



Spiritual Party



View from Hell

From Heaven to Hell in seconds...in **VEGAS!**

That's what **MIX** is all about. This lounge on the top floor of **The Hotel at Mandalay Bay** (TheHotelMandalayBay.com) is half Heaven/half Hell. And by the way, Hell has the better view!

Or if you want yours with a cherry on top, **Rande Gerber** is serving it your way at his new Vegas joint, **Cherry** in the **Red Rock Casino, Resort & Spa** (RedRockLasVegas.com) which just opened in April. The **Rockwell Group** created a vibe of "cowboy meets Cavalli" combining desert with Italian flash. The seduction begins when entering through a Freudian Love Tunnel.

Vegas seems to be maturing from theme-park driven madness to the newer, sleeker incarnation by **Steve Wynn** of his latest namesake **Wynn Las Vegas** (WynnLasVegas.com). No pirate ships, erupting volcanoes or Venetian canals. Here he will **Lure** you into his lounge and then allows you to have a **Tryst** at his disco. But as always, "What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas."



Wynn Las Vegas

I landed in the land of the forbidden fruit for the Fine Jewelry Show. Just in case the neon lights on the Strip were not enough to blind your eyes, this trade show showcased about \$15 billion dollars worth of glittering diamonds and other fine jewelry and gems. I was wondering why people were taking little suitcases to the pool with them. Then I figured out those little cases carried millions of dollars of bling, not to be trusted to the room safe or the maid.

Italians know how to do it! With style and lots of good food & drink of course. Each day, the **Italian Trade Commission** hosted a homemade lunch made by their very own chefs flown in from Italy's Regione Piemonte. Italian Happy Hour consisted of fine wines, prosecco and potent grappa. That certainly kicked off our night and gave everyone a warm and tingly feeling to venture out fearlessly to the casinos. And for their grand finale, the Italians hosted an elegant closing party at Wynn's Bartolotta restaurant. Viva Italia!

One night a jewelry fashion show for **Chris Aire** was staged on the rooftop of **Caesar's Palace** (CaesarsPalace.com) with the Vegas skyline shining brightly in the background. **Randy Jackson** of *American Idol* fame was seated front and center. Then we headed down to **Pure** nightclub for **Von Dutch** watches' **Dennis Rodman** appearance...who fits into this over-the-top town perfectly.

They brag about the dry heat in Vegas, but 110 is still 110 degrees in the desert. I prefer our moist air in sunny South Beach any day. Try running in Vegas and you too will get all choked up. No wonder they have doorman handing out complimentary water as you leave the hotels.



TOP to BOTTOM

1. Mix Restaurant - Heaven
2. Mix Lounge - Hell
3. Cherry @ Red Rock Hotel
4. Rehab @ Hard Rock Hotel



Hope & Italians @ Wynn Las Vegas



In addition to checking out the real estate market (let me know if you are interested in Vegas property - many great condo hotels), I drove over to the emerging **Las Vegas Arts District**. My friend's daughter, **Jennifer Main** has a studio in the **Arts Factory** (TheArtsFactory.com) and is Vegas' rising star artist. They also do a Friday gallery walk here. I got the nickel tour which included **The Attic for Phunky Phassions**, a cool vintage shop (TheAtticLasVegas.com), **Icehouse Lounge** (IceHouseLounge.com) and the surviving porn shops where they have not the usual peep holes, but instead glory holes. Well, you learn something new every day. Now I can add glory holes to my vocabulary...these holes allow you to touch what is inside the hole! I leave the rest to your imagination.

And of course, a trip to Vegas is not complete without a pitstop at the **Hard Rock Hotel & Casino** (HardRockHotel.com). On Sundays, they do their infamous pool party where frivolity flourishes. And my Playboy featured DJ pal, **Snezana** (PlanetLoveTV.com) spins all over the Strip so check here out and say Hope sent you!

Rooftop Fashion Show

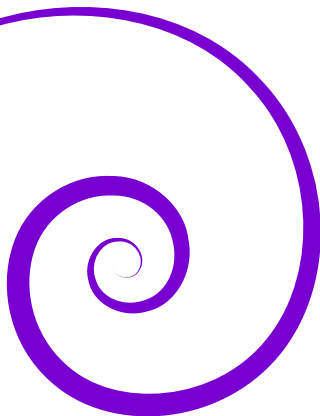


Ice House



Oh, I forgot to mention the **BITCH CLUB** which was founded in Vegas by a Vegas babe and stands for Beautiful, Intelligent, Tenacious, Charming & Haute. During club meetings the members get to *bitch*. It's actually a powerful networking group. No men allowed!

The Attic Props



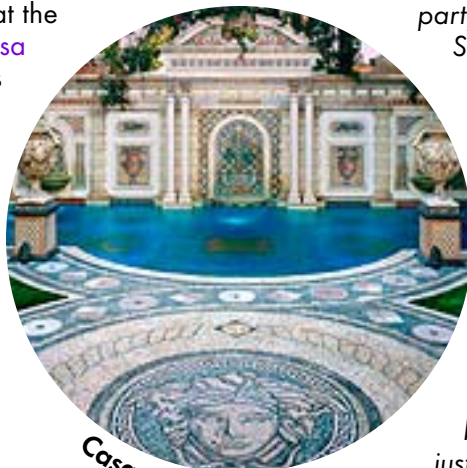
“The human race now stands on the brink of a historic transformation, with new eyes, new ears, new minds, and new hearts emerging from the cosmic drama of human evolution. As an embryo becomes a baby, we are becoming a new, more spiritualized version of ourselves.”

- Marianne Williamson, “Everyday Grace”

“It might feel like the period of a Great End,.... but in fact this is a time of Great Beginning. It is the time to die who we use to be and become who we are capable of being...the chance to become who we really are. And that is the miracle: the gift of change.”

- Marianne Williamson,
“Gift of Change”

I arrived back from **Sin City** to **SOUTH BEACH** just in time for a VIP charity luncheon hosted by my friends of the **Miami Institute** (Miami-Institute.com) at the former Versace Mansion, now called **Casa Casuarina** (CasaCasuarina.com). It was benefiting our soon to open, **Performing Arts Center** (PACMiami.com). The featured special guest was renowned spiritual speaker and author, **Marianne Williamson** (Marianne.com). I met her years ago, back in NYC when she taught the “Course of Miracles”. Now some 9 books later including “A Return to Love” which was a New York Times bestseller, she brings us “A Gift of Change.”



Casa Casuarina

She talked about how the “Great Generation” handed our generation a party. “We thought we could party on for the rest of our lifetime. Then the Sept. 11 wakeup call came. We instantly gained emotional maturity and sobriety in America. We were the last generation to expect we would be handed the job of handling the survival of humanity. We had never experienced war. We now know, peace is more than the absence of war. The world is in a critical moment. We have already been to the party and now we are ready to serve. It is our invitation not to the hot new club opening, but to be who we need to be. We are being asked to move from Good to Great, not just for our ourselves, but for the survival of our species. It is raining on our planet. We need to change for the good of mankind.”

“We are all being challenged, in one form or another, to recreate our lives.” As we cross the bridge to a more loving orientation – as we learn the lessons of spiritual transformation and apply them in our personal lives, we will become agents of change on a tremendous scale.”

- Marianne Williamson



OTHER STATISTICS THIS MONTH

- U.S. population hits 300 million and 400 million projected by 2040.
- Moscow is now the #1 most expensive city surpassing Tokyo.

Lecture over...now *Praise the Lord*. That is the name of the yacht I plan to board in **IBIZA**...but I will save the juicy details for next month. This boat floats with foam parties and other bacchanalia I am told. In the meantime, on Sundays in South Beach there is a new house of worship... for those on *The List* they can visit the Versace mansion for a decadent pool party. The spirit of **Hugh Hefner's Playboy Mansion** parties rein supreme here. There are big boobed babes bathing in teeny bikinis in the mosaic pool and gold chained men pouring champagne to their delight. Versace would turn over in his grave if he knew, I am sure!

Just one more diversion back to the gospel. Actor, **Stephen Baldwin** (StephenBaldwin.com) of the Baldwin brothers recently wrote a book titled "The Unusual Suspect" about his turning to faith. And he has a second book coming out called "Spirit Warriors" making spirituality hip with graffiti art.

"The events of 9/11 were a shift for me spiritually. It was a wake up call for me saying, 'what am I doing here, what's my life about if something like 9/11 can occur in the world.'"

- **Stephen Baldwin**

Talking about faith, our **Miami Heat** and coach **Pat Riley** had it...and it led them to the NBA Championship win. They were all hush hush about some secret container of items they kept under wraps in the locker room til they came home with the trophy.

The Earth is the hottest it has been in about 400 years, perhaps even 2000 years. Climate scientists say the Earth is running a fever and "human activities are responsible for much of the recent warming." Maybe **Al Gore** knows what he is talking about with his *Inconvenient Truth*.

The final quote of the month goes to **Jay Leno**:

"With hurricanes, tornadoes, fires out of control, mudslides, flooding, severe thunderstorms tearing up the country from one end to another, and with the threat of bird flu and terrorist attacks, Are we sure this is a good time to take 'God' out of the Pledge of Allegiance?"

So in closing, I say *Praise the Lord!* In any house of worship....a floating temple of temptation or otherwise.

**Be kind to Mother Nature & Mankind,
HOPE**

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