



THAT'S WHAT **THEY** SAID



iViva Las Vegas!

These **Vegas Experts** Show Us the Best of Their City



Whether for a bachelor party, a 21st birthday or even a convention, Las Vegas is always an unforgettable experience—as long as you don't down too many tequilas. But while you were busy hitting up all the tourist hotspots on your last visit, you probably overlooked some hidden treasures. From food and drinks to entertainment and exhibitions, there's a lot more to Vegas than meets the eye. So before you start planning your next itinerary, take a look at how these four locals live it up in their city.



WRITTEN
BY: **JORDAN
NISHKIAN, TAL
COOPERMAN,
ROBERT GAMCH,
RYAN LABBE
AND SARA
DRAPER**
PHOTOGRAPHED
BY: **MICHAEL
WESLEY**





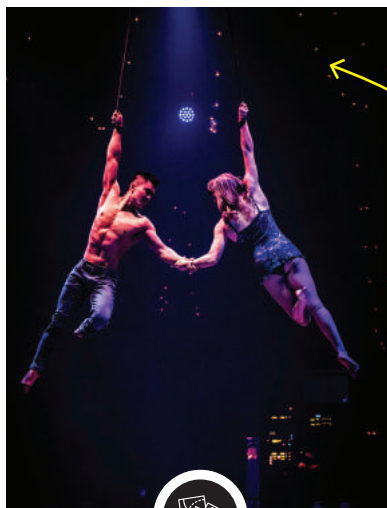
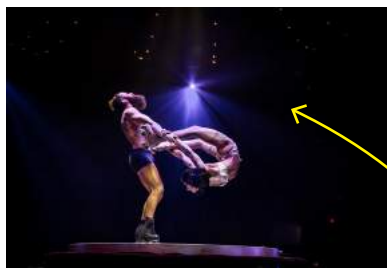
Expert: Robert Gamch

Credentials: Executive Director of VIP Marketing, Hakkasan Group

PROFILE:

- Has lived in Las Vegas: 14 years
- First job in Las Vegas: Passing out flyers for Light Group

"Clase Azul is so smooth and easy to sip on the rocks—it's my favorite drink to order."



DEAR TOURISTS

- ➔ Please, stop day-drinking with tacky yardsticks, and start ordering bottle service.

Three Things Everyone Should Do in Vegas:

1. Go see the famed kinetic chandelier at OMNIA Nightclub inside Caesars Palace
www.omniacclubs.com/las-vegas
2. Cool off from the 120-degree heat at the world famous pool party at WET REPUBLIC Ultra Pool at MGM Grand Hotel & Casino
wetrepUBLIC.com
3. Embrace the energy of the city! Soak it up, live in the moment and have fun

Hey, Batter Batter

- I met Derek Jeter at a celebrity golf tournament. I deal with various celebrities in my

line of work and normally I don't get starstruck, but I was a bit when I met Derek Jeter.

Be a Good Sport

- I am a die-hard San Francisco 49ers fan, but I also think bringing an NFL team to Las Vegas will do great things for the economy such as creating jobs, increasing the sports culture and attracting more visitors. It will be an added aspect to make this city even greater.

What Happens in Vegas...

- Locals know everything. Vegas really is a close-knit community and nothing stays a secret for long.

WEALTH OF LIBATIONS

➔ For brunch, you can definitely catch me at **The Black Sheep** for souffle pancakes and bottomless bellinis. For the evening, Commonwealth offers a cool mixology menu in a unique ambiance inspired by pre-Prohibition era design.
www.commonwealthlv.com

SHOOK ME ALL NIGHT LONG

➔ The espresso at Dutch Brothers is strong and gives me that extra kick for the late nightlife hours, especially if I'm going to watch the combo of humor and incredible circus-like acts in **"Absinthe"** at Caesars Palace, which I've already seen several times.
www.dutchbros.com
www.spiegelworld.com/absinthe

MÁS PARA AMAR

➔ The al pastor tacos at Tacos El Gordo are a must. It's the best place to get authentic Tijuana tacos and everything is homemade with fresh ingredients.
www.tacoselgordobc.com

FEELING BLUE

➔ Clase Azul is so smooth and easy to sip on the rocks—it's my favorite drink to order. You can get it anywhere that carries high-quality

tequila options, but my favorite spot is Hakkasan Restaurant at MGM Grand Hotel & Casino.
www.hakkasan.com

ENDLESS ENTERTAINMENT

➔ On my day off you can find me walking down The Strip to people-watch and get reacquainted with the city, or hiking at Red Rock Canyon. It's just a short distance from The Strip and features several paths, wild horses and burros and prime views of the city.
www.redrockcanyonlv.org

SPLISH SPLASH

➔ Since I prefer dayclubs, I'd head to WET REPUBLIC Ultra Pool at MGM Grand Hotel & Casino because it's known around the world for its A-list artist lineup, famed Champagne showers and unrivaled setting. It's a pool party like no other.
wetrepUBLIC.com

POP, ROCK AND DROP IT

➔ **Yellowtail** at the Bellagio Hotel & Casino offers delicious, fresh sushi with an incredible view of the famed Bellagio Fountains. My favorite dish is the "Popping Spicy Crab" specialty roll. It has cucumber, asparagus and pop rocks.
www.yellowtaillasvegas.com



Photos - Yellowtail: MGM Resorts International | Absinthe Show: Erik Kabik

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FOR THE FOODIES
DREW BELCHER, CO-FOUNDER OF UNLOKT DISHES OUT MEALS THAT HIT THE SPOT

Must Try: Patty Melt Dog, Elote Dog, House Dog
DIRT DOG
www.dirtdogla.com

Must Try: A5 Wagyu Beef, Seafood Pancake
80Z KOREAN STEAK HOUSE
www.80zlasvegas.com

Must Try: "S'motherload" Burrito, "Weekend Benny"
SKINNYFATS
skinnyfats.com

Must Try: Secret Menu Ultimate BBQ Sandwich, Famous Mac & Cheese, Smoked Brisket
BIG B'S TEXAS BBQ
www.bigbtexasbbq.com



"Since I prefer dayclubs, I'd head to WET REPUBLIC Ultra Pool at MGM Grand Hotel & Casino... It's a pool party like no other."

HAKKASAN GROUP
6385 S Rainbow Blvd, Ste 800
Las Vegas, NV 89118
702.212.8804
www.hakkasangroup.com
Photoshoot Location:
THE BLACK SHEEP
8680 W Warm Springs Rd
Las Vegas, NV 89148
702.954.3998
www.blacksheepvegas.com

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Must Try: Phenomenal
Menu Changes
SPARROW + WOLF
sparrowandwolflv.com

6

Must Try: Famous "86th
Street" Square Sicilian Pie
METRO PIZZA
www.metropizza.com

7

Must Try:
Omakase/Chef's Menu
KAME OMAKASE
www.sushikame.com

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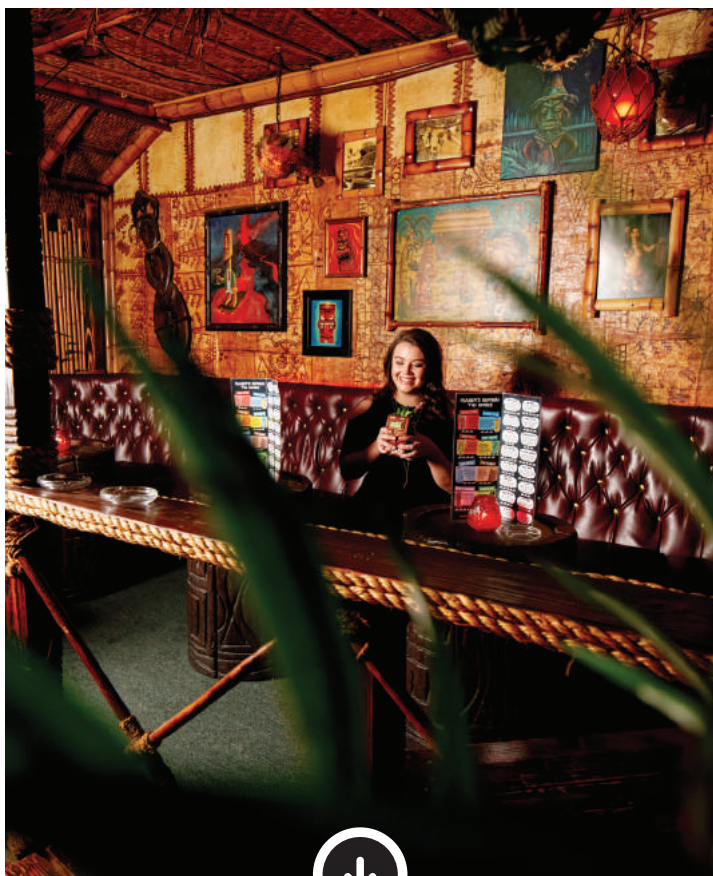


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Elegant yet Complex Food
& Cocktails...

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301 N. Spurgeon St.
Santa Ana, CA 92701
mercadomodern.com



"Frankie's Tiki Room is a cozy 24-hour tiki bar with exotic drinks that make me feel like I'm on vacation!"



Expert: Sara Draper

Credentials: Flight Attendant, JetSuiteX

PROFILE:

- Has lived in Las Vegas: 2 years
- First job in Las Vegas: Manager and Visual Merchandising at a retail store in Fashion Show Mall

DEAR TOURISTS

- ➔ Please stop taking off your heels to walk around the clubs and Las Vegas Blvd, and start wearing comfortable shoes that you can last all night in.

My Top Three Bars on Fremont St:

1. Corduroy
www.corduroylv.com
2. Downtown Cocktail Room
www.downtown-cocktailroom.com
3. Evil Pie
evelpie.com

Piece of My Art

- First Friday is a monthly arts festival with local artists and artwork, musicians and food truck vendors. What's not to love?

Broaden Your Horizons

- A lot of people think all Vegas has to offer is The Strip. We are close to Mount Charleston so you can ski or snowboard during the winter; we have Red Rock Canyon as well as Lake Mead

and the Springs Preserve; and we are close to the Grand Canyon or the Valley of Fire, which make for great road trips!

Rays for Days

- I'm a sun worshipper and, call me crazy, but I love that Vegas summertime heat! There's nothing like lounging by the pool with a cocktail (or two) in hand, good music playing in the background and getting tan!

Sky-High Miss American Pie

- Life from 30,000 feet is always an adventure! You never really know who you are going to meet that day, and what's in store for you. It's pretty exciting!

"Saying I have a mermaid obsession is an understatement, but Mermaid Lounge is so cute!"

COFFEE, TEA OR GÄBI?

➔ Gäbi Coffee & Bakery is a vintage coffee and tea house with a fresh bakery inspired from Korea circa 1920s. It's hidden in Chinatown and can only be found by an enormous wooden door and an illuminated "open" sign.
www.gabicafe.com

RESELL-ABRATE GOOD TIMES

➔ ReBAR is an eclectic antique store that is also a bar, so everything is for sale! Furniture, wall hangings, trinkets, beer steins, etc. They have delicious vegan kielbasa, along with other non-vegan bar foods if that's not your thing.
www.rebarlv.com

TIDE OF FRANKENSTEIN

➔ Frankie's Tiki Room is a cozy 24-hour tiki bar with exotic drinks that make me feel like I'm on vacation! I love the Frankenstein because it's super fruity. It's hard not to like any of their drinks though!
www.frankiestikroom.com

WHOLE LATTE OPTIONS

➔ I love Makers & Finders because where else can you get a Beet Root Latte? I also really enjoy their Salted Caramel Latte and their

Vanilla Chai Latte. Did I mention I like lattes?
www.makerslv.com

CHIP, CHIP, HOORAY!

➔ Go to Nacho Daddy and take a scorpion shot. It's a pickled scorpion that you add to a shot of your choice! Then wash it down with an order of the Thai chicken nachos. You won't regret it!
www.nachodaddy.com

YOU GOTTA BE SHIPPIN' ME

➔ Downtown Container Park has bars and restaurants built in and out of shipping containers. They host wine walks and live bands, and it's especially fun over the summer. After that, you're right in the middle of Fremont St, and that's a whole other adventure!
downtowncontainerpark.com

PART OF YOUR WORLD

➔ Saying I have a mermaid obsession is an understatement, but Mermaid Lounge is so cute! They have interactive mermaids that swim in a huge 117,000-gallon saltwater aquarium with all sorts of ocean life. I hope to be a part-time mermaid one day when I'm not in the sky!
www.silvertoncasino.com



Photos - Downtown Container Park: DTF Companies

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...CONTINUED FOR THE FOODIES
DREW BELCHER, CO-FOUNDER OF UNLOKT
DISHES OUT MEALS THAT HIT THE SPOT

Must Try: Ube French Toast, 10 ½ lb "Belly of the Beast" Burger
TRUFFLES N BACON CAFE
www.trufflesnbacon.com

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Must Try: Famous Bobalati Italian Ice, Spicy Sandia, Cereal Soft Serve Custards
CJ'S ITALIAN ICE & CUSTARD
www.cjsitalianice.com

10

Must Try: Happy Hour 5-8 p.m. and 12-3 a.m. for 50 Percent off All Steaks
HERBS & RYE
www.herbsandrye.com



JETSUITEX
105 E Reno Ave, Ste 22
Las Vegas, NV 89119
800.435.9579
www.jetsuitex.com

Photoshoot Location:
FRANKIE'S TIKI BAR
1712 W Charleston Blvd
Las Vegas, NV 89102
702.385.3110
www.frankiestikiroom.com

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Must Try: Robata
Skewer Menu
RAKU
raku-grill.com

12

Must Try: Famous
Cheesesteak, "The Big Sexy" Pizza
THOSE GUYS PIES
www.thoseguyspie.com

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CONTINUED...

AVILA'S EL RANCHITO MEXICAN RESTAURANT

How many locations have you been to?



CORONA DEL MAR



LAKE FOREST



COSTA MESA



NEWPORT BEACH



HUNTINGTON BEACH



ORANGE



LAGUNA BEACH



SAN CLEMENTE



LAGUNA NIQUEL



SANTA ANA



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WWW.AVILASELRANCHITO.COM



Expert: Ryan Labbe

Credentials: Partner, Clique Hospitality—81/82 Group

PROFILE:

- Has lived in Las Vegas: 7 years
- First job in Las Vegas: Developing parties and residencies at various Las Vegas venues

"The Golden Tiki is a cool dive bar with pirate décor and awesome cocktails that always make for a fun night."



DEAR TOURISTS

➔ Please, please stop walking around barefoot in/after the club, and start understanding that not everything is free.

Three Restaurants Only Locals Would Know About:

1. The Black sheep blacksheepvegas.com
2. Pier 215 pier215restaurant.com
3. Herbs & Rye herbsandrye.com

Stay Tuned

• March 2019 saw the opening of a new concept of ours: The Barbershop Cuts and Cocktails at The Cosmopolitan. Clean up your

fade and sip on a fine-aged whiskey before slipping through the Janitor's Door to a hideaway bar.

Tattle Tale

• What happens in Vegas doesn't stay in Vegas—social media has killed that!

In My Honest Opinion

• Day parties are better than night parties: they let you end your night early and not wake up as hungover.



GET UP AND GLOW

➔ For an unforgettable visit, I suggest visiting the iconic Neon Boneyard at the [Neon Museum](http://www.neonmuseum.org), Las Vegas, Nevada for postcard-worthy pics as well as exploring Downtown Fremont St—there's always something going on there! www.neonmuseum.org www.vegasexperience.com

POUR DECISIONS

➔ The Golden Tiki is a cool dive bar with pirate décor and awesome cocktails that always make for a fun night. But if you're looking for something more rough around the edges, go to Double Down Saloon for live punk shows and bacon martinis. www.thegoldentiki.com doubledownsaloos.com

WHATCHA CLINKIN' ABOUT?

➔ Even locals can be surprised at The Barrymore, a great local spot for good food and a swanky outdoor patio, and at Commonwealth, which may or may not have a secret speakeasy called [The Laundry Room](http://www.barrymorelv.com). www.barrymorelv.com www.commonwealthlv.com

TIME TO UNWIND

➔ On my days off you can usually find me at home with my dogs doing not

a damn thing! But if I'm heading out, you can find me at The Unknown Bar sipping a super-refreshing, perfectly-made paloma or at [Rose. Rabbit. Lie.](http://palms.com/unknown.html) with a New York Minute in my hand. palms.com/unknown.html cosmopolitanlasvegas.com/restaurants/rose-rabbit-lie

BELLA NOTTE

➔ If I want to live like a tourist for a day, I like to walk The Strip and head to Scarpetta for a great view of the Bellagio Fountain show while enjoying a delicious meal. www.cosmopolitanlasvegas.com/restaurants/scarpetta

UNFORGETTABLE PERFORMANCES

➔ Las Vegas is known for its incredible live performances, but some of the best shows I've ever seen here are "Michael Jackson ONE" by Cirque du Soleil, "Opium" and "Absinthe." www.cirquedusoleil.com/michael-jackson-one spiegelworld.com/opium spiegelworld.com/absinthe

A PERSONAL TOUCH

➔ Being a regular has its perks. At Soho, I order off-menu and ask for the beef tataki roll, and [Taco Y Taco](http://www.soholv.com) knows how I like my chicken tacos—"white boy style!" www.soholv.com www.tacoytacolv.com



Photos - The Laundry Room: Charles Scuso | Neon Museum: Neon Museum, Las Vegas, Nevada

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FOR THE FOODIES

DREW BELCHER, CO-FOUNDER OF UNLOKT DISHES OUT MEALS THAT HIT THE SPOT

Must Try: Chile Relleno Skillet, Hawaiian Breakfast Plate
PEG'S GLORIFIED HAM & EGGS
eatatpegs.com

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Must Try: Famous Vegan Fried Chicken Sandwich, Nashville Hot Chicken Sandwich
FLIPPIN' GOOD
flippinggood.com

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Must Try: Ube Flan Cupcakes, Ube Butterbars, Ube Monster Milkshake, Ube Cheesecake
CAFE 86
www.cafe-86.com



CLIQUE HOSPITALITY-81/82 GROUP

6445 S Tenaya Way, Ste 150
Las Vegas, NV 89113
702.489.2129
www.cliquehospitality.com

Photoshoot Location:

**THE BARBERSHOP CUTS
AND COCKTAILS**

3708 S Las Vegas Blvd
Las Vegas, NV 89109
702.698.7000

www.cosmopolitanlasvegas.com/lounges-
bars/the-barbershop-cuts-and-cocktails



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Must Try: Pizzalzone,
Lobster Stromboli
BROOKLYN PIZZA CO.

www.brooklynpizzacompanylv.com

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Must Try: Filipino
"Kamayan" Feast
FULL HOUSE BBQ

www.fullhousevegas.com

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ranhocapwinery.com





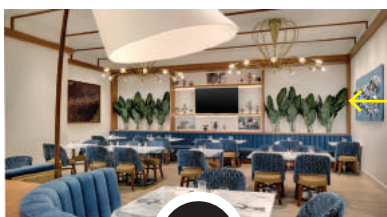
Expert: Tal Cooperman

Credentials: Creative Director, Palms Casino Resort

PROFILE:

- Has lived in Las Vegas: 5 years
- First job in Las Vegas: Director of Marketing at Drai's Nightclub and Dayclub at The Cromwell

"Trust me, make an appointment and head up to the fourth floor of the Louis Vuitton boutique in The Shops at Crystals to see Akhob, a permanent James Turrell installation."



DEAR TOURISTS

➔ Please stop with the oversized frozen cocktails, and start enjoying a hand-crafted cocktail.

My Top Three Favorite Shows:

- 1. KISS**
Where: T-MOBILE Arena
When: 2019
- 2. Billy Idol**
Where: Pearl at the Palms
When: 2019
- 3. Queen with Adam Lambert**
Where: Park MGM
When: 2018

Tough Crowd

- Las Vegas is living proof that change happens quickly, but one of Vegas' most notorious bars, the Double Down Saloon, has been bringing live punk rock shows and wild drinks for over 25 years!

Pte. Collection

- Dr. Lonnie Hammargren, the former Lieutenant Governor of Nevada,

amassed this incredible collection of curious artifacts that he displayed prominently within and throughout his East Las Vegas home. It's wild to even drive by, but inside, you see so many wild things he's collected over the years.

A Knight to Remember

- My favorite Golden Knights player would have to be Marc-Andre Fleury because the goalie has one of the toughest jobs in hockey.

Love Where You Work

- I get to work with some of the best hospitality professionals in Las Vegas and we are creating the next era of Las Vegas!

"Amber Unicorn Bookstore is a vintage bookstore with a huge collection of cookbooks."

SADDLE UP

➔ **Pioneer Saloon** is a 100-year-old bar in Goodsprings, which is just 30 minutes outside of Las Vegas. It's a taste of the Old West and so close to the beautiful mountains of Red Rock Canyon.
www.pioneersaloon.info

DO IT FOR THE 'GRAM

➔ Trust me, make an appointment and head up to the fourth floor of the Louis Vuitton boutique in The Shops at Crystals to see Akhob, a permanent James Turrell installation. It's an amazing immersive space that is a true visual treat.

LATE-NIGHT CRAVINGS

➔ For the best pizza in town, head to Naked City Pizza. But when I'm craving tacos, you can catch me next door to Sapphire at El Dorado Cantina for their carne asada and chicken tacos.
www.nakedcitylv.com
www.eldoradovegas.com

DELICIOUS SEN-SATION

➔ Sen of Japan is the freshest sushi off the Strip. It's located at the edge of Summerlin on the west side of town and has a casual setting

and great service. My must-try? The Garlic Shrimp Sushi!
www.senofjapan.com

A DRINK IN MY PALM

➔ Palms has the best drinks! For a cup of the freshest coffee that always goes down smooth, I go to **Lucky Penny** for a J. Gurse Coffee espresso, and for a cocktail with less calories, I recommend a Kettle Rocks with lemon at The Unknown Bar.
palms.com/unknown.html

DAM IT

➔ Boulder City, Nevada is an awesome town about 45 minutes outside of Las Vegas, near the Hoover Dam. If you're in town in February, make sure to check out the DAM Short Film Festival.
www.damshortfilm.org

IT'D BE A MYTH-TAKE NOT TO GO

➔ People go out of their way to visit this store! **Amber Unicorn Bookstore** is a vintage bookstore with a huge collection of cookbooks. It's cool to support a local business that has been selling actual books for years.
amberunicornbooks.com



Photos - Lucky Penny: Clint Jenkins | Pioneer Saloon: darrellcraigjenns.com

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...CONTINUED FOR THE FOODIES
DREW BELCHER, CO-FOUNDER OF UNLOKT
DISHES OUT MEALS THAT HIT THE SPOT

Must Try: Spencer Steak, Short Rib Hash
ECHO & RIG
www.echoandrig.com

Must Try: Hawaiian Garlic Shrimp, Plate Lunch Burrito
FIST OF FUSION
www.fistoffusionislandgrill.com

Must Try: "BAR Gamble"
BORN AND RAISED
www.bornandraisedlv.com

Must Try: "La Asada Skirt Steak With Chimichurri, Maine Lobster Ceviche
MORDEO BOUTIQUE WINE BAR
www.mordeolv.com

T UP *and*
NK



PALMS CASINO RESORT

4321 W Flamingo Rd
Las Vegas, NV 89103
702.942.7777
www.palms.com

Photoshoot Location:

DOUBLE DOWN SALOON

4640 Paradise Rd
Las Vegas, NV 89169
702.791.5775
www.doubledownsaloon.com

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Must Try: Oysters in Rotation, Spicy Tuna Tartar With Waffle Fries,
French Toast With Caviar, Prime NY Steak With Miso Hollandaise

OTHER MAMA

www.othermamalv.com



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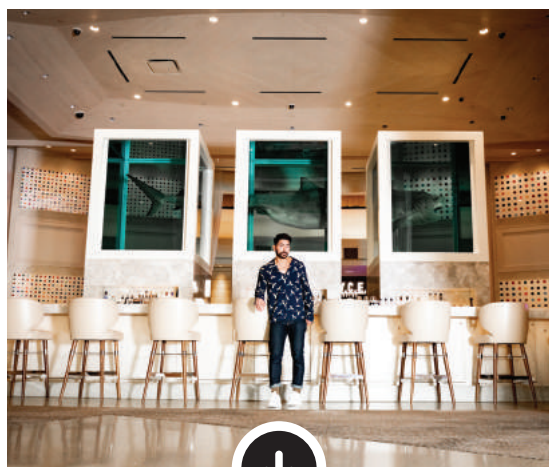
e: INFO@URBANAANAHEIM.COM

  /urbanaanaheim



TACO & TEQUILA Tuesday at URBANA

#MexicanGastronomy & #MEXology



Expert: Ronn Nicolli

Credentials: SVP Creative Strategy,
Palms Casino Resort

PROFILE:

- Has Lived in Las Vegas: 17 years
- First job in Las Vegas: Runway model for Fashion Show Mall



WHAT EVERYONE THAT COMES TO VEGAS SHOULD DO:

- ➔ Come to KAOS dayclub and nightclub
- ➔ Stay at the Palms and get a drink at **The Unknown Bar.** I recommend the Bee's Knees!
- ➔ Go around properties and get the social experience

PLACES MOST TOURISTS WON'T KNOW ABOUT BUT PROBABLY SHOULD:

Pho Kim Long in China Town

- ➔ This place is open 24 hours, has excellent food and a very cool, authentic environment.

Mr. Coco's at Palms Casino Resort

- ➔ It's an amazing spot that's brand new to Vegas and I really enjoy coming here.

The Laundry Room in Commonwealth

- ➔ This is a great place for connecting with friends, getting to know each other and networking.

NATIVE KNOWLEDGE:

- ➔ Floating above the central bar in The Unknown Bar is the eye-catching artwork of British artist Damien Hirst. The Unknown (Explored, Explained, Exploded) features a 13-foot, thrice-segmented tiger shark swimming in formaldehyde. ■



"TOURISTY" ACTIVITIES THAT YOU STILL ENJOY AS A LOCAL

Walking Around Downtown

- ➔ It's nostalgic!

The Strip on New Year's Eve

- ➔ Always a new experience and what a celebration!

Escaping to Red Rock for Hikes

- ➔ It's nature at its finest.



"The money doesn't come easy [in Vegas]. It takes hard work out here."

RONN'S FAVES



Favorite Sushi:

- ➔ Kuruma Ebi no Tempura at Zuma



Favorite Taco:

- ➔ Carne Asada Tacos at El Dorado Cantina



Favorite Cocktail:

- ➔ East-Coast Kali at CATCH

PALMS CASINO RESORT

4321 W Flamingo Rd
Las Vegas, NV 89103
702.942.7777
www.palms.com

Photoshoot Location:

THE UNKNOWN BAR

4321 W Flamingo Rd
Las Vegas, NV 89103
866.942.7770
www.palms.com/
unknown.html