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TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By **ALEXANDRA COHEN**

LAS VEGAS- There is no question about it. The City of Las Vegas, Nevada (<https://www.visitlasvegas.com/ca>) has everything that a vacationer could possibly ask for: concerts, shows, sports, shopping, dining, nightlife, golf, spas, adventure, luxury accommodations, and much more.

Ten kosher restaurants and two well-stocked markets make kosher food plentiful in the area. Across the valley, you can find nine orthodox synagogues in lovely neighborhoods. Two established Jewish day schools, pre-schools, and a new yeshiva high school. *(Please turn to page 21)*

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values on a wide range of issues. What is new, however, is the weaponization of anti-Semitism and the

president's unconscionable false accusation that "Democrats hate Jewish people."

TRAVEL TALES

(Continued from page 8)

Las Vegas is considered the fastest growing Jewish community in the United States. There are over 70,000 Jews and 19 synagogues in total, as well as many Jewish organizations in the area, Jewish delis, and kosher restaurants. Many larger markets feature kosher fresh meats and kosher food sections.

Even the Mayor of Las Vegas, Carolyn Goodman, is Jewish. The 19th annual Las Vegas Jewish Film Festival took place in January, providing insight into Jewish identity, history, and culture, also promoting solidarity with Israel and the remembrance of the Holocaust.

(Please turn to following page)

TORONTO INVESTORS HONOURED BY STATE OF ISRAEL BONDS



TORONTO HONOREES JOE AND RUTH BITTON (fourth from left and fifth from left), and Lily and Jack Bitton (third from right and second from right), with Ron Dermer, Israel's Ambassador to the United States (center) at the annual Israel Bonds International Prime Minister's Club Dinner, held March 3 in Hollywood, FL. The Bittons were among nine honorees presented with the first annual Shimon Peres Leadership Award in recognition of their exceptional dedication to Israel and Jewish causes. At the dinner, Ambassador Dermer, in referencing Israel's recent lunar landing craft launch, said, "Israel Bonds has been our booster rocket, helping to fuel Israel's remarkable rise among the nations." Mika Almog, the granddaughter of Shimon Peres, cited the late president's forward-looking vision in telling the honorees, "You, too, are made of the future." Also pictured: Stuart Garawitz, Vice President, National Sales of Israel Bonds (far left); Howard Goldstein, Chairman of the Board of Israel Bonds (third from left); Israel Maimon, President and CEO of Israel Bonds (far right). Photo: Peter Halmagyi

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SERVING THE GTA

TRAVEL TALES

(Continued from preceding page)

WHERE TO STAY:
We stayed at the gorgeous Vdara Hotel & Spa (<https://www.vdara.com>), a luxury boutique property located at CityCenter.

An all-suite hotel and spa is designed for those who love the excitement of Vegas, but prefer to enjoy it in a smaller and more exclusive, non-gaming, smoke-free environment. Vdara is physically connected to the Bellagio and directly adjacent to the Aria Resort & Casino, offering access to all of the amenities and energy of CityCenter while also providing a nearby retreat from the hustle and bustle of the strip.

The Vdara made its debut in December 2009. Soaring 57 stories, Vdara has 1,495 suites ranging from 500 to 1,650 square feet. It also boasts some outstanding amenities, including its spa. Featuring 10,000 square feet of contemporary conference space, Vdara has become the premier choice in Las Vegas for customized executive meetings, corporate, social, and banquet functions for up to 400 guests. The Pool & Lounge, a beauti-

ful getaway that we had the chance to experience firsthand, also features 19 luxurious cabanas, including six spa cabanas. While at the Vdara guests can experience what is surely a first in many of their lives: snacks and coffee delivered to their rooms by two relay robots by the names of Fetch and Jett.

We were pleased to see that our Corner Suite offered us a lovely view of some of the hotels on the Strip. Other similar suites

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offer picturesque views of the Bellagio Fountains and surrounding mountains. The kitchenette features a two-burner stove and a full-sized refrigerator, while the living area offers a dining table fit for four. You can end the day by soaking in the spa-like tub sitting in the room's expansive bathroom. There are 42-inch, flat-screen, and high-definition televisions with media hubs for MP3 players, cameras, DVD players and game consoles as well as a work desk with a multi-line telephone in each of the suites. We also had access to large closets with plush robes and slippers, an ironing board and clothes steamer, and a washing machine. The in-suite, lap-top-sized electronic safes were an added convenience for all of us.

For more information, log on to www.vdara.com, or call toll free at (866) 745-7767 or 702.590.2111. Follow Vdara on Facebook and Twitter at Vdara Las Vegas and VdaraLV.

BAVETTE AND THE PARK MGM: The former Monte Carlo Hotel officially shed its name recently for a new identity – Park MGM (<https://www.parkmgm.com/en.html>). The project comprises two new distinct experiences: Park MGM, and a Las Vegas version of the renowned NoMad, a stand alone 292-room hotel encompassing the tower's top four floors. We got a look at this new hotel when we dined at Bavette's Steakhouse (www.bavettessteakhouse.com). Bavette's offers fantastic takes on some time-honored steakhouse traditions,

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