

A visit to Caesars Palace should be on every traveller's agenda in Las Vegas

The Happy Traveller

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LAS VEGAS: What would a visit to Las Vegas be like without spending some time at the famous Caesars Palace (<https://www.caesars.com>)? As famous as Las Vegas itself, this resort is perhaps the best-known casino resort in the world.

Caesars Palace spans 85-acres at the heart of the Las Vegas Strip, just 10-minutes from the McCarran International Airport. Walking through the building, you experience some of the beautiful architectural designs, inspired by ancient Rome. On this trip, we enjoyed a day at their pool, as well as a meal at Gordon Ramsay's Hell's Kitchen.

Spanning five acres and offering access to seven distinct swimming pools, the Garden of the Gods Pool Oasis at Caesars Palace offers guests a variety of engaging daytime experiences in a beautiful setting. At the heart of Caesar's Palace, the pool complex is situated on three levels and is landscaped with Roman statues and fountains. Interested in a game of swim-up blackjack? Looking for a relaxing poolside massage? There is a pool for everyone.

During our visit, we spent time on comfortable daybeds at the Temple Pool. Umbrellas available for those who prefer shade, and plenty of sun for everyone else. Daybed seats are located just steps from the pool, allowing for quick and frequent refuge from the heat of Vegas in the summer. We enjoyed excellent lunch service by the pool, including cocktails, grilled cheese sandwiches, and fruit bowls.

Other pools available include Cove Beach, which has a Mediterranean theme and high-energy music; the Neptune Pool, which features DJs and large floaties; and The Apollo Pool, offering a more casual atmosphere and poolside games. Take your family to the Jupiter Pool, which has life-sized games, themed floaties, and weekend activities for children. Finally, visit the Fortuna Pool for the swim-up blackjack tables, or the Bacchus Pool for a more VIP experience.

Hell's Kitchen

The world's first Gordon Ramsay Hell's Kitchen Restaurant (www.GRHellsKitchenLV.com) is a unique experience. Drawing inspiration from the global hit reality television show starring world-renowned Chef Gordon Ramsay, guests will feel like they really are on the studio set.



The balcony view at Il Mulino New York.



The exotic Temple Pool at Caesars Palace.

Located in front of Caesars Palace, the restaurant seats more than 300 guests. The Red and Blue kitchens, similar to the two teams featured on the TV show, serve up modern lunch and dinner menus, including Hell's Kitchen signature dishes.

Gordon Ramsay, known not only for his refined cuisine, but also his TV personality on several hit programs including; "Hell's Kitchen," "MasterChef" and "Kitchen Nightmares," has generated worldwide attention and entertained viewers on six continents. By reputation alone, I was certain that this would be an exceptional culinary experience.

Several of the most successful signature menu items and recipes featured on the television show can be experienced during lunch and dinner, including: Pan Seared Scallops, Lobster Risotto, Beef Wellington, Truffle Arancini, Brick Pressed Chicken and Crispy Skin Salmon. Special menu items direct from the show will be added as new episodes air. We also ordered the delicious rack of lamb and filet mignon. Not to be missed for dessert is the famous sticky toffee pudding.

A cocktail also worth mentioning is the gin-based "Notes from Gordon", which comes with a scroll printed with a surprise note from Gordon Ramsay himself.

Gordon Ramsay's Hell's Kitchen marks Ramsay's fifth Las Vegas restaurant and extends his successful partnership with Caesars Entertainment to seven eateries. Hell's Kitchen airs in 41 countries around the globe.



The entrance to Gordon Ramsey's Hell's Kitchen.

Il Mulino New York

Our family's first experience with Il Mulino New York was at their Florida location, found in the Aqualina Resort. We were therefore very much looking forward to visiting this dining establishment again at The Forum Shops at Caesars.

The best word to describe the dining experience that accompanies every meal at Il Mulino New York is "elegance." Everything from the ambiance and décor to the quality of the service provided fits within that one word.

Prior to receiving your menu, a cheese steward delivers some delicious Grana Padano to the table. Following this, you are brought complimentary hors d'oeuvres and several offerings of Italian bread. While there is great pleasure in taking your time in such a restaurant, they also now offer Pre- and Post-Theatre menus, starting at \$39 from 5 - 6:30pm and 9:30pm until closing on Sunday through Friday.

After enjoying some cheese, focaccia, and Italian bread, we began our meal with two delicious appetizers: a burrata and tomato salad, as well as breaded eggplant, stuffed with shrimp and lobster and topped off with cheese and a creamy pink vodka sauce. For our main course, we enjoyed the rack of lamb, as well as our personal favorite: Langostinos served on a bed of mushroom risotto. For dessert, we enjoyed their tiramisu, perhaps the best that we have ever had. The meal is completed with a small glass of limoncello. The restaurant is fully wheelchair accessible.

Founded in Greenwich Village in 1981, Il Mulino New York originated as an intimate and esteemed eatery. Today, it has grown to 17 locales, with locations in New York (Downtown, Uptown, Tribeca, the Hamptons, and Long Island), Las Vegas, Puerto Rico, Sunny Isles Beach, Atlantic City, and Boca Raton. They also offer Il Mulino Prime, a modern Italian steakhouse in the Soho and Gramercy neighborhoods in New York City. Trattoria Il Mulino offers casual, chic dining in the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, found in Atlantic City, Nashville and Orlando.