

Suite Life

The Venetian Resort Hotel Casino gives guests an impressive dose of Italy and the finest offerings

Words by Vanessa Pascale



No need to journey across the pond for a taste of Venice, simply escape to The Venetian Las Vegas, where you can be serenaded by a gondolier as you glide along the Grand Canal beneath an eternally powder blue cloud-dotted sky, dine on pizza from the master of Italian cuisine, Iron Chef Mario Batali, at his restaurant Otto Enoteca Pizzeria and admire lavish, artistic accoutrements. The Venetian has captured the historical wonders of Italy with masterful precision—replicating the Armillary Sphere, St. Mark's Square, Bridge of Sighs, the Campanile Tower, the Rialto Bridge, and the Doge's Palace.

Guests are engulfed in luxurious, Old World charm from the moment they enter its grand, gold lobby with elaborate frescoed ceilings. Life is sweet at The Venetian where every room is a suite that begins at 650 square-feet, almost double the size of a regular hotel room. During my respite at the five-diamond luxury hotel situated on the Las Vegas Strip, I took up residence in an opulent Bella Suite outfitted with two queen-sized beds, a sunken living room with a full-sized sleeper sofa, window treatments operating with the push of a remote control button, dining table, stocked mini bar, and two 46-inch LCD HD TVs—in the living room and



One of ten pools to choose from

bedroom area. My equally impressive bathroom featured a Roman tub, glass-enclosed shower, private water closet, 19-inch flat screen TV, double sinks, and makeup vanity. Gourmet dishes and libations are offered through their 24-hour in-suite dining menu which features dishes like Surf and Turf, Gnocchi Bolognese, Charred Octopus Salad, Tiramisu Pancakes; a list of sparkling bubbles, reds, whites and rosés; and decadent desserts. Does it get sweeter than this?

Rich with amenities and entertainment, there is a fully loaded casino, ten pools to choose from, The Canyon Ranch SpaClub, Madam Tussauds, a bevy of high-end shopping and, a number of appetite-satiating restaurants. For breakfast, I recommend heading to Grand Lux Cafe for a hearty plate of mouthwatering Biscuits and Gravy with Eggs –this southern staple is slathered in delicious, rich sausage gravy, and will have you practically licking the plate. Lobster Me in the Food Court is another casual eatery you should stop by. They serve my favorite crustacean several tasty ways –you can't go wrong with their Cajun Lobster Roll and Lobster Grilled Cheese. And there is no shortage of elevated, international fare within the hotel, where the restaurant roster reads like a Best of the Best list including, Yardbird Southern Table & Bar, Delmonico Steakhouse, TAO Asian Bistro, and my personal favorite, db Brasserie.



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Chef Daniel Boulud's French restaurant, db Brasserie

Chef Daniel Boulud's French restaurant, db Brasserie, impresses with its delectable menu and dimly-lit, elegant atmosphere. We order a medley of French appetizers to start: the Escargots Spätzle, Foie Gras Terrine and Country Pâté 'Bourguignon' (which I've ranked in order of my preference.) Though the escargots were not traditionally prepared (swimming in garlic butter), it's innovative execution (Burgundy Snail Fricassée tossed with chicken "oysters," mushrooms, roasted garlic, parsley, hazelnuts and spätzle) was an absolute crowd-pleaser. Not a morsel was left behind.

For the main course, I ordered the Seared Sea Scallops cradled by green asparagus, Jambon de Paris, braised leeks, and mushroom sabayon. I was very pleased with my dish, as the plump scallops were succulent and perfectly prepared. We also ordered the flavorful and moist Crispy Duck Confit served in a mixture of braised kale, caramelized onions, white beans, and natural jus, and the Bone-in Ribeye, a 28-day Dry Aged Beef served with roasted spring vegetables, and Béarnaise sauce—a delicious, juicy cut of meat that was happily devoured. Our decadent feast did not end there as our attentive and knowledgeable waiter Joey insisted we indulge in their desserts. We ordered The Grand Marnier Soufflé and the special of the night. Our airy, puffed up soufflé was heavenly—dusted with powdered sugar, and served with a side of sweet vanilla anglaise, which was used to generously soak our dessert. The special was a delicately layered treat served in a stemless wineglass with a berry compote at the bottom, sweet whipped egg whites atop it, and a crunchy caramelized-sugar basket resting on the rim—it

was the perfect fusion of flavors and textures. It's easy to see why db Brasserie was named "Best New Fine Dining" *Vegas Seven* magazine. Our dining experience here was topnotch.

A world of entertainment is at your fingertips. The shows currently playing in The Venetian are *Lipshtick* (showcasing the world's funniest female standup comedians), *The Judds - Girls Night Out* (featuring multi-platinum country duo, Naomi and Wynonna Judd, October 7-24), *The Essential Diana Ross: Some Memories Never Fade* (November 4-21), *Rock of Ages*, and *Frank The Man. The Music*—an homage to Ol' Blue Eyes performed by "the Most Revered Singing Impressionist in the World," Bob Anderson, and a 32-piece orchestra boasting a handful of players from

Frank Sinatra's original band. With the front of the theater arranged like a lounge and the orchestra in place, Bob transported us back to a time when Sinatra was king. He regaled us with brief anecdotes and dazzled the audience with hits like, "New York, New York," "I've Got the World on a String," and "Luck Be a Lady." If you're a fan of Sinatra, be sure to check out this show before it ends. Tony Bennett said it best, "A perfect night. Like seeing Sinatra at his best. Frank would have loved it."

For more information on The Venetian Resort Hotel Casino, located at 3355 Las Vegas Blvd. South, Las Vegas, NV 89109, and all that it encompasses, visit www.venetian.com. For reservations, call 866-659-9643. **ML**



Bob Anderson performs hits from Frank Sinatra in FRANK The Man The Music at The Palazzo