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# TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By **ALEXANDRA COHEN**

**BACK TO LAS VEGAS:** When in search of a summer holiday destination last July I could not have thought of a better choice than to head to Las Vegas (<http://www.lasvegas-tourism.com>).

**WHERE TO STAY:** With its excellent central location on the Las Vegas Strip, Park MGM (<https://www.parkmgm.com>) offers guests direct access to what is quickly becoming the city's premier entertainment district, featuring the T-Mobile Arena, The Park,

and Park Theater, which mostly recently housed the residencies of both Lady Gaga and Janet Jackson. Formerly known as the Monte Carlo Hotel, the Park MGM comprises two new distinct experiences: Park MGM, and a Las Vegas version of the renowned NoMad, a stand alone 293-room hotel encompassing the tower's top four floors.

The Park MGM has 2,700 guestrooms and gives off a residential feel. There are three distinctive

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back in business. This places goes beyond fruit and vegetables, with a nice wide of meals and side orders ready to go...The recent 20th anniversary edition of Cinemania, helmed by Maily Teitelbaum, was a huge success showcasing a plethora of top French films with English sub-titles. One of the sponsors was the

Restaurant Sho-dan on Metcalfe, where owner Chinh Pham (a.k.a. Romeo) has many good friends in the Jewish community. A busy man indeed, Romeo has another business. The Romeo J. Jewelry collections (<https://www.romeoj.ca>) uses natural materials such as Tahitian pearls, precious metals and a variety of leathers and exotic skins in an array of colours. The pieces in these collections are designed to complement and enhance the style of men and women who are looking for a distinguished, authentic and relaxed look. Everything is designed and handmade in Canada.

Mike Cohen can be reached at [info@mikecohen.ca](mailto:info@mikecohen.ca). Follow him on Twitter and Instagram @mikecohencsl.

**TRAVEL TALES**

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guest suite types: Nighthawk, Nightingale and Skylark. The Peacock Hospitality Suite features 700 square feet of social and entertainment space with an adjoining guest room.

We stayed in a beautiful King bedroom and could not have been happier with the incredible accommodations. Immediately upon entering the room, we noticed the residential feel, complete with a lovely and comfortable window seat overlooking the swimming pool complex. The fresh bathroom offered a spacious walk-in shower. There are bedside outlets for phones and computers, blackout shades, a laptop-sized electronic in-room safe, a hair dryer, a television with cable and movie service, high speed Wi-Fi, and both self-check-in and mobile check out.

The pools at Park MGM offer a highly relaxing escape from the hustle and bustle of the Vegas Strip.

There are three pools - the South, East, and North Pools - as well as 12 cabanas, lounge areas, multiple bars, and a spa. Poolside food and beverages can be delivered directly to your seat as you take in the sun. Twelve private cabanas

serve up VIP treatment with deluxe amenities.

During our trip, we took the time to explore some of the other MGM properties in Las Vegas by spending time at their pools.

*(Please turn to following page)*



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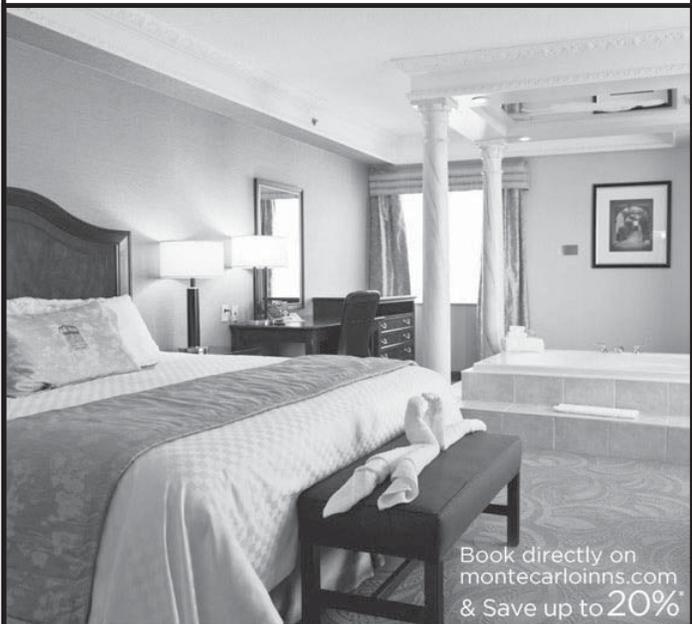
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**TRAVEL TALES**

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The Aria Resort and Casino (<https://aria.mgmresorts.com/en.html>) pool complex features the only ellipse-shaped pool in Las Vegas. For added privacy and amenities, guests can reserve one of a fleet of cabanas where Wi-Fi, shaded dining tables, and food and drink service are available. Visitors can also order poolside beverages and meals via the Breeze Café and Pool Bar, which features a wide menu of dishes and drinks. It was truly a beautiful and relaxing way to spend the day.

The other MGM pool that we had the pleasure of experiencing during our trip was the Mandalay Beach (<https://mandalaybay.mgmresorts.com/en/amenities/>

[beach.html](https://aria.mgmresorts.com/en/amenities/)), and we were truly blown away by what this property had to offer. The Mandalay Beach features an 11-acre tropical water environment, featuring more than 2,700 tons of sand, a signature 1.6-million-gallon wave pool, a lazy river, four swimming pools, a jogging track, as well as private gazeboes, cabanas and beach bungalows. The

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*CANADA POST WISHES Canadians "Hanukkah Sameach" with the release of its new stamp. Designed by Lionel Gadoury of Context Creative, the stamp explores the relationship between light and dark. Combining a stylized menorah with layered patterns and nuanced hues that range from bright yellow to deep purple, the intent is to evoke a sense of reflection and contemplation.*



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open-air Beach Bar & Grill serves up American cuisine, such as sandwiches, wraps, adult beverages, and other beach favorites.

**DINING OUT:** The Park MGM boasts a wide selection of restaurants for any Las Vegas palette. The dining highlight of Park MGM is without a doubt Eatly Las Vegas, a 40,000-square-foot culinary destination at Park MGM's main entrance. Eatly transports you to the streets of Italy, featuring unique food counters, bars, and cafes, all helmed by Executive Chef Nicole Brisson.

On our first day in Las Vegas, we had the pleasure of enjoying a delicious brunch at Primrose, found in the lobby of the Park MGM, with the option of outdoor seating with a view of the hotel's pool complex (<https://www.mgmresorts.com/en/restaurants/park-mgm/primrose.html>).

Los Angeles culinary legend Roy Choi debuted his Koreatown-inspired restaurant, Best Friend, at the Park MGM. Having now experienced it myself, I can say that Best Friend is more than simply a tasty meal. It is a dining experience!

One of the restaurants we really wanted to try on this trip was Sake

Rok(<https://sakeroklv.com>), located at The Park complex directly across the street from Park MGM. Sake Rok combines Japan's pop culture and fashion scene with over-the-top theatrics.

Inspired by the beautiful villages of Europe, the AAA Five Diamond Bellagio Resort & Casino ([www.bellagio.com](http://www.bellagio.com)) overlooks a large lake, in which the iconic fountain shows take place daily and nightly at regular intervals. The Bellagio recently welcomed Sadelle's, SoHo's popular vintage-style restaurant, to the resort's list of dining experiences. The location overlooks the Bellagio Conservatory, which features an ever-changing set of artistic displays.

Having previously experienced the restaurant TAO in New York City, we were thrilled to get a reservation at their 40,000 square foot restaurant, located at the Venetian-Resort-Hotel Casino ([www.taolasvegas.com](http://www.taolasvegas.com)). TAO opened in New York City in 2005. TAO Las Vegas debuted in 2005 and is a multi-faceted and multi-story "Asian City," which houses a restaurant, banquet facilities, a lounge, a nightclub and a seasonal beach.

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