

and seven restaurants — the Isis for continental dining (see Restaurants), Papyrus steakhouse, the Sacred Sea Room for fresh- and saltwater seafood, a 24-hour coffee shop, buffet, deli and ice cream parlor.

MGM Grand

\$\$\$ • 3799 Las Vegas Blvd. S. • 895-1111, (800) 646-7787

An emerald monolith that appears like layers of Legos blocks, the MGM Grand with its 5,005 rooms is the world's largest resort hotel. To live up to its lofty billing, the MGM offers a plethora of attractions, entertainment venues, restaurants and casino space.

The world's largest hotel is home to the world's largest casino — it sprawls over 171,000 square feet and is actually larger than the field at Yankee Stadium. Although touted as having four theme areas — Emerald City, Hollywood, Monte Carlo and Sports — they all blend together in a collage of rainbow-colored carpeting, floral wall coverings and neon-studded, marquee-style lighting.

The hotel has a variety of showrooms and arenas, where events have ranged from Bette Midler and Barbra Streisand concerts to Tyson-Holyfield championship fights. Jay Leno and NBC's *Tonight Show* frequently broadcast from the hotel, and the ongoing production show *EFX* starring David Cassidy is rated among the city's best productions (see our Nightlife chapter for a complete listing).

Dining is a smorgasbord with choices ranging from the California nouveau tastes of Wolfgang Puck (see Restaurants) to the classic specialties of the Brown Derby. In between you'll find the Southwestern treasures of the Coyote Cafe (see Restaurants), Chinese specialties at Dragon Court, Cajun cuisine at Emeril Lagasse's New Orleans Fish House, French cuisine at Gatsby's and upscale Italian dining at La Scala. There's also a New York-style deli, 24-hour coffee shop, buffet and fast food court.

The massive lobby features a brass registration desk, behind which sits an 80-panel video screen that flashes panoramic images of desert scenes, baseball stadiums and ad-

vertisements. Waiting guests can sit beneath a circular dome adorned with gold panels and bright red ceiling, while high rollers can follow the red carpet to a glassed VIP registration area.

The 5,000-plus rooms are honeycombed in four emerald-green towers. Most follow the hotel's *Wizard of Oz* motif, with emerald carpeting, gold-crown moldings, red poppy linens and prints of scenes from the movie. Of the hotel's 750 suites, about half are really oversized guest rooms with a sofa and two TVs; others perch on the 29th floor, fill 3,000 square feet in a split-level design and are served by one butler and up to 27 telephones.

MGM Grand Adventures is the city's only amusement park, featuring 33 acres of adventure rides, shows, theme streets, shops and restaurants. Built by Duell Corporation, the architect of non-Disney theme parks such as Sea World and Six Flags Magic Mountain, Grand Adventures was inspired by MGM's famous back lot in Los Angeles. Allow five to six hours for the rides and shows. Expect less walking than in most theme parks — the park is about one-tenth the size of Disneyland. See our Attractions chapter for a complete description of the park.

Other hotel amenities include a pool area the size of four football fields, two headliner theaters, a 15,000-seat events arena, tennis courts and the amusement park. Families will like the King Looney Youth Activity Center, a day-care facility open to the 3- to 16-year-old children of hotel guests. In addition to adult supervision, the center has every toy imaginable, from Duplo building blocks for preschoolers to Ping-Pong and Super Nintendo for preteens.

The Mirage

\$\$\$ • 3400 Las Vegas Blvd. S. • 791-7444, (800) 347-9000

With its gold-mirrored facade glistening in the desert, The Mirage stands out among Strip hotels. It is also a major tourist attraction. Nearly half the visitors to Las Vegas find their way to the 100-acre, 3,054-room resort.

Conceived as a Polynesian theme resort,

FYI

Unless otherwise noted, the area code for all phone numbers listed in this chapter is 702.



The street-smart *MADhattan* show at New York-New York deviates from the traditional Vegas extravaganza.

The Dream King

\$ • Boardwalk Holiday Inn Hotel Casino, 3740 Las Vegas Blvd. S. • 730-3194

If you want to "Shake, Rattle and Roll," stop by the Lighthouse Showroom for Trent Carlini's *The Dream King*. As one of the city's top Elvis impersonators, Carlini has the look, the moves and the voice to create a drop-dead impression of Presley in his prime. The Dream King plays once a night, Tuesday through Sunday. Children younger than 12 are admitted free.

EFX

\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$ • MGM Grand, 3799 Las Vegas Blvd. S. • 891-7777

David Cassidy has come a long way since playing the teenybopper heart throb on *The Partridge Family* in the 1970s. Today, with warmth, wit and a dashing dose of exuberance, Cassidy has made *EFX* one of the city's

top production shows. A high-tech musical odyssey through time and space, *EFX* has Cassidy embarking on a humorous, emotional journey to rediscover his power of imagination. Along the way he discovers worlds beyond reality and encounters legendary characters like Harry Houdini, H.G. Wells and Merlin the Magician. The diverse musical score incorporates everything from Gregorian chants and traditional Irish music to hard rock and Broadway ballads. Plus the show's special effects are truly spectacular, derived from film and theme park technology. *EFX* is presented twice nightly, Tuesday through Saturday. Children's ticket prices are available.

Enter the Night

\$\$ • Stardust Hotel, 3000 Las Vegas Blvd. S. • 732-6325

Another of the large-scale Vegas revues, *Enter the Night* celebrates the mystery and