

Vegas Hot List

Sin City is teeming with options. So that you're not overwhelmed, we've culled a few spots to definitely check out

Words by Vanessa Pascale



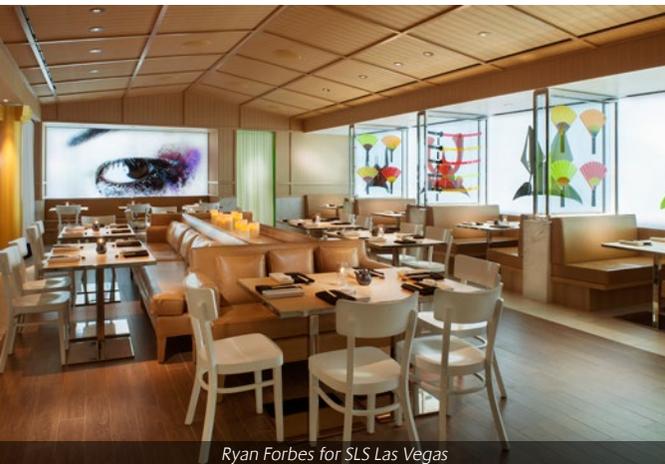
BRUNCH: Café Americano at Caesars Palace
3570 Las Vegas Blvd. South Las Vegas, NV 89109

Be sure to make a reservation at this 24-hour eatery as it gets packed during brunch hours. Right off the hotel lobby, this open, contemporary space serves up everything from Captain Crunch French Toast, Corned Beef Hash Skillet and Benedicts to Cape Cod Fish & Chips and Burgers – my mouth is watering from those options alone! My compliments to the chef as our food was incredibly tasty. Wanting to keep it light, I ordered the Lobster Bisque with chorizo, fried lobster bites and diced jalapeno, and the Iceberg Wedge Salad. I like my food spicy and well-seasoned, so the spices from the chorizo and heat from the peppers were a welcome and satisfying spin on this classic dish, while my crisp iceberg lettuce and its sprinkling of classic accoutrements were refreshingly light, yet filling. Both were full of flavor and hit the spot. The steak in the Steak & Eggs was perfectly prepared (not a small feat when it comes to steak, especially when you're not in a steakhouse) and choke-full of delicious flavor. The service was fantastic, with several servers frequently stopping by to ensure our glasses were always full and that everything was to our liking. For more info visit: <https://www.caesars.com/caesars-palace/restaurants/CafeAmericano>



POOL PARTY: Foxtail Pool Club at SLS Las Vegas Hotel & Casino
2535 S Las Vegas Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89109

Slip on your swimsuit and head over to Foxtail Pool Club –an upscale collaboration between Philippe Starck and Gensler, where international DJs like Fedde Le Grand and the EC Twins hit the decks and bring the party. When I was there, Fetty Wap and Lil Wayne lured in a massive crowd –practically every square inch of the striped-cabana flanked pool area was filled with sun-worshipping patrons. There was lots of skin, a steady flow of libations (which you don't have to go far for, thanks to their central pool bar) and an endless stream of dance-inducing-music flowing through their powerful Funktion-One Sound System. Lounging space is limited during these big pool party events, which is why I suggest securing a VIP table –choose between 26 luxurious cabanas and 31 daybeds. This see-and-be-seen pool party is the place to be. For more info visit: <http://sbe.com/nightlife/brands/foxtail/>



Ryan Forbes for SLS Las Vegas

DINNER: Katsuya at SLS Las Vegas Hotel & Casino
2535 S Las Vegas Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89109

Spoil your palate with Katsuya's fresh sushi, unique rolls and signature Japanese dishes. Katsu means "to win" and if you're dining here, consider yourself winning. Philippe Starck's modern, streamlined design sets the mood for an intimate and enjoyable dining experience. To begin, we ordered two of the Special Starters–Katsuya Signatures: Baked Crab Hand Rolls (baked snow crab lightly kissed with Chef's signature sauce, wrapped in rice with soy paper) and Crispy Rice with Spicy Tuna (listed as "our most flavorful fish on the menu and the one Katsuya is most famous for..."). The hand rolls' sweet crab meat is heavenly –it melts in your mouth and leaves you wanting more (this is no exaggeration, they are seriously addictive), while the spicy tuna lived up to the hyped description. I ordered the Miso-Marinated Black Cod (marinated for 48-hours and broiled) for my entree –which was moist, packed with flavor and flaked apart with ease. All of the food was exceptional and if I could eat here at least once a week, I would. Additionally, they boast a fantastic specialty cocktail-sake-wine and dessert menu (I'm coming back for their bread pudding). For more info visit: katsuyarestaurant.com/lasvegas

NIGHTLIFE: XS at Wynn Las Vegas
3131 S Las Vegas Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89109

In my humble opinion, XS is Las Vegas' #1 nightclub –there is no venue in Sin City like it. Draped in gold and lavish fixtures, this open, luxurious space continually hosts the best-looking crowd, while their resident DJs are the greatest in the world and ranked in the top 10 of ' highest paid DJs list: David Guetta, Kaskade, Skrillex, Avicii, Diplo... Expect nothing less than first-class here, from the bottle service and VIP table layout to the sophisticated, art-infused design. I was here for their Labor Day Nightswim with Skrillex and Diplo, also known as Jack Ü together, where club-goers dressed in sexy pool attire swam, drank and danced beneath the moonlight in the club's beautiful pool. I, however, took up residence at a table that overlooked the dance floor and DJ booth, and watched Skrillex and Diplo spin the night away. Reserving a VIP table is always the way to go so that you have your own area to sit back, relax, and come back to after shaking it on the dance floor. For more info visit: xslasvegas.com



Photo credit: Barbara Kraft

VIP EXPERIENCE: Drew Gates, Executive VIP Host, Hakkasan Group

Hakkasan, Omina Las Vegas, Omina San Diego, Wet Republic

If you truly want to experience Vegas the right way, enlist the expertise of Executive VIP Host Drew Gates for all of your nightlife hospitality needs: dinners, nightclubs, dayclubs, private jets... Let a professional take your Sin City escape from a 5 to an 11 (that's on a scale from 1 to 10). So your entourage and you want to buy a table at [insert dayclub/nightclub name here], but you don't want to deal with the details and definitely don't want to wait in line –this is why you call Drew, he will handle everything and ensure that your days and nights are memorable, go off seamlessly and that you receive exceptional service – 'cause that's what being a VIP is all about. With his endless connections and access to every exclusive spot in town, you'll be running around the place like you own it. And the best part is that there's no charge for this service. Give Drew a call at 310-989-0654 and let him help you get the party started right!

