

Monte Carlo Hotel in Las Vegas makes classy transformation to Park MGM

The Happy Traveller

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LAS VEGAS – The former Monte Carlo Hotel officially shed its name recently for a new identity – Park MGM (www.parkmgm.com/en.html). A partnership between Sydell Group and MGM Resorts International, Park MGM was born from the collaborative vision of the New York-based lifestyle hotelier and one of the world's pre-eminent destination resort developers. The project comprises two new distinct experiences: Park MGM, and a Las Vegas version of the renowned NoMad, a standalone 292-room hotel encompassing the tower's top four floors.

In addition to the 5,200-seat Park Theater (now featuring Lady Gaga's highly anticipated engagement), the resort unveiled completely re-imagined guestrooms and suites, food and beverage offerings, lounges, pools and meeting spaces. Filled with natural light and punctuated by nature-inspired décor and art, Park MGM's lobby is a nod to urban gardens and parks, including the adjacent Park neighborhood, bringing the outdoors inside. A dramatic arboreal sculpture by Brazilian woodworker Henrique Oliveira is the focal point of the lobby.

Park MGM's remodeled casino floor reflects the resort's outdoor inspiration. In keeping with Sydell Group's vision for maintaining key elements of the former space, the casino's design contains subtle nods to its Monte Carlo roots, including the refined sparkling chandeliers, intricate crown moulding and stained-glass ceiling, all of which have been refurbished to their original beauty. Park MGM's rooms evoke the essence of a private apartment, with a mix of thoughtful touches, antique-inspired pieces, and original artwork by artists and photographers from around the world, commissioned for each room by France's be-pôles studio.

Channeling the sundrenched South of France, the hotel's vibrant outdoor escape features three pools, an oversized heated spa, 12 cabanas, lounge areas, and multiple bars serving up delicious bites and beverages.

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With its excellent central location, Park MGM offers guests direct access to what is quickly becoming the city's premier entertainment district, featuring T-Mobile Arena where the NHL's Vegas Golden Knights play.

Dining at Bavette's

We got a nice look at this new hotel when we dined at Bavette's Steakhouse (www.bavettessteakhouse.com). Like its beloved Chicago sibling, the new Bavette's represents an outstanding dining experience. With the restaurant's glowing chandeliers, red banquettes, and vintage art and murals, guests are transported to an intimate space as they eat.

Bavette's offers fantastic takes on some time-honored steakhouse traditions, such as multi-tiered seafood towers, dry-aged bone-in rib-eyes and lamb chops. In addition to some of the classics, we also enjoyed a traditional filet mignon, a large baked crap cake, and side orders of wild mushrooms and buttery mashed potatoes, all beautifully presented.

Desserts leaned toward decadent—we enjoyed the Chocolate Cream pie with an Oreo crust, as well as their classic Lemon-Meringue Pie.

In the back of Bavette's, a hidden parlor bar awaits guests who want to begin their evening early, or let it

run late, exploring the cornucopia of cocktails that they have to offer.

The elegant landscape is complemented by a boisterous measure of classic big band jazz and vintage blues tunes in the main dining room.

Bavette's is open 5 - 11pm Monday through Thursday; 5pm – midnight Friday and Saturday; and 5 – 10pm on Sunday. Reservations can be made by calling 702-730-6700.

Juniper Cocktail Lounge

Before or after dinner at Bavette's, explore the stylish Juniper Cocktail Lounge next door, a truly unique drinking experience that I very much enjoyed. The mixology destination challenges the status quo of mainstay drinks while staying true to the foundation of what makes a great cocktail. Whimsical elements like fortune-telling Gin & Tonics come to life through house-made juices and syrups, a premium selection of spirits, and a dedication to the craft.

"Juniper Cocktail Lounge brings a different perspective to the Las Vegas lounge with a more progressive cocktail program than people have experienced from such a venue," said Craig Schoettler, MGM Resorts executive director of beverage and corporate mixologist.

Set to become a key component of Las Vegas nightlife, Juniper Cocktail Lounge offers its distinct vision of bottle service for guests with an extensive selection of gins, whiskeys, tequilas and rums from around the globe. No sacrifices are made for the large-scale service as patrons have access to some of the world's finest liquors at their private tables.

We enjoyed their most famous cocktail, entitled "A little birdie," in which the sipsmith gin, strawberry, dolin dry vermouth, and fresh lemon are interestingly served in a glass shaped like a bird. We also enjoyed "Carnival"—a glass is brought to the table filled to the brim with cotton candy, at which point Tanqueray 10 gin, fresh lime, and St-Germain is poured over the cotton candy, causing it to melt in as part of the drink. The menu options were endless, each one appearing to be better than the one before it.

Juniper Cocktail Lounge is open Sunday – Thursday from 5pm – 12am and Friday – Saturday from 5pm – 2 am. For more information, call 702-730-7777 or visit Juniper Cocktail Lounge <https://www.parkmgm.com/en/nightlife/juniper-cocktail-lounge.html> Explore the nightly happenings and more by following Juniper Cocktail Lounge on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter at @JuniperCocktail.



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