



# GIVING THE GIFT OF VEGAS

Find one-of-a-kind trinkets and souvenir stocking stuffers in Sin City

BY KRISTINE MCKENZIE  
Vegas.com

It's that time of the year again. You're making your holiday shopping list and checking it twice. Whether your friends have been naughty or nice this year, the perfect gift to give everyone is the gift of Vegas. If you're looking for a souvenir stocking stuffer or something extravagant, there are plenty of places to shop in Las Vegas and we've compiled some ideas for one-of-a-kind gifts that you just won't find anywhere else.

### For the entertainment fan

Got a music fan on your list? Las Vegas is home to the biggest headliners in the world and there are some unique gifts available that are sure to impress even the most fanatical people.

It can be a very Cher-ry Christmas courtesy of the Cher boutique at Caesars Palace. The store offers things like CDs and show programs but there are also a few items that go above and beyond standard souvenirs.

If money is no object, check out the Loree Rodkin bondage ring, a beautiful gothic 2.4-carat black diamond ring, priced at \$18,500.

For the home, there are handmade chrome angel candles finished with rock 'n' roll designs, outlined in Swarovski crystals for \$400.

Maybe Cher is one of your fashion idols and if that's the case, you can dress like her for \$95 with a pair of Havaianas flip-flops encrusted with a Swarovski crystal peace sign.

Caesars Palace also features a Bette Midler store where you'll find one-of-a-kind jewelry pieces such as the pink diamond covered bustier necklace outlined in sapphires (\$8,000) or the pink diamond encrusted Vegas sign pendant displaying Bette's name with a yellow diamond border and adorned with seven sapphires across the top (\$15,000). There's also a replica of Bette's crystal-encrusted ukulele (\$3,000) that she strums in



Photo courtesy Caesars Palace  
The Bette Midler store at Caesars Palace has one-of-a-kind jewelry pieces as well as a replica of Bette's crystal-encrusted ukulele that she strums in the show.

the show.

"The boutique provides memorable gifts to ensure a holiday full of sparkle and color," said Keith Burns, director of retail at Caesars Palace. "These are perfect ways to bring Cher and Bette to your home for the holidays."

If you know a "fanilow," you'll find everything they could want at The Manilow Store at the Las Vegas Hilton.

For an unusual gift that keeps on giving, the store offers shoppers the opportunity to record their own vocals to their favorite Manilow songs in a special recording booth.

Criss Angel is known for his loyal fans and if you know one, you can make their holiday wishes come true by shopping at the CRISS ANGEL Believe Store at Luxor, which offers exclusive branded merchandise from the newest production by Cirque du Soleil. The retail outlet provides a wide selection of keepsake items ranging from shirts, posters and hats to keychains, mugs and candles. Unique jewelry, personally designed by Angel, also is available for purchase.

### For the chocoholic

If someone on your gift list has a sweet tooth, treat them to the famous 24-Layer Chocolate Cake at Strip House at Planet Hollywood. Executive Chef John Schenk created the sinful dessert, which stands eight inches tall.

It features 12 layers of lush chocolate cake filled with 11 layers of smooth chocolate filling and for the 24th, a layer of semi-sweet ganache made of imported French chocolate. It may be refrigerated for up to five days. The 12-inch cake can be purchased at Strip House for \$150.

Vosges Haut-Chocolat Owner/Founder Katrina Markoff believes that chocolate is the perfect holiday gift. "Chocolate is an indulgence - and an affordable indulgence at that. Vosges Haut-Chocolat gives a chocolate experience that goes beyond just a box of bonbons." Vosges Haut-Chocolat, located in the Forum Shops at Caesars, offers many unique gifts, but Markoff says there is one gift that will please that person who has everything.

"Hands down, the Cheese + Chocolate Gift Box," said Markoff.

Each sustainable bamboo box (\$295) includes five cheeses and 28 chocolate truffles, one mini Red Fire Exotic Candy Bar, one mini Barcelona Bar, a Flying Bacon + Chocolate Pig bar, Armenian apricot preserves, Aboriginal Riberry confit, Australian akudjura (dried indigenous bush tomato), fermented black garlic, black pepper crackers, paper cheese markers, five Teppo Gushi (Japanese wooden knives) and a guidebook. And the gift is functional - flip the lid of the box over and you can use it as a

cheese board.

Vosges also offers a special treat that is only available in December.

"Vosges Haut-Chocolat combines efforts with our dear friend Richard Spiegel's Volcano Island Honey Company. An organic and very rare white honey on one side next to a dark chocolate ganache forms one of the most coveted truffles of the year," said Markoff. "It is a fan favorite and we sell out quickly." A nine-piece collection is \$29. The 16-piece collection is \$43.

### For the boys

Perfect for collectors and chopper enthusiasts, the limited edition Bass Pro Shops chopper replica is an authentic Orange County Choppers product. The Bass Pro Shops chopper replica (\$94.95), complete with mirrored display base and miniature tackle box, is the only one-tenth-scale model ever created of a real Orange County Chopper. The life-sized original can also be seen on display inside Silverton Casino Lodge.

### For the fashionista

True Religion Brand Jeans at the Miracle Mile Shops at Planet Hollywood is offering some fun fashions perfect for the holiday season. The company has introduced the Gold Crystals (\$297) style into its top-selling Disco jean collection. The Disco collection offers an assortment of styles encrusted with rhinestone flair. Featuring unique Swarovski crystal hardware including buttons and rivets, Gold Crystals is made of stretch denim and is available in a variety of styles for women.

### Stocking Stuffers

Vegas is a great place to find stocking stuffers and the ultimate place to shop for them is Bonanza Gifts, touted as the World's Largest Gift Store, where you can find amusing, inexpensive trinkets like a squirting slot machine (\$2.99).

Nothing says holidays like a snow globe and you can get a welcome to

Las Vegas snow globe for \$7.99 at Bonanza.

If you need a gift for a gamer, Gamblers General Store is the place to go. The 8,000-square-foot retail store offers more than 5,000 unique items that can be shipped anywhere in the world. Choose from things like specialty dice emblazoned with unicorns or pink flamingos, personalized poker chips and a large selection of books, Las Vegas souvenirs and ornaments. Or, if you're looking for a truly extravagant gift, you can always buy a 30-inch wood roulette wheel for \$3,595.

### For the Vegas-lover

Maybe you don't have time to shop, but you can still give someone the gift of Vegas with a VEGAS.com gift card, a convenient, easy way to complete your list.

The gift card not only takes all of the work out of shopping for you, it allows the recipient to get exactly what they want by creating their own Vegas experience.

"It's tough to figure out what to get someone for the holidays. VEGAS.com's gift cards are great because they're good for any of the hundreds of hotels, shows, tours and nightclub passes that we have available on the site," said Bryan Allison, vice president, marketing for VEGAS.com.

Instead of another boring pair of socks or a tie that dad really doesn't want, let him book a golf tee time using his gift card.

Your little brother who just turned 21 can purchase nightclub passes to all of the hottest spots in Sin City and mom can finally see "Phantom - The Las Vegas Spectacular."

The gift cards are available in \$25, \$50 and \$100 denominations and must be redeemed at www.VEGAS.com or by calling 1-888-LAS VEGAS. Cards cannot be returned or redeemed for cash and they don't expire, so the gift of Vegas can be available to your family and friends all year-round.



The 24-Layer Chocolate Cake at Strip House at Planet Hollywood can be purchased for \$150



True Religion Brand Gold Crystals jeans at the Miracle Mile Shops at Planet Hollywood are \$297.



VEGAS.com gift cards can be purchased in \$25, \$50 or \$100 denominations.

## A very Vegas shopping list



Cheese + Chocolate Gift Box at Vosges Haut-Chocolat in the Forum Shops at Caesars Palace costs \$295.



The limited edition Orange County Choppers replica is \$94.95 at the Bass Pro Shops in the Silverton.

