8 p.m., 11/29, Palms
Vincent Fernandez 9 p.m., 11/29, Mandalay Bay
Jonas Brothers 3 and 8 p.m., 11/29, MGM Grand
The Commodores 8 p.m., 11/29, Silverton
Bell Biv DeVoe 8 p.m. 11/29, House of Blues
The Australian Pink Floyd Show 8 p.m., 11/30, Hard Rock Hotel

HEADLINERS

ULTIMATE MANILOW: The Hits 8 p.m. Wed. - Sat., 12/17 - 12/20, Las Vegas Hilton
Bette Midler 7:30 p.m. Tue. - Wed. Fri. - Sun., 11/27 - 11/30, Caesars
Danny Gans 7:30 p.m. Tue. - Wed. and Fri. - Sat., Mirage
Donny & Marie 7:30 p.m. Tue. - Sat.; plus 4 p.m. Sat., Flamingo
Elton John 7:30 p.m. 2/3 - 2/15, Caesars Palace
Terry Fator 8 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Sun., 12/21 - 12/22 - 11/18, Las Vegas Hilton
Wayne Brady 9 p.m., Thu. - Mon., Venetian

PRODUCTION SHOWS

Blue Man Group 7 p.m. nightly; plus 10 p.m. Mon., Wed., Fri. - Sat., Venetian
Criss Angel Believe 7 and 10 p.m. Fri. - Tue., Luxor
Folies Bergere 7:30 and 10 p.m. Mon., Wed., Thu. and Sat.; 8:30 p.m. Tue. and Fri., Tropicana

Fuego Raw Talent Live

8:30 p.m. Thu. - Tue., Sahara
Ice: Direct from Russia 8 p.m. Sat. - Thu., Riviera
Jersey Boys 7 p.m. Thu. - Mon.; 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Tue.; plus 10 p.m. Sat., Palazzo
KA 7 and 9:30 p.m. Tue. - Sat., MGM Grand
Hitzville 6:30 p.m. Wed. - Sun., Planet Hollywood
An Evening at La Cage starring Frank Marino 7:30 p.m. Wed. - Mon., Riviera
Laugh Out Loud with The Scintas 9:30 p.m. Mon. - Wed., Fri. - Sat., Las Vegas Hilton
Le Rêve 7 and 9:30 p.m. Thu. - Mon., Wynn Las Vegas
LOVE 7 and 10 p.m. Thu. - Mon., Mirage
Mamma Mia! 7:30 p.m. Sun. - Thu., 6 and 10 p.m. Sat., Mandalay Bay
Marriage Can be Murder 6 p.m. Mon. - Sat., Four Queens
Menopause the Musical 7 p.m. nightly, plus 2 p.m. Wed., 4 p.m. Sat. - Sun., Las Vegas Hilton
Mystère 7 and 9:30 p.m. Sat. - Wed., Treasure Island
O 7:30 and 10:30 p.m. Wed. - Sun., Bellagio
Phantom - The Las Vegas Spectacular 7 p.m. Mon. - Sat., with an additional show at 9:30 p.m. Mon. and Sat., Venetian
Shear Madness 7 p.m. Tue. - Sun., plus 3 p.m. Sat. - Sun. beginning 12/25, Town Square
Sopranos' Last Supper 7 p.m. Tue. - Sun., Greek Isles, beginning Dec. 2
Stomp Out Loud 7 p.m. nightly, Planet Hollywood
Tony 'n' Tina's Wedding 8 p.m. nightly, Rio
Tournament of Kings 6 and 8:30 p.m. Wed. - Mon., Excalibur
V - The Ultimate Variety Show 7 and 8:30 p.m. daily, Planet Hollywood
Zumanity 7:30 and 10:30 p.m. Tue. - Wed., Fri. - Sun., New York-New York

ADULT SHOWS

American Storm 8:30 p.m. Wed. - Sat., Stratosphere
Bite 10:30 p.m. Fri. - Wed., Stratosphere
Chippendales The Show 8 p.m. Sun. - Tue., Thu.; 8 and 10:30 p.m. Fri. - Sat., Rio
Crazy Girls 9:30 p.m. Wed. - Mon., Riviera
Fantasy 10:30 p.m. Sun. - Fri., 11 p.m. Sat., Luxor
Folies Bergere 7:30 and 10 p.m. Mon., Wed. - Thu., Sat.; 8:30 p.m. Tue. - Fri., Tropicana
Jubilee! 7:30 and 10:30 p.m. Sat. - Thu., Bally's
MGM Grand's Crazy Horse Paris 8 and 10:30 p.m. Wed. - Mon., MGM Grand
Stripper 101 5 p.m. Mon. - Wed., 3:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. Thu. - Sun., 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Fri. - Sun., Planet Hollywood
The Real Deal! 5 p.m. Thu. - Mon.; 10 p.m. Tue., Venetian
Thunder From Down Under 9 p.m. nightly, with additional show at 11 p.m. Fri. and Sat., Excalibur
X Burlesque 10 p.m. nightly, Flamingo

MAGIC SHOWS

Amazing Johnathan 9 p.m. Fri. - Tue., Harmon Theater at Planet Hollywood
David Copperfield 7:30 and 10 p.m. nightly, matinee times vary, 11/27 - 12/7, MGM Grand
Intimate Illusions starring Steve Dacri 6 p.m. Fri. - Sat., Four Seasons, beginning 12/26
Lance Burton 7 and 10 p.m. Tue. and Sat.; 7 p.m. Wed. - Fri., Monte Carlo
Mac King Comedy Magic Show 1 and 3 p.m. Tue. - Sat., Harrah's
Nathan Burton Comedy Magic 4 p.m. Fri. - Sun., Tue. - Wed., Flamingo
Penn & Teller 9 p.m. Sat. - Wed., Rio
Scarlett Princess of Magic 1 p.m. Fri. - Mon.; 4 p.m. Wed. - Thu.;

ADULT SHOWS

additional 5:30 p.m. on Thu., Planet Hollywood
Steve Wyrick Real Magic 7 and 9 p.m. Sat. - Thu., Planet Hollywood
Xtreme Magic Starring Dirk Arthur 2 and 4 p.m. Sat. - Thu., Tropicana

COMEDY SHOWS

Bobby Slayton 9 p.m. Wed. - Sun., Hooters
Carrot Top 8 p.m. Sun. - Mon., Wed. - Fri.; 9 p.m. Sat., Luxor
Defending the Caveman 8 p.m. nightly, plus 3 p.m. Sat. - Sun., Golden Nugget
Fitz of Laughter 9:15 p.m. nightly, Fitzgeralds
George Wallace 10 p.m. Tue. - Sat., Flamingo
Improv at Harrah's 8:30 and 10:30 p.m. Tue. - Sun., Harrah's
Louie Anderson 7 p.m. Sun. - Thu., Excalibur
Playboy Comedy 8 and 10:30 p.m., 12/13, Palms
Rita Rudner 8 p.m. Mon. - Sat., Harrah's
Vinnie Favorito 8 p.m. nightly, Flamingo

TRIBUTE SHOWS

American Superstars 7 p.m. Sun. - Tue., 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. Wed., Fri. - Sat., Stratosphere
Barbra & Frank: The Concert That Never Was 8:30 p.m. Tue. - Sat., Riviera
Fab Four Live 5:30 p.m. Fri. - Wed., Planet Hollywood
Fab Four Mania 10 p.m. Sat. - Wed., Riviera
Legends in Concert 7:30 and 10 p.m. Mon. - Sat., Imperial Palace
A Neil Diamond Tribute starring Jay White 7 p.m. Sun. - Thu., Riviera
Show Bus of the Stars 10 a.m., 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. nightly, Planet Hollywood
The Rat Pack Is Back 6 p.m. dinner seating; 7:30 p.m. show Mon. - Sat., additional 10 p.m. show on Sat., Plaza

HYPNOSIS AND PSYCHIC SHOWS

Anthony Cools - The Uncensored Hypnotist 9 p.m. Thu. - Tue., Paris
DIRTY Hypnosis 9 p.m. nightly, Krave Theater inside Planet Hollywood
Dr. Scott Lewis 9 p.m. Mon., Riviera
Mesmerized 10 p.m. Sat. - Thu., Planet Hollywood
The Mentalist, Gerry McCambridge 7 p.m. Sat. - Thu., Hooters

AFTERNOON SHOWS

\$1,000,000 Vegas Game Show 2:30 p.m. Fri. - Wed., Planet Hollywood
Gregory Popovich's Comedy Pet Theater 4 p.m. Fri. - Tue., Planet Hollywood
Madame Meg's Find Your Sexy 3 p.m. Wed. - Sun., Planet Hollywood
The Price Is Right-Live 2:30 p.m. Tue. - Thu. and Sat.; 7:30 p.m. Fri., Bally's

NIGHTCLUBS

Blush (inside Wynn) Open daily, 9 p.m. - 4 a.m.
Body English (inside Hard Rock) Fri. - Sun., 10:30 p.m. - 4 a.m.
CatHouse (inside Luxor) Mon., Fri. - Sat., 10 p.m. - 4 a.m.
Cherry (inside Red Rock Casino Resort and Spa) Thu. - Sat., 10 p.m. - 4 a.m.
Christian Audigier (inside Treasure Island) Thu. - Sun., 10 p.m. - 4 a.m.
Coyote Ugly (inside New York-New York) 9 p.m. - 4 a.m. nightly.
Drai's After Hours (inside Bill's Gamblin' Hall and Saloon) Wed. - Sun., 12 a.m. to dawn.
Foundation Room (inside Mandalay Bay) Mondays, from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m.
Ghostbar (inside the Palms) Nightly from 8 p.m. to early morning.
Ivan Kane's Forty Deuce (inside Mandalay Place) Thu. - Sun. 10 p.m. - dawn
JET (inside Mirage) Thu. - Sat. and Mon., 10:30 p.m. - 4 a.m.

Late Night at the House of Blues

(inside Mandalay Bay) nightly except Tue., 11 p.m. to close.
LAX (inside Luxor) Wed. - Sat., 10 p.m. - 4 a.m.
Mix (at THEhotel at Mandalay Bay) Open at 5 p.m. nightly
Moon / Playboy Club Las Vegas (at the Palms) Moon is open Tue., Thu. - Sun. 10 p.m. - early morning; Playboy Club is open nightly from 8 p.m. - early morning
Poetry (in Chinois at the Forum Shops) Wed. - Sun., 10 p.m. to 4 a.m.
Polly Esther's (inside the Stratosphere) Open at 10 p.m. Wed. - Sat.
Pure (inside Caesars Palace) Fri. - Tue., 10 p.m. - 4 a.m. Closed Mon.
Pussycat Dolls Lounge (inside Caesars Palace) Tue. - Sat., 8 p.m. - 4 a.m.
Rain Las Vegas (inside the Palms) Doors open at 11 p.m. Fri. - Sat.
Revolution Lounge (inside Mirage) 6 p.m. - 4 a.m. nightly.
Risqué (inside Paris) Fri. - Sat., 10:30 p.m. to early morning.
Rumjungle (inside Mandalay Bay) Sun., Tue. and Wed., 11 p.m. - 2 a.m.; Fri. - Sat. and Mon., 11 p.m. - 4 a.m.; Thurs., 11 p.m. - 3 a.m.
Studio 54 (inside MGM Grand) Tue. - Sat., 10 p.m. - early morning
Tabú (inside MGM Grand) Thu. - Mon., 10 p.m. - 4 a.m.
Tao (inside the Venetian) Thurs. - Sat., 10:30 p.m. - 5:30 a.m. Lounge: Tue., midnight - 5 a.m.; Wed. and Sun., 11 p.m. - 4 a.m.
Teatro (3663 S. Las Vegas Blvd.) Tue., Fri., and Sat., 2:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.
The Bank (inside Bellagio) Hours, Thu. - Sun., 10 p.m. - 4 a.m.
Tryst (inside Wynn) Thu. - Sun., 10 p.m. - 4 a.m.
VooDoo Lounge (inside the Rio) Lounge open daily, 8 p.m. to 3 a.m. Live music and dancing begins at 9:30 p.m. (Sun. - Thu.), 10 p.m. (Fri. - Sat.) Palace) Tue. - Sat., 8 p.m. - 4 a.m.



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