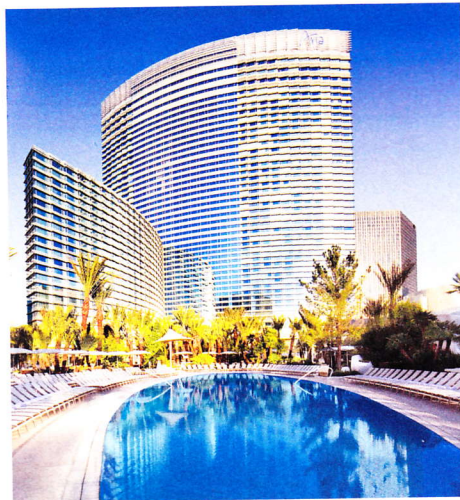


Upping the Ante in LAS VEGAS

If you haven't been to Las Vegas lately, here's a reason to return: the December 2009 opening of CityCenter, 67 acres of hotels, shopping, entertainment, and fine art. Though it fronts the neon and cacophonous crowds of the famous Strip, **CityCenter** (citycenter.com) by design exudes a sense of seclusion and serenity. And wonder of wonders, its anchor hotel, **Aria Resort & Casino**, embraces natural light, even in its casino. Here are other reasons to take a look. —*Laura Daily*



- **Tricked-out guest-room technology.** At Aria and the Mandarin Oriental hotel, a tiny touch-screen panel helps you adjust room lighting, temperature, music, wake-up calls, and the opening and closing of curtains.
- **Water, water, everywhere.** A quintet of water features—dancing fountains to waterfalls—amuse and dazzle. Coolest are carved ice pillars at Crystals. Psst . . . it's okay to touch the one on the end.
- **A casino that isn't stinky.** Slot machines pull double duty as one-armed bandits and air-conditioning units, pushing filtered air up from the ground.
- **High-roller shopping.** Only platinum-card holders can afford Crystals, the überluxe retail complex. Among the crème de la crème invited to set up shop: Louis Vuitton, Prada, Gucci, Mikimoto, Porsche Design, Tom Ford, Tiffany & Co., and Roberto Cavalli.

DON'T FORGET

Mind NO SMOKING signs and be aware of no-smoking policies. Some hotels charge hefty fines (perhaps \$250), sometimes called cleaning fees, for smoking in a nonsmoking room or area.

Find the Flower

We've hidden a small bird-of-paradise icon (like this one: 🌺) somewhere in this issue. If you locate it and enter our Find the Flower contest, you may win a free one-year AAA Hawai'i Classic membership renewal. To enter, send a postcard that includes your name, mailing address, phone number, and a brief description of the hidden icon's location to Find the Flower Contest, AAA Hawai'i, 1130 N. Nimitz Hwy., A170, Honolulu, HI 96817-6521. We must receive your entry by 11:59 P.M. (HST) on August 16, 2010. We will select the winner in a random drawing of all correct entries on or about August 23, 2010, and we will announce the winner in a future issue. Congratulations to the March/April 2010 contest winner, Evelyn Kelihoomalua of Kailua, O'ahu. The icon was hidden on the bar in the top left photo on page 25 of that issue.

OFFICIAL RULES: AAA Hawai'i magazine is not responsible for late, lost, damaged, illegible, or incomplete entries. The contest is open only to legal U.S. residents, age 18 or older, who are AAA Hawai'i members as of June 15, 2010. Only one entry per person. Employees of AAA and its member clubs and their immediate families are not eligible to enter. No purchase or payment is necessary to participate. Odds of winning will depend on the number of correct entries received; no prize will be awarded if no valid entries are received. The prize is a free one-year AAA Hawai'i Classic membership renewal (approximate retail value, \$57; applies to primary membership only). The prize is nontransferable and is not redeemable for cash. There will be no substitutions for the prize. The judges' decision is final. Receipt of entries cannot be verified. The winner will be notified by certified mail and required to sign an eligibility/publicity/liability release form acceptable to AAA Hawai'i within 21 days of notification or an alternate winner will be randomly selected. Void where prohibited. All federal, state, and local laws apply. By participating, each participant agrees to be bound by these Official Rules.

Quick Calendar

JULY 1-2 Vic-Maui International Yacht Race, Maui. This race runs every second year from Victoria, British Columbia, to its finish at Kā'anapali, a distance of approximately 2,308 nautical miles. Track the yachts' progress at vicmaui.org.

JULY 9-29 "The Nature of Things," Hawai'i Island. Five local artists display 100 pieces of nature-inspired abstract and representational art in a variety of media. Free. Closed weekends. Wailoa Arts & Cultural Center, Hilo. (808) 933-0416.

JULY 17-25 Kōloa Plantation Days, Kaua'i. The 25th version of this nine-day family-oriented festival offers local foods, sporting events, entertainment, a craft fair, a block party, a parade, and historic walks and videos. Various sites, Kōloa and Po'ipū. (808) 652-3217; koloaplantationdays.com.

JULY 18 'Ukulele Festival Hawai'i, O'ahu. Now in its 40th year, the event will include an 'ukulele orchestra of more than 800 students, mostly children, culminating with a two-hour concert that showcases the finest 'ukulele players. Free. 9:30 A.M.–1:30 P.M. Kapi'olani Park Bandstand, Waikiki. (808) 732-3739; roysakuma.net.