



Wynn Ups The Ante For Las Vegas Resorts

By Melissa Wolcott and Al Martino

People are always curious about what is inside a pretty package, and none more so than the mysterious sheer pine tree-lined mountain that hides the new Wynn Resort Casino from the strip. Contrary to most of the strip resorts, which are designed to pull you in with eye candy, this one seems designed to hide its goodies from passersby. A secret no more, Steve Wynn opened the doors to his \$2.7 billion, 50 story tall achievement on midnight, April 27th, the eve of his wife, Elaine's, birthday. We were there earlier to have a tour before the crowds descended (and did they ever!)

Steve Wynn has a magical history in Las Vegas, and bears a lot of the responsibility for bringing glamour to the town that had become tarnished and kitschy. With his vision of what could be, he created the beautiful Mirage Resort/Casino with an indoor tropical forest and an outdoor volcano, which set a new standard for all to follow. He took his concept of luxury further with the magnificent Bellagio Resort/Casino, which is fronted by a large lake with musical fountains and home to high-end boutiques and restaurants.

When the 140 ft. tall mountain took shape in front of the new Wynn Resort, it only stoked the fires of curiosity of how he could possibly top the Bellagio. This one was kept tightly under wraps — indeed, even a few hours before the doors opened, we still weren't permitted to take photographs inside. Vanity Fair had locked up an exclusive, and Wynn was honoring it to the "T." (The photos here are supplied by Wynn Resort.)

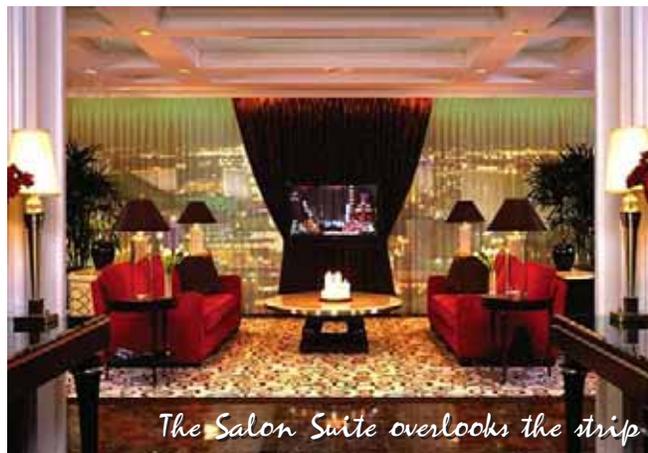
He did it. He surpassed all expectations with his new world-class resort. Behind the mountain lies a sophisticated and elegant resort, with the casino seemingly secondary. This is understated elegance that reeks of richness without shouting. Beautiful mosaic floors, rich dark woods, muted colors



permeate the resort. At the front of the casino is a water feature called the Lake of Dreams, with images projected onto a waterfall set to music. Just inside, giant colorful silk parasols glide slowly up and down from the ceiling. Even though Steve

seems to get all the credit, Elaine has been right by his side all along, and is very hands-on in the interior design of all their projects.

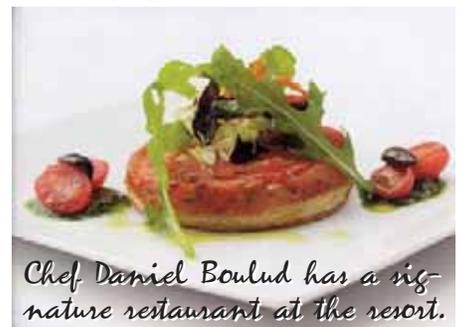
The guest rooms are available in different sizes and arrangements. Pillowtop beds, flat screen TVs, bathroom with soaking tub and his & her sinks, cushy seating areas and some panoramic views will make you feel like you're in a luxurious, and very comfortable apartment. The Salon Suite



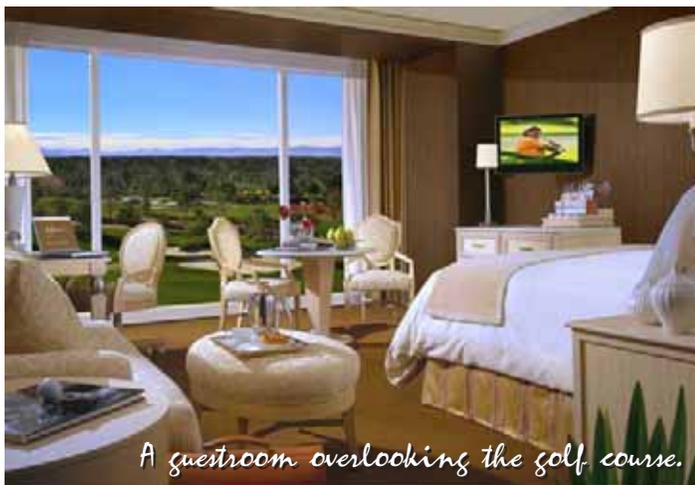
The Salon Suite overlooks the strip

has a particularly spectacular view of the strip, and is luxury personified. The daily room rate starts at \$253 for the regular guest room, and goes up from there according to size and location.

Some of the 22 restaurants on property were created specifically for various world-renowned chefs, and bear their names: Chef Daniel Boulud (Daniel Boulud Brasserie) is a known master of French cuisine; Chef Alessandro Stratta (Alex) brings Riviera cuisine to the resort;



Chef Daniel Boulud has a signature restaurant at the resort.



A guestroom overlooking the golf course.

Chef Paul Bartolotta (Bartolotta Ristorante Di Mare) creates Italian cuisine, and has fresh seafood flown in daily from European fish markets. The resort's magnificent Japanese restaurant is named after Wynn's business partner, Kazou Okada. The restaurant's name was a surprise by Wynn for Okada, who saw it for the first time at the opening. Okada's has the most spectacular setting, with an overview of a lake and waterfall, and a special floating table reserved for VIPs. Richard Chen (Wing Lei) masterfully blends Cantonese, Shanghai and Szechwan cooking, and SW (for Steve Wynn) is the resort's signature steakhouse, with Executive Chef Eric Klein at the helm. Even the buffet (a staple in Vegas) is presented as fine dining.

A big attraction to the resort will be the 18 course golf course designed by Tom Fazio right on property. The par 70 course has a complete clubhouse with professional golf assistance. A spectacular 37-foot waterfall is the focal point of the 18th hole. The resort also has a 3 acre lake with water falls — one 70 feet



Wynn features an 18 hole golf course designed by Tom Fazio.

high, and another more than 100 feet. The mature trees on the property were saved from the old Desert Inn (which used to occupy the site) and replanted.

No longer a treat just for the ladies, the Wynn spa is designed equally for men as well. The latest in fitness equipment, and spa therapies and products are in use in a most comfortable and relaxing atmosphere. Forty-five treatment rooms are provided, but if a guest prefers, most of the salon treatments are available in the guest's room. The spa is open to non-guests as well. Treatments range from \$30 to \$425. The resort's 4 pools are also fabulous, with a lot of private air-conditioned cabanas, and even a small casino available.

With the Wynn name attached, one could only expect high-end shopping, and the resort offers international, exclusive and unique boutiques with quality names such as Cartier, Chanel, Dior, Louis Vuitton, Manolo Blahnik, Oscar de la Renta, and more. Confident that Wynn Resort will bring in the moneyed folks, Roger Penske and Steve Wynn have built Nevada's only factory-authorized Ferrari / Maserati dealership right on



Cartier is one of the boutiques at the resort.

property, complete with a parts and repair shop. The cars are displayed on turntables, and when we toured the showroom, we saw an Enzo Ferrari on display that was one of only 100 in the world, and the only one in the USA. Also on display was the

Wynn's personal Enzo Ferrari, valued at over \$1 million (with less than 100 miles on it.) As of this writing, the inventory includes 12 new and 40 pre-owned cars. For those of us in a lower tax bracket (way lower) there is a Ferrari store with logo clothing, collectibles and memorabilia.



A Ferrari Showroom is located at Wynn resort.

A success at the Bellagio, the Wynns exhibit their extensive and priceless art collection in The Gallery, filled with Monet, Renoir, Picasso, and van Gogh, to name a few artists. Wonderful art works also adorn the resort walls.

What would a Las Vegas Resort/Casino be without a show? Actually, in this case, just fine and dandy, but the Wynns put in a spectacular show created by the mastermind behind the Cirque du Soleil shows, Franco Dragone.

Although we didn't have time to see it, "Le Reve" (the dream) involves



Le Reve is the new Dragone show at Wynn.

incredible athleticism, grace, costuming and water, as does his fabulous show "O" at the Bellagio.

Of course, this is Vegas, so the casino will be the draw for most visitors, and this one is set in the center of the resort, surrounded by restaurants and lounges. The slot machines are all coinless, and include all the favorites, as well as a 1¢ Wynn progressive slot machine with a virtual Steve congratulating you



each time you win. Don't let the 1¢ fool you, the new "penny" machines can be more than the \$5 machines if you want to play max credits. Table games offer the usual fare. The race and sports book at Wynn is an elegant affair, with rich, polished wood

individual cubicles with plasma TV screens. There is also a Keno Lounge and Poker room. You can become a rated player by joining the player's club located in the casino.

Experiencing this resort, you can completely forget you are in Vegas, and only when you catch a glimpse of the strip from on high are you jolted back to reality. High rollers from around the world are expected to stay and play at Wynn's, but it will also entice people who just appreciate a posh resort, where luxury, food, golf and pampering are the attraction.

It was a confident and very happy face on Steve Wynn as he walked through the cheering crowds in his casino opening night. But what was on the mind of this visionary was probably his other projects, which include the megaresort "Encore" to be built next to Wynn Las Vegas, a resort in Macau, and another in Singapore.

For more information, visit www.wynnlasvegas.com