

# Las Vegas Review Journal – Best of Vegas March 2011



## BEST OF LAS VEGAS

## Entertainment

psychosexual visuals to the towering three-story puppets with eager mandibles, this was a complete, immersive experience where Waters brought down "The Wall" and the packed house right along with it.

### CONCERT VENUE

*Readers' Pick:*

#### THE JOINT

Hard Rock Hotel  
4455 Paradise Road

You and Carlos Santana agree: The Joint's smokin'. What makes it so? Well, it's a decent-sized room, with a capacity of 4,000, but it still feels like a smaller hall, with no seat farther than 155 feet from the stage. Plus, with the sound system and rigging capacity of a much larger arena, it makes catching must-see acts such as Drake, The Pixies and Them Crooked Vultures — all of whom played The Joint in 2010 — an even more enveloping experience. Until Paul McCartney plays your living room — and your cat would totally not approve of that — this is as good as it gets. In second, Mandalay Bay Beach hollers for "Free Bird" to no one's amusement.

*Our Pick:*

#### THE PEARL

Palms  
4321 W. Flamingo Road

For one weekend in October at The Pearl, it was as if MTV's former Sunday-night staple "120 Minutes" came back from the dead and invaded Vegas like a zombie dripping with crucial tunes instead of, you know, maggots and rotting flesh and stuff. The occasion was the Matador at 21 weekend, where such alt-rock luminaries as Pavement, Sonic Youth and Guided By Voices came to town in one of the best music events of recent memory. That was just one of the highlights of a banner year for The Pearl, which also hosted killer shows from the likes of LCD Soundsystem, Jay-Z, A Perfect Circle, Conan O'Brien and Slayer, just to name a few. Best of all, you were able to see all those big names and more in a relatively intimate venue, meaning that, at long last, we were finally able to say that we got up close and personal with Norah Jones with no restraining order involved.

### FAMILY ATTRACTION

*Readers' Pick:*

#### ADVENTUREDOME

Circus Circus  
2880 Las Vegas Blvd. South

The kids will have so much fun here, they'll totally get over that time you forgot to pick them up at school 'cause you were rockin' happy hour at Hooters and they had to hitchhike home and eat cat food for dinner because you neglected to buy groceries that week. With its many amusement rides, arcade games, circus-style attractions and clowns out the yin-yang, the Adventuredome makes life as rosy as its pink-colored facade. Las Vegas Springs Preserve takes a hike in second.



K.M. CANNON/LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL FILE PHOTO

The rejuvenating Las Vegas Springs Preserve is the staff pick for Best Family Attraction.

*Our Pick:*

#### LAS VEGAS SPRINGS PRESERVE

333 S. Valley View Blvd. (near Meadows Lane)

Las Vegas is a revolving door of a city, perpetually in transition. But at Springs Preserve, time slows down a bit in refreshing, rejuvenating fashion. There are scenic trails and botanical gardens to explore. The Desert Living Center and Origen Museum, with their many art and educational exhibits, provide insight to all the wildlife that inhabits the Mojave Desert and more. This town is defined by fast living, but this is the place to take your foot off the accelerator for a bit.

### GAY/ALTERNATIVE BAR

*Readers' Pick:*

#### KRAVE

Miracle Mile Shops at Planet Hollywood  
3663 Las Vegas Blvd. South

What do Elton John, Lady Gaga and R-J readers have in common? Well, you're all as classy as Ron Burgundy and silk underpants, and you all like to party at Krave. Here, it's all about options. In addition to a svelte lounge and an always happening nightclub, there's the Harmon Theatre, with plenty of provocative productions. Sure, it's a bit of a meat market, but you're the prime rib, hot stuff. Piranha Nightclub 8½ Ultralounge swims into second place.

*Our Pick:*

#### FREEZONE

610 E. Naples Drive (near Paradise Road)

How good is the service here? Well, the male staff members literally give you the