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The truth is, you're only as good as your support. At Real Vegas, we are immensely grateful and appreciative of all our local readers! Without the contributors listed here, this publication would be next to impossible.

This special feature issue is dedicated to our 2025 Greatest Medical Minds as well as our Greatest Real Estate Moguls.

We are honored to have had the opportunity to get to know and learn about these outstanding professionals, their practices, brokerages, teams, their respective businesses, and organizations. These are truly innovative and hardworking individuals in our community!

This special feature is the result of our collective hard work, dedication, and passion. Every contribution to each issue is a labor of love from the bottom of our hearts. We proudly thank every advertiser, writer, photographer, and contributor in every way. Without you, we couldn't share these stories or provide rich content, including current events and the rich history of Las Vegas, which is extremely important to us.

Feel free to submit any editorial pieces for consideration to: info@realvegasmagazine.com. Don't forget to follow and like us on social media and visit our website: realvegasmagazine.com. We host many local Real Vegas community events and would love for you to join us! Stay tuned for information on our upcoming events, promoted and shared on social media.

THANK YOU all, we hope you enjoy reading Real Vegas as much as we enjoy creating it!

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS MAGAZINE

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VEGAS NONSTOP

BY JONATHAN SCOTT & MELISSA REDFORD

“Change is the essence of nature” and Las Vegas is always changing. We always get a kick out of friends who say they haven’t visited in a few years and ask us what’s new in Vegas and expect a full report. Today? From hotels to casinos to stadiums, restaurants and shows Las Vegas is in a constant change reinventing itself every day. We are thankful for never being bored. Here are a few recent restaurants, show openings and special events that we were lucky to attend along with some enjoyable established fun eateries, attractions and shows that we recommend.

THE BRUNCH BUNCH

The change that we see in enjoying a weekend brunch is the vast number of choices available between serious Mimosa and Caviar high end romance, some classic R&B or a fun and silly drag brunch here are some of our recommendations on and off the strip.

Café Breizh on Ft. Apache is a casual French styled pastry and bakery with specialty coffee and delicious desserts. We share the Croque Monsieur and Croque Madam with a side pastry and share a lemon sugar crepe. Yum.

When we have a reason to celebrate a birthday, anniversary or a win at video poker we treat ourselves to either Tableau or The Terrace Café at The Wynn overlooking the pool.

The Motown Brunch at the Ahern is a groovy way to start the day with some Supremes, Shirelles, Jackson 5 and some scrambled eggs and ham served buffet style in the showroom.



The Diva Royale Restaurant at Neonopolis offers pre-packaged brunch packages with an up close and personal performances by drag queen divas portraying Madonna, Dolly, Celine, Liza, Britney, Beyonce and many other celebrity impersonations. Brunch on Sunday and fabulous dinner shows the rest of the week.

Las Vegas premiere drag queen, **Frank Marino** has a new show at the Virgin Hotel. It ain't no brunch and he ain't no lady but loads of laughs. Frank Marino is a Vegas gem and if you've never seen his Joan Rivers honey, "Oh Grow Up". You gotta go!

LATE NIGHT DINING

THE PEPPERMILL on LVB is one of our favorite late-night spots to chill for a hamburger or an all-night breakfast. Have you been to the firepit back room? Its' comfy, sexy and check out their 4pm-6pm Happy Hour. Amazing value and free parking on the Strip. For a huge laugh check out Jerry Seinfeld at the Peppermill with our friend Comedian George Wallace at the Peppermill on Comedians in Cars getting Coffee. It's comedy gold!

HERBS & RYE was our first date, and it hasn't changed its great happy hour from 5pm to 3am. You can still get a flat iron steak for \$24 bucks and plenty of drinks for 50% off.

THE SAND DOLLAR on Polaris and Spring Mountain is the premiere Blues Club in town as close as you're going to get to the real thang. The pizza is primo with the same sauce and recipes from your local favorites. Pizza, Blues, Free Parking and yes, Video Poker!

NEW SHOW IN TOWN

THE EMPIRE "STRIPS" BACK had its Grand Opening at The Rio Hotel Casino. Only in Las Vegas can Jabba the Hut get a lap dance from Princess Leia. The show's opening credits promises to take you to a sexy galaxy, far, far away. The show is a burlesque parody with cheeky humor delivered by a Master of Ceremonies with iconic characters stripping their familiar costumes in this highly entertaining show. Perfect for the horny Star Wars fan in your house.

COMEDY IS KING

What's changed in Las Vegas comedy? There are some new residencies at Jimmy Kimmel's Comedy Club with the hilarious **Vicki Barbolak** appearing every Tuesday night with her Trailer Park humor. Vicki is now a Las Vegas resident with her own mobile home at Las Vegas Estates Trailer Park. Vicki still hasn't found the Estate in the Trailer Park. Just lots of crushed beer cans.

Comedienne **Luenell** is killing it with her unique blend of stand-up comedy. Jimmy Kimmels Comedy Club also presents national headliners and popular podcasters **Carlos Mencia** and **Adam Carolla**. Check the websites for dates and times as these comics all travel the world but, call LV their home.

DTLV – DOWNTOWN LAS VEGAS

Look for some amazing changes on 3rd street promenade at **The Downtown Grand** with free summer street parties, car shows, cigars, tequila, live music and dj's. A little birdie told us that a rebranding will be coming soon adding outdoor stages and world class headline entertainment worthy of magazine covers.

RICK NIELSEN'S ROCK'N VODKA AIN'T NO CHEAP TRICK

Occasionally, we experience what we refer to as "just another day in Vegas". We spent the afternoon interviewing Rock and Roll Hall of Fame member and owner of **ROCK'N VODKA**, Rick Nielsen, songwriter and celebrated guitarist at The Composers Room on East Sahara where we host our INSOMNIAC TELEVISION viewing parties. Rick Nielsen shared stories of his opera singing minister parents from Rockford, Illinois and his amazing musical career performing with John Lennon on his Double Fantasy album to playing a Cheap Trick live version of The Beatles Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band with Apple Records Producer Geoff Emerick at the old Las Vegas Hilton. The Composers Room presents some of our favorite Las Vegas talent including both Kelly Clinton-Holmes and Kelly Vohnn, Keith Thompson's Piano Party and Julian Miranda's Vocal Jam on alternating Tuesday nights. city! **Rick Nielsen's Rock'N Vodka** specialty drinks are available at The Composer's Room and at Lee's Liquors.

Same day we scurried home to change for a birthday celebration 7-course 7-wines 7- chefs dinner with our dear friend **Richard Femenella** owner of **MAE DALY'S STEAKS & WHISKEYS** across from The Strat. Our table mates were Food & Loathing journalists Al & Sue Mancini who patiently explained what "buzz buttons" were in our intermezzo palate cleansing dish. Because we're kind of visible around town it wasn't a big surprise to pose for pictures with our new **Mayor Shelley Berkley** and her husband Dr. Lawrence Lehmer. Mayor Berkley told us that being our mayor is "the best job that I've ever had!" We love our city!



ENTERTAINMENT

Mark O'Toole's Variety Show is a great matinee show that plays to a full house every other Wednesday afternoon at Freedom Hall in Anthem. The Variety Show is a great way to see a little taste of a half dozen entertainers. And that little taste might want you to see their whole show. The week we went we saw the dynamic vocalist **Daniel Emmet** who is on the road with "The Hitmaker" David Foster. We first saw Daniel Emmet at The Composer's Showcase at The Smith Center and at the Barge in "Cocktail Cabaret".

Mark O'Toole does a fantastic job of promoting almost every local entertainer in Las Vegas but, the show does sell out every seat. It's a bargain at only \$10 bucks for those of you who can take an afternoon off mid-week.

SPORTS

Change is certainly happening with the addition of the new Athletics baseball field conveniently located at the corner of Tropicana and Las Vegas Blvd. The construction has started, and the Boys of Summer will be playing baseball in a few short years. We can't wait to have Major League Baseball in Las Vegas. WooHoo!

NBA Summer League is consistent for now providing great family entertainment at reasonable ticket prices and a chance to see young players tryout for all 30 NBA teams. **Bronny James** was the main attraction with his All-Star Dad, LeBron James in the stands. You might catch us courtside with our friends **Brad Garrett**, **Clint Holmes** participating in the tip off and half-time entertainment. We are proud to participate in NBA SL providing young talent an opportunity to sing our National Anthem on national television and showcasing our Las Vegas amazing singers and dancers. NBA Summer League is great for the Las Vegas community with special nights for our veterans, first responders and business leaders. Change is coming with NBA Commissioner recommending a new expansion team for our town. Maybe they can build new basketball courts on Flamingo and LVB because there's not enough open land South of Blue Diamond.

NAUGHTY BITS

PLAYERS GENTLEMEN'S CLUB

What was once Club Paradise across from the Hard Rock Hotel is now Players Club across from the Virgin Hotel. Clothes on. Clothes off. Somethings never change!

Look for our interview with Rick Nielsen of Cheap Trick, comedy, original music, food & beverage on **INSOMNIAC TELEVISION**, the only late-night entertainment talk show in Las Vegas after Saturday Night Live (SNL) on NBC Ch.3, Las Vegas or on our website at insomniactelevision.com

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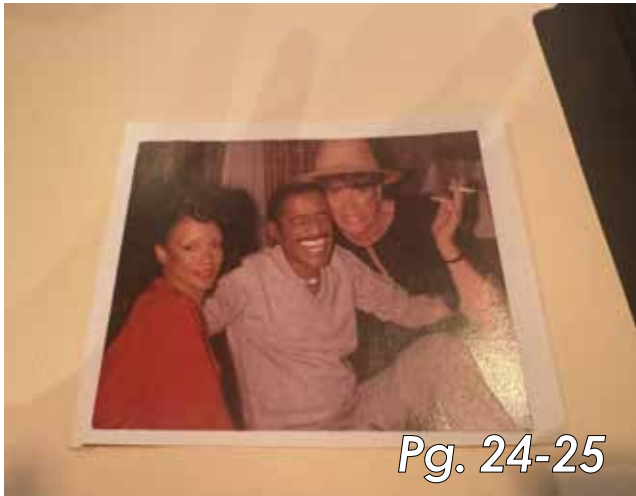
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Native *Juice*

By Candice Wiener

A TRIBUTE TO A TRUE PIONEER: ELAINE WYNN



In a city known for reinvention, bright lights, and legendary names, few figures have left a more enduring and meaningful mark on Las Vegas than **Elaine Wynn**. Her recent passing is not just a moment of reflection—it's a call to remember the power of purpose, vision, and community leadership. Elaine wasn't just the "Queen of Las Vegas" because of her role in building world-renowned resorts and entertainment brands. She was revered for her philanthropy, grace, and commitment to ensuring that the city she helped shape would thrive for generations to come.

Long before Las Vegas became the global destination it is today, Elaine Wynn stood at the forefront of its transformation—quietly but powerfully influencing everything from hospitality and education to health care and the arts. And though she walked among titans, she carried herself with humility, focus, and a heart for service. I still remember the moment I was told I'd have the opportunity to interview her. It was very early in my journalism career. I was a wide-eyed, ambitious writer with a vision of capturing real stories from the real people who shaped this town—not just the headlines, but the humanity behind the fame. To say I was excited is an understatement. I was starstruck, not by her name, but by her legacy. Speaking with Elaine during the interview, you instantly understood the kind of impact a single person could make when driven by integrity, intellect, and intention. She was elegant, direct, and above all, passionate about making a difference.

Elaine Wynn's name is most famously tied to the development of the Mirage, Bellagio, Wynn Las Vegas, and Encore—resorts that redefined luxury and innovation in the hospitality world. Alongside her former husband, Steve Wynn, she helped elevate Las Vegas from a gambling town into a sophisticated, world-class destination for dining, entertainment, and culture. But what separated Elaine was never just her business acumen. It was her unwavering belief that Las Vegas was worth investing in—not only with money, but with love.

Her philanthropic reach was vast and deeply intentional. A fierce advocate for public education, Elaine Wynn served for more than a decade on the Nevada State Board of Education and was a tireless champion for reform and accountability in schools. She co-founded the Elaine P. Wynn & Family Foundation, which focused on improving the quality of life for children and families through education, health care, and community development.

She was also a major force behind Communities In Schools of Nevada, one of the most effective dropout prevention programs in the state, offering at-risk students resources, guidance, and support to succeed. Under her leadership, the organization became a national model—something she was immensely proud of, and rightly so.

Elaine's commitment to the arts was equally profound. She served as a trustee for the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and right here at home, her support of the Smith Center for the Performing Arts helped ensure Las Vegas would have a cultural cornerstone to rival any major city. In a town built on performance, she understood that art was not just entertainment—it was education, expression, and community.

Her passion for health care and children's welfare led to years of involvement with the Nevada Women's Philanthropy, the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health, and the UNLV Foundation. Wherever there was need, Elaine offered not only resources, but stewardship. She didn't just write checks—she asked hard questions, showed up to meetings, and brought people together to create solutions.

Elaine was known for her style, poise, and public presence, but behind the scenes, she was equally known for her grit. She wasn't afraid to speak truth to power, to stand her ground in boardrooms, or to go to bat for causes and communities that others overlooked. She was an independent force—a woman who earned her seat at the table in a male-dominated industry, and then used it to elevate others.

In recent years, she continued to serve on numerous boards and lend her influence where it mattered most. But she also took time to reflect and express gratitude for the journey she had been on—and for the city that had given her a stage to perform her life's work. She often said, "Las Vegas gave me everything. It's my home, and I'll always give back to it."

And give back she did—through mentorship, philanthropy, and her unmistakable legacy. Her death leaves a void, but also a challenge: to continue what she started. To invest in our city not just with dollars, but with heart. To lift up those around us, to prioritize our children's future, and to lead with dignity.

As the publisher of Real Vegas Magazine, I feel a deep sense of loss and reverence. Elaine Wynn wasn't just an icon—she was a blueprint. She showed us that greatness isn't measured by fame or fortune, but by how you use them. She was the kind of leader who made people feel seen, who believed in the power of connection, and who never forgot the responsibility that came with influence.

That early interview with Elaine planted a seed in me—a determination to tell the stories that matter, to champion authenticity, and to stay rooted in the truth of this city's soul. That's why this column is called Native Juice. Because Las Vegas isn't just a destination—it's a home. And its lifeblood is made up of people like Elaine Wynn, who paved the path not just for themselves, but for all of us.

As we remember and honor her life, let's not only mourn her passing but also celebrate her legacy. Let's make space for more Elaine Wynns in our community—women and men with vision, courage, and a heart for service. Let us remember that our city was shaped by pioneers, and that we, too, have the power to be one.

Thank you, Elaine. Las Vegas is brighter because of you. Rest in grace.





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From the Publisher's Desk | Summer 2025

Celebrating Excellence, Elevating Community

As the warmth of summer embraces our vibrant city, I'm filled with deep gratitude and admiration—not only for the sun-drenched days ahead, but for the remarkable individuals and loyal readers who continue to inspire the heartbeat of this publication.

In this special Summer 2025 issue, we are honored to spotlight the 2025 Greatest Medical Minds—a distinguished group of physicians, surgeons, specialists, innovators and healers whose brilliance and dedication continue to shape the future of healthcare in Southern Nevada and beyond. These exceptional men and women exemplify what it means to lead with integrity, serve with compassion, and push the boundaries of possibility in their fields. Their work touches countless lives and uplifts our community in ways that are both profound and immeasurable.

To our honorees: congratulations. Your relentless pursuit of excellence, your resilience, and your humanity remind us that medicine is not only a science—it is also an art. Thank you for choosing to serve, to innovate, and to heal with grace.

We are also thrilled to recognize this year's 2025 Greatest Real Estate Moguls—a dynamic class of visionaries who have built, transformed, and reimagined the landscape of our ever-evolving city. These industry leaders are not just builders of homes and commercial spaces—they are builders of dreams, opportunities and legacies. Their boldness, innovation and unwavering commitment to growth continue to elevate Las Vegas to new heights. We salute your contributions, your grit, and your ability to turn vision into value.

As we turn the pages of this summer edition, we are also celebrating you, our valued readers, advertisers and steadfast supporters. Your belief in our mission allows us to showcase the people, progress and passion that make Las Vegas one of the most dynamic cities in the world. Whether you've been with us since our inaugural issue or you've just discovered our pages, please know that your presence is felt and appreciated.

Summer in Las Vegas is more than a season—it's a mood, a movement, and a moment. It's the golden hour casting light on new ideas. It's the spark that fuels creativity, reinvention and celebration. In a city known for transformation, we take pride in continuing to evolve, to elevate, and to spotlight the extraordinary.

With each edition, our commitment remains the same: to capture the soul of Las Vegas, to amplify its visionaries, and to present each story with elegance, authenticity and heart.

On a personal note, I want to thank each and every one of you who have supported this journey. Your loyalty is everything to me—and it's exactly why we named this publication Real Vegas Magazine. Real people. Real stories. Real impact. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for keeping it real with us. Warmest regards,

Candice Wiener
Publisher
Real Vegas Magazine



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By Lissette Waugh
lmi.edu

FROM BARE TO FLAWLESS



Flawless makeup starts with healthy skin. No matter how skilled you are with a brush, your foundation is only as good as the canvas underneath. Skincare plays a critical role in makeup application—hydrated, balanced skin allows products to blend smoothly, sit evenly, and last longer throughout the day. Whether you're aiming for a radiant glow or a matte finish, the right skincare routine preps your skin for success, minimizes texture, and enhances every product you apply. Simply put good skin makes great makeup inevitable.

Top 5 Skincare Products That Guarantee an Amazing Makeup Application:

- 1 **Embryolisse Lait-Crème Concentré – \$29**
A cult-favorite moisturizer used by pro makeup artists, it hydrates without feeling greasy, creating the perfect base for foundation while smoothing dry patches.



- 2 **Tatcha The Silk Canvas Primer – \$54**
This velvety balm fills in pores and fine lines while blurring imperfections. It helps makeup glide on flawlessly and stay in place all day.



- 3 **Glow Recipe Watermelon Glow Niacinamide Dew Drops – \$35**
A serum-highlighter hybrid that gives skin an instant glow without glitter. It hydrates and brightens, making your complexion look radiant even before foundation.

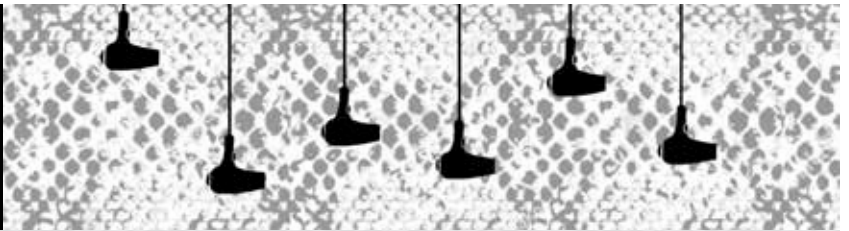


- 4 **Laneige Lip Sleeping Mask – \$24**
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- 5 **Charlotte Tilbury Magic Eye Rescue Cream – \$65**
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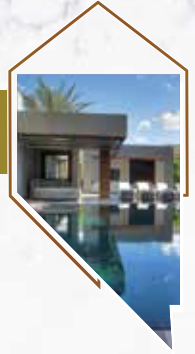
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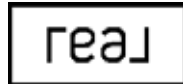
With nearly two decades of boots-on-the-ground experience, Jen isn't just working in the Las Vegas market—she knows it inside and out. Her journey began behind the scenes with a top local builder, orchestrating the marketing magic behind new home communities and luxury rentals. That early vantage point gave her the edge—insight into what sells, why buyers bite, and how to make every property shine.

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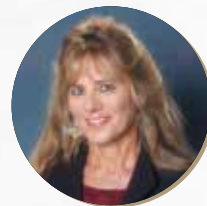
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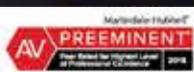
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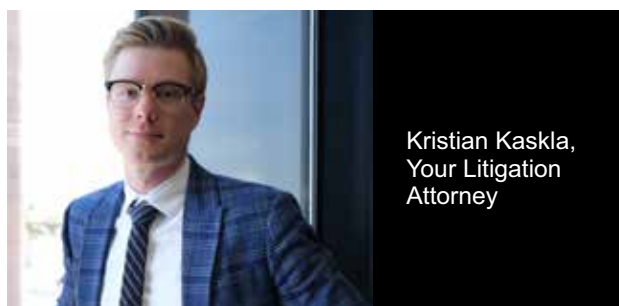


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Kristian Kaskla and Ryan Saldanha, law school peers at UNLV, forged a lasting friendship and later collaborated for years at a prominent law firm. Early in their legal careers, they honed their skills at a major defense firm, gaining valuable insights into defense strategies. It was during this time that they realized their desire to change the game, shifting their focus towards advocating for individuals harmed, rather than aiding corporations in minimizing injury claims.



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Michael Sanft has consistently championed the rights of those in need for over two decades. His personal dedication to being the top attorney he can be in both criminal and personal injury matters has resulted in outcomes in the best interest of his clients. With a remarkable record of well over 180 jury trials, Michael's reputation as an effective advocate, along with the respect of his adversaries, speak for itself. His peers often turn to him, even in urgent situations, to lead and litigate complex trials with confidence.

SOS Injury Lawyers, led by Michael, Kristian, and Ryan, has brought together a diverse and experienced group of professionals, creating an exceptionally distinctive law firm. Their resolute commitment lies in offering a personalized approach to every case and client. They firmly believe that client rapport and open communication are essential, ensuring that no one is left in the dark during such a difficult time.

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Larger Than Life: The Professional Legacy of Anita King

Stylist to the Stars

By Candice Wiener



Meeting Anita King felt like destiny. From our first interaction, it was as though I had known her all my life. Born in Sweden, Anita made her way to the United States at the age of 19. Her American journey began in California, where she worked as a governess—a role similar to that of a private tutor or caretaker today. A close friend eventually encouraged her to take a job as a waitress, leading Anita to work in various cafes and restaurants throughout Burbank.

It was in one of these establishments that Anita met Swedish-born Hollywood icon Ann-Margret. Anita fondly recalls that Ann-Margret always ordered the same meal, making it easy to remember her preferences. When Ann-Margret discovered they shared Swedish roots, she invited Anita to lunch. Their shared heritage instantly bonded them, and Anita was delighted to order from a Swedish menu once again.

Though she returned briefly to Sweden at her parents' request—just weeks before the assassination of President John F. Kennedy—Anita found herself longing for life in the U.S. While standing in a Swedish post office, she learned of Kennedy's death and remembers the nation entering a state of mourning. Despite trying to settle into conventional office jobs in Sweden, she missed the vibrancy of American life. "I never really adjusted. I missed everything and had left my heart behind," she said.

Anita eventually returned to the U.S., where she met her future husband, George King, a lighting technician, and proud member of IATSE Local 720. George had an extensive





career in the entertainment industry, having worked on Broadway productions such as *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Hair*. Through mutual friends and professional circles, the couple rubbed shoulders with stars like Lauren Bacall and Liza Minnelli. Anita and George married in 1966 and in 1968, they welcomed their son, Steven, who became Anita's greatest joy.

In 1974, the family moved to Las Vegas, originally intending a short stay while working on Elvis Presley's show at the International Hotel (now the Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino). One year quickly turned into many, and Las Vegas became their permanent home. George's career brought the family into close contact with legends such as Elvis Presley and Frank Sinatra. Anita fondly remembers Sinatra as a true pleasure to work with.



Anita started working at the Folies Bergere in the late 70's in their wardrobe department, and she carved out an extraordinary career as a costumer and stylist. Her expertise graced nearly every celebrity and film produced in Las Vegas from the late 1970s onward. In the late '70s, she decided to pursue work as a stagehand and approached IATSE Local 720. At the time, stagehand work was a male-dominated field, with not very many members at the time, but all men. Undeterred, Anita persisted and ultimately became one of the first women admitted, breaking gender barriers alongside a close female colleague. She recalls one particularly transformative moment when a supervisor got rid of some of the male stagehands except for a few—she and her friend were among the few retained as carpenters. She worked as a stagehand for about eight years before she got lucky and became a stylist for movies and commercials.



Anita's professional encounters span an impressive roster of A-list names, from Clint Eastwood and Kevin Costner to Julia Roberts, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, Andy Garcia, Robin Williams, ZZ Top, and Jackie Chan. She even formed a special bond with Sammy Davis Jr., her personal favorite, a connection that resonated deeply as my grandfather, attorney Louis Wiener Jr., once represented Davis during the Rat Pack era. Anita has two additional personal favorites: Morgan Freeman and George Clooney.

One story that stands out for Anita is the time she bowled with Lauren Bacall—a surreal experience that left her pinching herself to ensure it was real. Her anecdotes are peppered with both heartwarming and humorous encounters with the glitterati. Some tales, she shares with a knowing smile, are best kept between friends.

Today, Anita lives a serene life in Las Vegas, enjoying frequent visits to Sweden to reconnect with family and escape the desert heat. Her storytelling, paired with a twinkle in her eye, brings her memories to life. With grace and charm, Anita King has not only styled the stars but also preserved the golden age of entertainment through her lived experiences.

A review of her extensive resume and cherished photographs is more than a glimpse into an illustrious career—it's a treasured journey through time, shaped by passion, talent, and an indomitable spirit.





Allow us to Reintroduce
Global Businessman
and Business Leader

Gary Wu

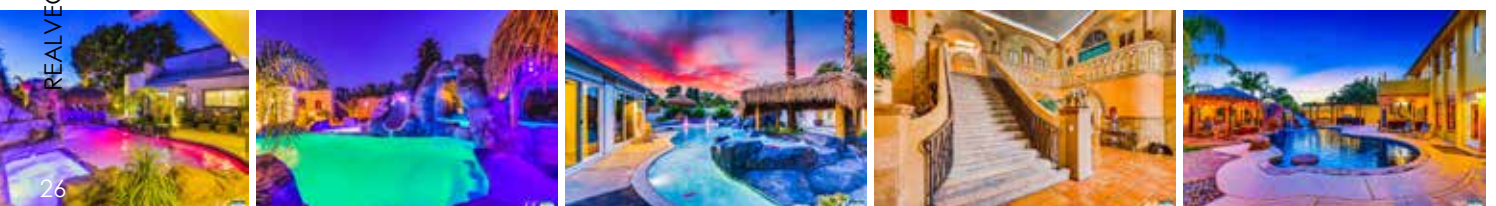


Gary Wu has emerged a Strategic Leader in numerous industries across the world from China to the US, a true Global Businessman. With a background in the competitive international automotive industry, multifaceted Gary has since emerged as the acclaimed Founder & CEO of TotalMax Homes LLC where he provides the best in full-service luxury accommodation and concierge services.

Individually, Gary recently received the 'Top 50 Business Leaders of Las Vegas' and was the recipient of the Global Outstanding Leadership Award (2024). He continues to be the Chairman of Shaanxi U.S.A Corporation SILVER PANDA (Fortune 452 of Fortune 500)

and Hangzhou SureAuto. In addition, he's been honored to have been Keynote Speaker and Guest Professor at leading universities such as Yale, Wharton, and Beijing University.

Gary has been quoted reflecting that, "My experiential learning journey has been defined by the value of stepping outside my comfort zone. I've realized that growth occurs when we push ourselves beyond familiar boundaries and embrace new experiences."



Born in Beijing, China, Gary relocated to the United States with his family while in junior high school. He graduated from Arizona State University, followed by EMBA from Rutgers University, Brunswick, finishing 1st in class.

However, he was determined to return to China as he realized the increasing opportunities in East Asia. In the decade between 1997-2007, Gary fulfilled that ambition, moving up the ranks to become the Volvo China CEO and Asian EVP.

His success in creating brand awareness and increasing brand ranking of Volvo commercial vehicles led him to emerge as an "intellectual and spiritual leader" of China's commercial vehicle sector and a pioneer pushing reform of China's logistics industry. During this time, Gary also established the 1st standard second-hand car company, SureAuto, with the Founder of CarMax. After returning to the United States, Gary turned his attention to his next challenge, Las Vegas, Nevada, and established TotalMax Homes LLC in 2011.

According to data, Las Vegas is no longer principally a Gambling City. It has transformed and the top Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is now "MICE", an acronym for 'Meetings, Incentive Conferences, Exhibitions.' It has continued to expand and evolve into an international corporate, family and resort destination.

TotalMax Homes provides the best Las Vegas Total Solution Packages for all clients. It introduced a series of exclusive 'Las Hawaii' mansions in Las Vegas, and has 'Super Luxury Beachy Mansions' in Newport Beach, CA under development. These mansions are a testament to Gary's vision of combining luxury accommodations with Total Solution in all full-service modules. Additional concierge services include a selection of menus for all meals with standard prices, cleaning, yoga, spa & beauty care, and entertainment modules such as ballet, violin solo modern, air silk show, dealers, bartenders, magic acts, singers, mermaids, DJs, etc. TotalMax Homes provides the ultimate in luxury accommodations and concierge services.

Today, Gary is recognized as a leading pioneer in the Short-Term Rental (STR), Medium-Term Rental (MTR), and Long-Term Rental (LTR) sectors, thanks to his innovative solutions. "We are committed to

ensuring that every facet of our clients' Vegas experiences is high quality and ultra-fine. Despite our high luxury and large capacity offers, we strive for and achieve the best experience for our targeted clients with regards to value and cost per person. Our targets have been set high and right, so that we continuously improve, achieve, and attain higher value offers for our clients in the present and the future, through our total solution value chain."

Gary combines industry knowledge, networking skills, and perseverance to achieve his entrepreneurial goals. Speaking about his passion, he says, "I'm driven by a desire to innovate and create strategies that give individuals and businesses a competitive edge in the market. I believe in the power of creativity, strategic thinking, and relentless determination to achieve success in the real estate market and entrepreneurship."

A proclaimed Thought Leader, Gary inspires youth across the world. Below are some of Gary's theories and achievements:

- A Scholar who integrates Eastern & Western culture and economic theory, and also understands how MNCs can succeed in China.
- Awarded 'China New Era Thinker,' 7th place, 2007.
- Theorized 'Big Baby' theory and philosophy system of Total Success theory.
- Theorized 'Opportunity is enemy'
- Theorized 'Truck is not a car, it's a machine for making money'.
- Theorized 'Only profitable customers can become satisfied customers $1+1=7$ '.
- Theorized 'When Channel is ready, the water will be there'.
- Theorized 'Logistics Value Equation,' well accepted in the logistics industry.
- Theorized 'Healthy Man theory' of developing China's logistics, praised in the logistics industry.

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Here at Real Vegas Magazine, we believe our public health professionals play an important role in the overall health and well-being of our community. We asked and our readers responded. We hope you enjoy learning about these local Greatest Medical Minds healthcare professionals and leaders in our medical community.

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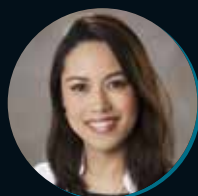
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Dr. Lonnie Hammargren: The Maverick Mind of Medicine and Style

By: Ricci Lopez

In the vibrant city of Las Vegas, few figures have woven a legacy as colorful and impactful as Dr. Lonnie Hammargren. A pioneering neurosurgeon, former lieutenant governor, and an unabashed eccentric, Hammargren's life was a testament to the fusion of medical brilliance and flamboyant individuality. His contributions to medicine, politics, and culture have left an indelible mark on the city he called home.

Born on December 25, 1937, in Harris, Minnesota, Hammargren's journey into medicine was marked by distinction. After serving as a flight surgeon for NASA's Apollo program from November 1965 to March 1966, he chose to specialize in neurosurgery, completing his training at the Mayo Clinic. In 1971, recognizing the need for specialized medical care in the burgeoning city of Las Vegas, he relocated here, becoming one of the city's first neurosurgeons.

Over his 35-year medical career, Hammargren performed thousands of surgeries, often taking on complex and high-profile cases. He treated notable figures such as daredevil Evel Knievel and boxer Duk Koo Kim. His commitment to patient care was unwavering; he often treated individuals regardless of their ability to pay. One poignant example is Lorraine Mosca, a young woman who suffered a traumatic brain injury during a robbery. Hammargren performed five surgeries to save her life, and she went on to graduate from college and lead a productive life.

Hammargren's dedication to service extended beyond the operating room. He served as a regent of the Nevada System of Higher Education from 1988 to 1994, advocating for educational advancements. In 1995, he was elected as the 31st Lieutenant Governor of Nevada, serving until 1999. Notably, he was the last lieutenant governor to serve under a governor from a different political party, working alongside Democrat Bob Miller.

Perhaps the most vivid expression of Hammargren's eclectic spirit was his home, Castillo del Sol. Purchased in 1972, the residence evolved into a sprawling 12,000-square-foot estate encompassing three houses, each filled with artifacts ranging from old casino signs to an Apollo space capsule. The home became a museum of sorts, showcasing Las Vegas history and Hammargren's diverse interests. He opened it to the public annually on Nevada Day, allowing visitors to experience his unique collection firsthand.

Hammargren's home was more than a collection; it was a testament to his belief in individuality and self-expression. He once stated, "It's me. It makes me unique in the whole world. Nobody has done what I've done." Hammargren's individuality extended to his fashion choices. He was known for his extensive tie collection, each piece reflecting a facet of his personality. His wardrobe also included astronaut jumpsuits, a nod to his time with NASA, and he was often seen wearing aviator glasses and other distinctive accessories. These sartorial choices were not mere eccentricities but expressions of a man unafraid to showcase his multifaceted identity.

Dr. Lonnie Hammargren passed away on June 13, 2023, at the age of 85. His legacy is one of innovation, individuality, and an unwavering commitment to living life on his own terms. Through his medical contributions, public service, and unique personal style, Hammargren left an indelible mark on Las Vegas and beyond. Dr. Lonnie Hammargren exemplified the fusion of professional excellence and personal authenticity. His life serves as a reminder that greatness in medicine, or any field, can be enriched by embracing one's unique identity. In celebrating great medical minds, Hammargren's story stands out as a testament to the power of individuality and the impact of a life lived boldly.

Be sure to follow Maceoo & Mr. Real Vegas Ricci on social media:

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Linda Woodson: Healing in Harmony

Doctor. Songstress.
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As both a doctor of dermatology and sultry star of song, Linda Woodson heals with her hands, words, and music. Dr. Linda Woodson, a board-certified dermatologist with two practices in Las Vegas and Henderson, Nevada has over a decade of wins as Best Doctor and Most Compassionate throughout the state and is listed as one of Nevada's Top 100 professionals in all industries. The

songstress Linda Woodson is a Las Vegas celebrated singer/songwriter with wins as Best Jazz Vocalist, Best Lounge Singer, and winner of the Dorothy Dandridge Award for her performances in Broadway musicals and jazz clubs around the country. And now, Dr. Linda Woodson has combined her experiences and love of music and medicine into a brand-new skincare line, Lyrical Skin, delivering doctor-designed results that give your face something to sing about when the spotlight is on you.

Linda Woodson was born and raised as the fourth child of six siblings in Los Angeles,

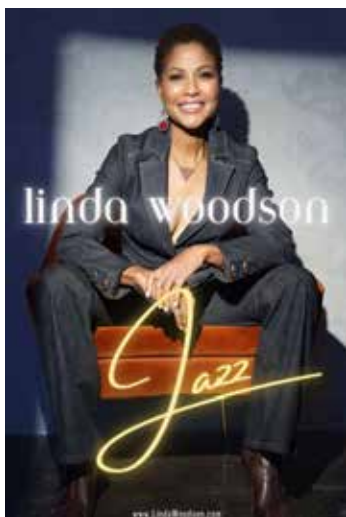
California. Linda's mother made it clear to Linda at a very young age that she would grow up to be a doctor, but Linda wanted to sing. She honored her mother's doctoral wishes while singing in school choirs and theater productions and received her bachelor's in electrical engineering from MIT and Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Southern California. As a successful business owner, mother of three, renowned doctor and national headline vocalist, Linda Woodson is proof that you can be and have it all.

KUNV 91.5 Jazz & More calls Linda Woodson, "The sultry songstress with a buttery smooth voice." Linda's vocal stylings are reminiscent of the late Nancy Wilson with velvet vocals and ability

to deliver a variety of styles covering Pop, Jazz, R&B and Adult Contemporary. As a vocal stylist, Linda Woodson continues to perform in sold out shows and special concerts around the country including the Emerald Awards in Philadelphia, featuring the Queen of Liberia and Nathan Adelson's Serenades of Life concert series at the Smith Center in Las Vegas, and the Jazz Vegas Orchestra. Woodson's cabaret and musical theater credits include Stephen Sondheim's *Follies*, and Las Vegas Little Theater's *Steel Magnolias* and hit shows *Once on This Island*, *Children of Eden*, and *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, where she was nominated for best supporting actress.

To date, Linda Woodson has recorded five albums, with her latest, **Come A Little Closer** featuring her original compositions and lyrics that thread emotional journeys through jazz and adult contemporary music. "This album reflects the diversity in my music and me" says Woodson. This album is a synergy of all of us being everything we want to be."

Linda Woodson has the ability to connect with people with an understated elegance and class that she parlay perfectly into her musical style and performances. Her degree in medicine and devotion to the art and craft of singing, songwriting and skincare make Dr. Linda Woodson something special, not to be missed. For more information, see LindaWoodsonDerm.com, LyricalSkin.com and LindaWoodson.com.



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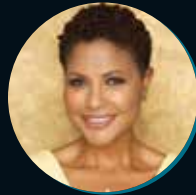
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A fellow of the British Institute of Homeopathy, Timothy D. Francis, DC, has more than four decades of clinical and teaching experience in applied kinesiology and chiropractic. Currently, Dr. Francis splits his time between running his practice, Chiropractic Kinesiology, and teaching advanced applied kinesiology. In addition, Dr. Timothy D. Francis has participated in a number of research studies throughout his career. He has written more than 30 published papers and has done research on topics in homeopathy, organic chemistry, and eye anatomy.

In addition to this body of experience, Timothy D. Francis, DC, draws on extensive training. He was an honor roll student in biology from the University of Nevada-Reno and a bachelor's degree and a Doctor of Chiropractic and graduated Magna Cum Laude from the Los Angeles College of Chiropractic. This achievement is recognized as a significant academic accomplishment within the field of chiropractic. He also received a Master of Science in bio nutrition from the University of Bridgeport and a doctor of homeopathy from the British Institute of Homeopathy, and he is certified as a naturopath by the American Naturopathic Certification Board. Prior to his current work, Dr. Francis served on the International Council for the International College of Applied Kinesiology and as an associate instructor at the Los Angeles College of Chiropractic.

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THE FUTURE OF HEALING

Med Beds and the Rise of Regenerative Wellness Technology in the U.S.



**What if healing the body didn't require surgery, pills, or long recovery times—but simply lying down on a technologically advanced bed designed to restore your health from the inside out? The concept of “med beds” may sound like science fiction, but several technologies already in use today are bringing this vision closer to reality.*

A New Era of Restorative Medicine

In the rapidly advancing world of wellness and medical innovation, few ideas capture more curiosity—and skepticism—than the concept of med beds. Popularized in recent years through a blend of alternative health claims and futuristic aspirations, med beds are often described as devices capable of diagnosing and repairing the body using energy fields, light frequencies, and artificial intelligence.

While the more miraculous depictions of med beds—such as full-body regeneration or instant healing—are not yet supported by scientific evidence, the foundation of the concept is grounded in emerging therapies that are already being adopted in clinics, research centers, and wellness spaces across the country.

From pulsed electromagnetic field (PEMF) therapy to hyperbaric oxygen chambers and smart diagnostic beds, the United States is entering what many consider the first phase of the med bed era.

“These aren't sci-fi fantasies anymore—advanced healing beds are already helping people recover faster, feel better, and live with less pain.”

What Is a Med Bed—Really?

At its core, a med bed refers to an advanced medical or wellness bed equipped with healing technologies that aim to assist the body's natural recovery systems. While the phrase is often used loosely, it generally encompasses a combination of:

- Non-invasive therapeutic technologies (light, sound, magnetic energy)
- Smart diagnostic tools powered by AI
- Regenerative medical techniques (like stem cell therapy)

Though no single device on the market today includes all these elements, several platforms are offering pieces of this futuristic puzzle.

Technologies Already in Use

1. PEMF Therapy (Pulsed Electromagnetic Field)

FDA-cleared for certain pain and injury treatments, PEMF beds deliver low-frequency electromagnetic waves to stimulate cellular function, reduce inflammation, and improve circulation. These are already being used in sports medicine and physical therapy settings.

2. Hyperbaric Oxygen Chambers

Used in hospitals and specialty clinics, hyperbaric oxygen therapy floods the body with oxygen under high pressure, promoting healing in damaged tissues and aiding recovery from traumatic brain injury, infection, or surgery.

3. Red and Near-Infrared Light Therapy

These wavelengths penetrate deep into the skin and muscle to encourage mitochondrial activity, promote collagen production, and reduce inflammation. You'll find these beds in wellness centers focused on anti-aging and muscle recovery.

4. Smart Diagnostic Beds

Still in the development phase, these beds aim to integrate biometric sensors with AI to monitor heart rate, respiration, sleep patterns, and stress indicators—potentially flagging health issues before symptoms even appear.

5. Regenerative Medicine Platforms

While not in a “bed” format yet, therapies involving stem cells and tissue engineering are advancing quickly and are expected to become more personalized and accessible over the next decade.

“Med beds are less about miracle cures and more about combining science, technology, and the body’s natural wisdom.”

U.S. Release Phases: What to Expect

As med bed-style therapies develop, here’s a realistic view of how this technology is likely to roll out in the U.S.—not through a singular launch, but in phases across multiple industries.

PHASE 1: Wellness Integration (Now–2026)

- PEMF, red light therapy, and HBOT beds available in select wellness spas, integrative medical practices, and sports therapy centers
- FDA-cleared uses for chronic pain, injury rehab, and wound healing
- Widely available to consumers, but results vary based on condition and consistency



PHASE 2: AI and Data-Driven Healing (2025–2028)

- Development of smart diagnostic beds with real-time body scanning and biometric monitoring
- Emerging clinical trials testing predictive health systems
- Potential for insurance integration as AI diagnostics gain approval

PHASE 3: Personalized Regeneration (2028–2035)

- Integration of stem cell technology, bioengineered tissues, and AI diagnostics
- Beds that can potentially support rehabilitation from organ damage or neurological issues
- Reserved for elite medical centers initially, with gradual mainstream expansion

The Promise and the Caution

Though these innovations hold incredible promise, it’s important to separate hype from science. Many online sources make unsupported claims about instant healing, “quantum” cures, or government-concealed med bed technology. These should be met with skepticism.

The real med bed revolution is happening slowly, through rigorous research, clinical testing, and technological refinement. With major institutions like Mayo Clinic, Cleveland Clinic, and MIT investing in related fields, it’s clear that a transformation in health care is underway—but it will require patience, funding, and regulation.

The Future of Healing Is Rest

Imagine a world where your annual checkup includes laying on a bed that scans your vitals, detects early warning signs of disease, and then treats inflammation or pain with light frequencies and magnetic energy—no pills, no needles.

While we may be years away from that scenario, the building blocks are already here. For those curious about experiencing these innovations now, many high-end wellness centers in the U.S. are already offering PEMF and red-light therapy sessions. Hyperbaric oxygen chambers are becoming more common, too.

“Healing may no longer be just about medicine—it may also be about vibration, light, breath, and rest.”

Final Thoughts

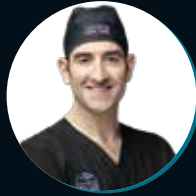
The vision of med beds may have started in science fiction, but through a growing convergence of technologies, the dream is inching closer to reality. Though they may not yet reverse aging or regrow limbs, the current generation of healing beds are already helping people recover faster, reduce pain, and improve quality of life.

As more people invest in their long-term wellness and demand non-invasive healing options, med beds—real ones—will likely play a starring role in the future of American health care.

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Dr. Randall Yee: The Bone Doc Who Rolls with Fighters and Builds Champions

By Roy Nelson

In a city known for high stakes and bright lights, it takes someone exceptional to stand out—and Dr. Randall Yee does it in scrubs and sneakers. As Las Vegas's go-to orthopedic surgeon and founder of Advanced Orthopedics & Sports Medicine (AOSM), Dr. Yee isn't just patching people up—he's keeping warriors in the fight, athletes on their feet, and everyday movers thriving. But don't let the white coat fool you. The first time I met Dr. Yee? He was on the mats at a jiu-jitsu/MMA class in 2007. No clipboard. No doctor talk. Just a fellow competitor throwing down like the rest of us. That moment kicked off a bond that's lasted over 18 years. Since then, he's become my go-to guy—the doctor who's had my back (and shoulder, and knee) through more than two decades of cage battles, training wars, and late-night aches. He the doctor who fixes me or knows a guy who can.

My first surgery with Dr. Yee came after a tough fight left me injured and in serious need of repair. He got me back on my feet quickly—not just for recovery, but for opportunity. Right after healing up, I qualified for a high-





stakes tournament and ended up winning a world title right after. He has helped me more ways than one. Advanced Orthopedics & Sports Medicine (AOSM) was even on my fight shorts for the Championship fight. That's the kind of turnaround Dr. Yee makes possible. He doesn't just help you recover—he helps you rewrite your story.

Dr. Yee didn't stumble into medicine—he chased it with laser focus. After earning his Bachelor of Science at Wayne State University, he tackled med school at the University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine. He then sharpened his tools with a residency at Midwestern University in Olympia Fields, Illinois, and a sports medicine fellowship at Barton Memorial Hospital in Lake Tahoe, California. If there were a black belt in orthopedic training, he'd have earned it with stripes.



In 2007, he launched AOSM with a clear mission: deliver next-level orthopedic care with a fighter's mindset. The clinic now serves as a hub for minimally invasive procedures, cutting-edge joint treatments, and comprehensive rehab. It's a one-stop recovery dojo for athletes and weekend warriors alike.

Dr. Yee works with all types of athletes from UFC fighters, UNLV athletes, to Mr. Olympia competitors—they've all put their trust in Dr. Yee. And for good reason. His knowledge runs deep, but it's his feel for the fight game that really sets him apart. He gets it. He knows when you're hurt and still hungry, and when it's time to hit pause. He doesn't just treat injuries—he guides comebacks.

Working with elite fighters isn't for the faint of heart. These are people who tape broken toes and ask for one more round. Dr. Yee blends brutal honesty with calm confidence. He lays it out straight, maps out the recovery game plan, and keeps you focused on the long play. That mix of clarity and care. It's gold in a sport where careers can swing on one wrong step.

He's also a force behind the scenes, mentoring future orthopedic surgeons as the founder of Nevada's first orthopedic residency at Valley Hospital. He lectures, leads, and gives back in ways that shape the next generation of medical minds. And while he's known for patching up fighters, Dr. Yee has a heart big enough to lift communities. His work with the Make-A-Wish Foundation shows the same compassion he brings to his patients. Whether it's helping a child live out a dream or guiding a fighter back into the cage, he shows up—focused, present, and all in.

Beyond Make-A-Wish, Dr. Yee has been a consistent supporter of local initiatives aimed at youth development, health education, and athletic programs. He has volunteered medical services for charity sporting events, donated equipment to underserved high school athletic departments, and supported scholarship programs for aspiring medical students. Whether it's offering free injury screenings to student athletes or mentoring young professionals, Dr. Yee is a firm believer that giving back is a duty, not an option.

After nearly two decades of trust, treatment, and a fair share of laughs, I can say this: Dr. Randall Yee isn't just my doctor—he's part of my team. He's patched me up, cheered me on, and made sure my story didn't stop at the injury.

In Vegas, they say the house always wins. But when you've got Dr. Yee in your corner? So do his patients.



About the Author: Roy "Big Country" Nelson is a Las Vegas native and is a former 4x MMA Champion, UFC TUF Champion, Renzo Gracie Blackbelt, who now is partnered with Choice Life Care and their ambassador program.

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Dorina Tavernaro-Alfreda, APRN, FNP-C
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Dorina Tavernaro-Alfreda, APRN, FNP-C is long time resident of Las Vegas and is a certified family nurse practitioner with over 16 years of healthcare experience. She holds a Master of Science in nursing from Chamberlain University and Bachelor's of Science of nursing from Grand Canyon University. Dorina is an active member of professional organizations including the American Association of Nurse Practitioners and Sigma Theta Tau, the International Honor Society of Nursing.

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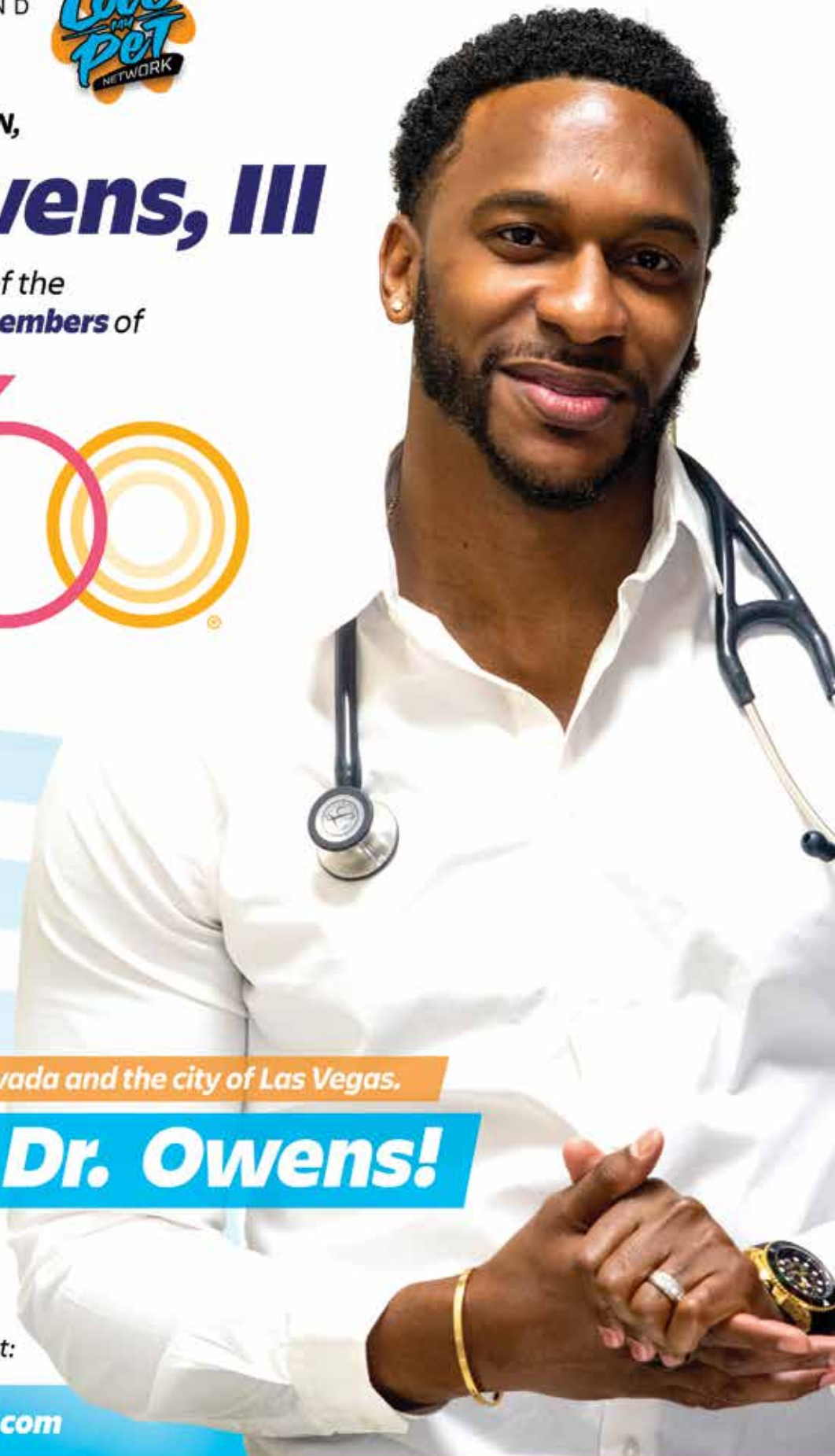
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Sean Su, MD, is a graduate of University of California – Irvine, and earned his medical degree from Loma Linda University School of Medicine.

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The Art of Transformation: Why Las Vegas Is a Hotspot for the Nation's Most In- Demand Surgeries

*By Dr. Christopher Costa,
Board-Certified Plastic
Surgeon & Founder of
Platinum Plastic Surgery*

Las Vegas is a city built on reinvention and as a plastic surgeon, that's a concept I connect with deeply. Just as the Strip evolves with every skyline change, so do the people who live here or travel in for a fresh start. At Platinum Plastic Surgery, I've built my practice around helping people feel empowered and confident in their own skin whether they're on a stage, in a boardroom or at the pool.

The most in-demand procedures I perform reflect today's shift toward natural, balanced results: body sculpting, breast augmentation, BBLs, and rhinoplasty. These surgeries may be different, but the goal is the same: authentic, beautiful outcomes that never feel overdone.

Mommy Makeovers: Confidence After Kids

Las Vegas is home to powerhouse moms who want to feel like themselves again. Mommy makeovers are highly customized packages that typically combine breast surgery, a tummy tuck and liposuction. With advanced techniques and enhanced recovery protocols, we help restore a pre-pregnancy silhouette in a way that's subtle yet life changing.

Motiva® Implants & Scarless Breast Augmentation: The Future Is Here

The demand for breast augmentation isn't slowing down but what patients want from their results has evolved. It's no longer about going bigger. It's about soft, natural movement, safety and minimal to no visible scarring.



That's why I'm proud to offer Motiva® implants, a next-generation option designed for maximum biocompatibility, natural feel, and long-term safety. These implants feature SmoothSilk®/SilkSurface® technology and a highly elastic gel that moves like natural tissue, plus an embedded microchip for non-invasive verification.

What's equally exciting is the rise of scarless breast augmentation, using the transaxillary (underarm) incision approach. When performed with precision and the right implant technology, this technique allows patients to enhance their figure without a visible scar on the breast, something that resonates deeply with performers, models, and professionals across Las Vegas. As one of the few surgeons in the country specializing in both Motiva® and scarless placement, I'm proud to bring this elite option to my patients.

BBLs: Still Reigning in the City of Curves

The Brazilian Butt Lift remains a fan favorite especially in a city where sculpted silhouettes are celebrated. By removing excess fat from the waist or thighs and transferring it to the buttocks, we create a balanced, hourglass shape using your body's own tissue. It's not about trends, it's about enhancing proportions and feeling confident in every angle.



Rhinoplasty: Harmony Over Drastic Change

Rhinoplasty is one of the most requested facial surgeries in my practice, and for good reason, it can dramatically improve both aesthetics and function. Whether refining the bridge, tip or correcting breathing issues, today's rhinoplasty is more about harmony than drastic change.

At Platinum Plastic Surgery, we believe transformation should never feel extreme. It should feel like the best version of you, refined, refreshed and confidently your own. That's the beauty of Vegas and the power of modern cosmetic surgery.

Platinum Plastic Surgery is a premier destination for transformative cosmetic care in Las Vegas, known for delivering refined, natural-looking results in a state-of-the-art, patient-centered environment. Led by award-winning board-certified plastic surgeon Dr. Christopher Costa, the practice blends artistry with innovation to help patients look and feel their absolute best. Located at 5824 S Durango Drive, Suite 110, Las Vegas, NV 89113, Platinum Plastic Surgery offers an elevated experience from consultation to recovery. To learn more or schedule a consultation, visit drcosta.com, call (702) 331-1178.



FLAWLESS CONFIDENCE:

My Experience at Flawless Medspa with Melanie Speed

By Madison Wiener

Tucked into the pulse of Las Vegas is one of the beauty industry's best-kept (and now, not-so-secret) sanctuaries: Flawless Medspa, where artistry and innovation meet. I've been visiting Flawless since 2019, and not once have I walked out those doors feeling anything less than empowered. My most recent experience? A facial balancing session with Melanie Speed, and—spoiler alert—I left feeling more sculpted, refreshed, and confident than ever.

Meet the Expert: Melanie Speed, NP-C, CANS

Melanie Speed isn't just a master of injectables—she's a nationally recognized force in aesthetic medicine. A certified nurse practitioner with over 25 years of nursing experience and 12 years in aesthetics, Melanie is the founder and lead injector of Flawless Medspa, which operates in both Las Vegas and Beverly Hills. Known for her signature transformations—including plumped lips, contoured noses, and sculpted jawlines—Melanie has earned accolades from Modern Luxury VEGAS, RealSelf, and the Las Vegas Review-Journal for her exceptional skill and patient care.

She's also a trainer for Allergan Medical Institute, teaching top professionals how to deliver natural, transformative results using Botox, Juvéderm, and Kybella. Her work has appeared on TMZ, E! Online, and 90 Day Fiancé, but what truly sets her apart is her precision, passion for education, and ability to make each client feel like a celebrity.

My Flawless Journey: Facial Balancing & a New Kind of Confidence

My journey with Flawless began over five years ago, and since then, I've trusted Melanie with everything from lip fillers to smile line correction, Kybella, and non-surgical rhinoplasty. Each treatment has been thoughtfully tailored—not to change me, but to highlight my best features. Melanie's approach has always felt like a collaboration: I share my goals, and she brings them to life with her expert eye for balance and symmetry.

For this recent appointment, I came in hoping to enhance my side profile. Melanie and I revisited my non-surgical rhinoplasty to refine and lift the tip of my



nose. But this time, we took things a step further—Melanie suggested cheek fillers to lift the mid-face, which subtly slimmed the appearance of my jawline. The result? A naturally contoured, more balanced facial profile that feels so me—but elevated.

What I love most about Melanie is her honesty and instinct. I trust her implicitly, and she always offers follow-up appointments to check in on healing and fine-tuning. The staff at Flawless are an all-women powerhouse team—professional, warm, and always there to hype you up. Every visit feels like catching up with old friends who just happen to make you look amazing.

Treatments to Watch at Flawless Medspa

Flawless is known for its lip game (and for good reason), but the menu is stacked with industry-leading options you need to know about:

Flawless Instant Butt Lift

Using Sculptra or Radiesse, this non-surgical treatment adds volume and definition to the buttocks, enhancing natural curves and lifting without downtime or surgery.

EMSCULPT NEO

A cutting-edge, non-invasive body sculpting device that simultaneously builds muscle and burns fat in just 30 minutes. It uses high-intensity focused electromagnetic (HIFEM) technology to trigger deep muscle contractions, delivering visible toning and fat reduction—hello, abs and glutes!

Plasma IQ, Thread Lifts, Vampire Facials & More

Flawless also offers skin-rejuvenating favorites like Plasma IQ pen treatments, PDO thread lifts, PRP facials/facelifts, and vitamin injections to support wellness from the inside out.

Whether you're seeking subtle refinement or a dramatic transformation, Flawless Medspa offers a beauty experience that's elevated, empowering, and always personalized. For me, it's more than cosmetic—it's a ritual of self-love.

Follow them on Instagram: @melaniespeed
Book your experience:
<https://www.flawlessmedspas.com>





From left to right: VV, Marvin Lashever/Sunrise Media Network, and DF

REAL EATS BY CHEF VIC

**Talk and Chew:
A New Flavor for
the Digital Age**

The intermission continues... I know you can see us—but soon, you're going to hear us. But first, allow me to set the tone.

Summer vibes hit Vegas early this year. It wasn't even June yet, and we broke 107 degrees. I don't know what's hotter: the weather in the 702 or the way this city is turning into a diamond. No question—Vegas is becoming a major point of focus around the world. From top-tier luxury resorts to down-to-earth gems, the food and beverage scene, the entertainment, and now its evolution into a sports mecca—Vegas is on track to become one of the top cities in the country.

Big props to all our Vegas people shaping the future. A major part of my foundation—where I gained my education and experience—was the Las Vegas Strip in the 2000s. After working my way through downtown and multiple iconic restaurants and bars, I know, understand, and respect the work that has gone into making this town shine.

I'm excited to bring back Real Vegas Eats food writing in the next edition of RVM. But while the intermission continues, I want to highlight a very special project that's contributing to the evolution of this city—and I just happen to be in the middle of it, surrounded by an unreal, next-level team.

Please allow me to introduce TalkAndChew, Las Vegas' very own podcast for the people making it happen—and for all the wonderful friends out there headed this way. This is a project I've been building for years, and the time has come. Follow us on Instagram: **@TalkAndChewPodcast**.

This full-scale production is powered by a dedicated crew, including studio owner Marvin Lashever, executive producing alongside Donnie and myself. Holding it all together is our executive creative director, Oscar Vasquez, who's been putting in long hours, back-to-back meetings and unleashing next-level creativity. We're also blessed to have guidance and production consulting from my talent managers, Alice, and AJ of Alice Goldstein Entertainment. Find them at **@agelventertainment**.

For years I've been asked, "When, Chef?" as the digital space exploded. Much respect to all the amazing podcasts we've grown to love—we'll keep supporting them, and now we ask them to make a little room for us. After years on network television—competing, hosting, renovating restaurants—and over 30 years in the culinary game right here in Vegas, I'm finally stepping into the digital age.

TalkAndChew is a 40-minute weekly podcast that blends my journey and perspectives with food, culture, and everything in between. I'm proud to say my co-host is none other than my best friend and brother, Donnie Fobbs. If there's anyone who can keep me grounded and bring out the laughs while delivering real insight on food, current events, restaurants, and the Las Vegas dining scene—it's DF.

Each episode features an in-studio guest (some names you'll definitely recognize), enjoying great conversations and even better food. We'll be featuring dishes from local restaurants while we talk (yes, the "talking and chewing" part) and get the scoop on what's happening with our guests, what's next for them and what they're enjoying about Vegas.

I'll also be updating listeners on my upcoming TV work, appearances, and a few throwback moments from the early Food Network days—because we've got stories.

Midway through each episode, we'll pivot to more personal territory. Donnie and I have collectively lost over 200 pounds. We've transformed our health, mindset, and lifestyle, and we want to share that with others. From recipes

and hacks to motivation and wellness strategies, we'll offer an honest perspective: if we can do it, so can you.

We'll also be uploading recipes online. Some will be discussed in the show, others available exclusively to members via YouTube and our official website. Think of it as food, fun and fuel for the journey.

And now for dessert...

You may have already heard some buzz—we're spinning off into a 5-minute bonus segment led by DF. Name TBD. It'll be short, sweet, and full of energy—touching on wrestling, sports, and all things nostalgic. Trust us, this will be fun.

And yes—we're answering your requests. We're bringing out the inner food geek with a fast-paced "TalkAndChewFoodReview" (one word). This cheat-day food review will hit TikTok with laughs, reactions, and recommendations from our favorite fast-food joints. Life is about balance, and yes—you've earned your nuggets.

So, there it is, RVM friends. The intermission is almost over, and this town keeps building every day. Entertainment, food, and community are reaching new heights. What a time to be alive—and I'm absolutely glad I am.



VV & DF

Grace in the Spotlight: The Enduring Charm of Mimi Gibson

By Candice Wiener



In the glittering golden age of Hollywood, few child stars captured hearts as effortlessly as Mimi Gibson. With more than 150 television appearances and nearly three dozen films under her belt by the age of 14, Gibson left an indelible mark on American cinema. Today, nestled among the vibrant energy of Las Vegas, she reflects on a life built on grace, grit, and a lifelong passion for storytelling.

Born in 1948 in Renton, Washington, Gibson's entry into show business came by way of serendipity after moving to California with her mother following her father's passing.

Her father had been born with an enlarged heart and was told in high school that he could die just walking down the street. "But he was a determined man who built his own house and worked for Boeing as a machinist up until his passing," Gibson says. The young Gibson's cherubic looks caught the eye of an agent. Soon, she was appearing in national commercials and quickly became one of the most in-demand child actresses of the 1950s and early '60s.

Gibson's filmography reads like a who's who of mid-century American classics. She worked alongside icons such as John Wayne, Natalie Wood, Cary Grant, and Rock Hudson. Among her standout roles was her performance in *The Ten Commandments* (1956), one of the most iconic epics in film history. Her natural ability to evoke emotion made her a favorite among directors, and her professionalism on set was admired even by the most seasoned stars.



But like many child actors of her era, Gibson faced the oft-tumultuous transition into adulthood away from the spotlight. In a time before protections like the Coogan Law were consistently enforced, much of her earnings had been spent by the time she reached adulthood.

Gibson is most proud of her work with the Screen Actors Guild, specifically the Young Performers Committee. She and her Houseboat co-star Paul Petersen, who played her brother in the film, worked tirelessly for 10 years advocating for young performers. It took them eight years to help get the Coogan Law properly enforced.

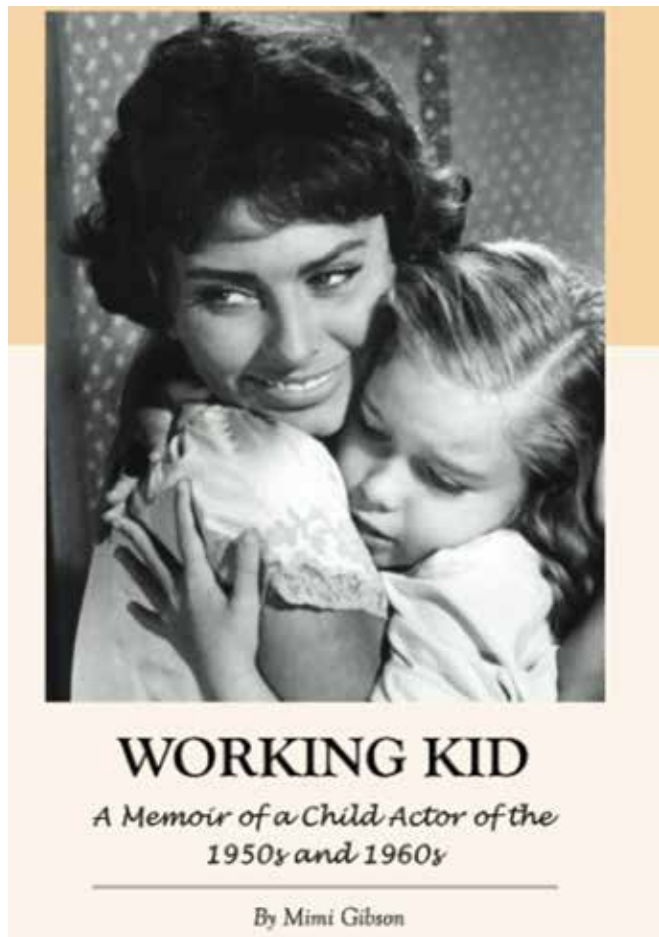
Yet Gibson did not allow adversity to define her. With quiet resolve, she pursued education, personal growth and ultimately a renewed sense of purpose—far from the Hollywood soundstages where she once stood center frame.



Now residing in Las Vegas, Gibson embraces a quieter life surrounded by friends, family, and a deep appreciation for the arts. An advocate for child actors' rights, she has spoken publicly about her own experiences and lent her voice to important reforms in entertainment labor laws. Her perspective remains refreshingly candid and compassionate—always aiming to uplift and protect the next generation of performers.

In a city known for its bright lights and fast pace, Gibson is a rare gem—a living thread of cinematic history that continues to inspire audiences. Whether reminiscing about her days on set with screen legends or enjoying the culture and community of Las Vegas, she radiates warmth and wisdom.

As Las Vegas continues to evolve into a hub for arts, film and entertainment, the presence of someone like Mimi Gibson—an emblem of old Hollywood grace and modern resilience—adds a unique and elegant sparkle. Her story is not just one of fame and film, but of perseverance, reinvention, and a lifelong commitment to living with heart.



Vegan in Vegas

Basil Spices Up Thai in Las Vegas Plus, Traveling to LA While Vegan



By Charles Karel Bouley

Thai cuisine lends itself well to plant-based alternatives; in Thailand, many dishes are naturally vegan. And almost any Thai restaurant can offer a variety of their dishes done vegan, as the local 9 Thai Kitchen (one of my faves) will attest. However, it's nice to go to a Thai restaurant and see menu items that are typically NOT vegan, like Tom Yum soup, Satay and more done plant based.

Basil Vegan Thai at 500 East Windmill Lane, ste 145, Las Vegas, NV <https://basilveganthai.com/> is the answer to those that don't want options but want everything on the menu to be vegan. This is the cousin to Daikon Vegan Sushi on Lake Mead, and on my first visit it did not disappoint.

I started with the Tom Yum soup, full of unami, chunks of tofu and veggies in a savory, satisfying broth. Next, I had the Vegas Golden Knights roll special, a black rice sushi roll filled with vegan fried shrimp and a bevy of veggies plated in a delicious sauce. My lunch mate Steve had Pad Thai, not adventurous, but downright delicious. I opted for the Green Curry and rice, and the veggie fritters served in it made the entire bowl a masterpiece. The curry was robust, the veggies crisp and the fritters hot and crunchy. It was a great combination of textures and flavors.

For dessert we opted for the traditional mango sticky rice, and were not disappointed. From the sweet coconut milk to the sticky rice topped with cold, ripe mango, this was a wonderful capping off to a great experience.

The menu features vegan sushi of all kinds (much of it the same as Daikon) but really excels at the traditional Thai dishes like the Papaya Salad or Satay (made with a deliciously crunchy Yuba (tofu skin)). And as an appetizer the protein-packed spicy edamame was just spicy enough for me, although I was told it's rather mild overall. Well, it got me sweating so I think it's just fine.

Like so many Las Vegas dining spots it's in a strip mall, but worth the trip. Check them out online at the link above or go in any day 11am to 9pm except Sunday when they're open 3pm to 9pm.



A LONG 270 MILES: For those Las Vegas residents that drive to Los Angeles and happen to be vegan, it can be a long 270 miles or so. I often will bring a sandwich from NoButcher here in Vegas on the trip. But sometimes you have to leave early before something is open, which puts you right between here and Los Angeles about lunch time...what to do?

Well, fear not, Ember and I have traversed the barren wasteland of plant-based options, so you don't have to wonder what to do. First, in Baker, near the world's largest thermometer, is the Mad Greek. There, you'll find falafel, hummus, rice, salad, many things that are already vegan, or can be made that way. A gyro made with falafel and fries is delicious; hummus and pita are a win-win, the Greek salad without feta...you can customize many things here and they are plant based. Now, they are not truly labeled VEGAN as the restaurant prepares the food in the same space as their meats, etc., but no meat makes it into your food, so you're all good.

Then, there's an out of the way place in Victorville of all places. Tucked inside the nearly empty Transit/Train station in Victorville is the Vegan Vato! What a delight it was. Burritos, tacos, tamales, enchiladas, bowls, all made with in-house proteins (oh the hibiscus is too good) inside the quaint, off the beaten path gem. It's a vegan oasis in a desert of dairy and meat that is freeway-close food. Their address is 16838 D St, Victorville, CA 92395 in the Transit Station. Go to theveganvato.com for more information.

And if you must have dessert, Eddie's World, the largest gas station on the West Coast with the "cleanest bathrooms West of the Mississippi" does, in fact, have several dairy-free options. In fact, Eddie World in Yermo has fresh vegan pizza options (vegan cheese, chk'n & not beef strips), the Impossible Burger, vegan ice creams, and sometimes vegan sushi!

So, there's more than enough to help you make the trek from Las Vegas to Los Angeles.

And if you are going, and don't stop at ID-Eclair in Pasadena on Green Street then why bother going? I mean, this place is worth the trip alone. It's a true French bakery with an innovative Chef making things like macaroons, croissants, eclairs, Neapolitans, Dubai Chocolate, things you just don't get usually in vegan bakeries. They even do a high tea, have vegan wine pairings in their wine bar...it's quite the place. Las Vegas needs one. Of course, I'd weight 1000 pounds if they did. It's worth the trip to Pasadena alone.



To read more about these and other restaurants go to veganinvegas.com and listen for reviews on **The Karel Cast** wherever you get your podcasts. Reviews are often featured at youtube.com/reallykarel so subscribe as well as realvegasmagazine.com Send comments to comments@veganinvegas.com



Hollywood Legacy, Las Vegas Grace:

The Story of Beverly Washburn

By Candice Wiener



In a town built on spectacle and star power, few names resonate with the kind of timeless charm and resilience as Beverly Washburn. A celebrated figure from Hollywood's golden era, Washburn is not only a treasured name in American film history but also a proud and active member of the Las Vegas arts community. Her life—on and off the screen—embodies a legacy of grace, grit, and a deep love for storytelling.

Born in Los Angeles, Washburn seemed destined for the screen. She began acting at the age of 3, quickly rising through the ranks of child stars in the 1950s. Her talent,

combined with a work ethic well beyond her years, earned her roles alongside some of Hollywood's most revered legends. By the time she was a teenager, she had appeared in more than 500 television and film productions—a staggering feat by any measure.

Washburn is perhaps best known for her poignant role as Lisbeth Searcy in the 1957 Disney classic *Old Yeller*, a film that remains etched into the hearts of generations. Her performance, rich with emotional depth and innocence, helped define one of the most iconic family films of its time. She also made

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Gidget
Beverly Washburn and Sally Field



SPIDER BABY



SPIDER BABY

memorable appearances in The Loretta Young Show, Star Trek, The Streets of San Francisco and Spider Baby, the latter of which solidified her cult status in horror film history.

Washburn is currently working on a documentary titled Here's Looking at You, Kids, which follows her alongside fellow former child stars Mimi Gibson and Sharon Baird—the latter an original Mouseketeer on The Mickey Mouse Club. The project explores their shared memories of growing up in Hollywood, their careers, and their enduring friendship over the years.

Despite her early fame, Washburn never let Hollywood typecasting define her. With humility and unwavering dedication, she transitioned seamlessly from child star to accomplished actress, navigating the challenges that often come with growing up under the scrutiny of fame. Her memoir, Reel Tears: The Beverly Washburn Story, offers readers a candid and heartfelt account of her life in the industry, peppered with charming anecdotes and reflections from her extraordinary journey.

Now calling Las Vegas home, Washburn continues to captivate audiences—not on film sets, but through speaking engagements, charitable events, and literary festivals. Her presence in the Las Vegas arts scene is both inspiring and grounding. She is often seen supporting local film festivals, engaging in educational panels, and advocating for ethical practices in the entertainment industry.

Washburn also writes a monthly column titled Hollywood Memories in The Vegas Voice, where she has shared her reflections for the past 15 years. The column, now syndicated in Nevada, New York, Idaho, and Montana, offers readers an intimate look at her experiences growing up in Hollywood and working alongside some of its brightest stars.



Beyond the spotlight, Washburn is an advocate for animal welfare and supports various nonprofit organizations throughout the Las Vegas Valley. Her warmth and authenticity shine as brightly as the marquees on the Strip, making her not only a Hollywood story but also a true Las Vegas gem.

In a city that embraces reinvention and celebrates individuality, Beverly Washburn's story fits perfectly within the vibrant tapestry of Las Vegas culture. Her legacy is not just one of cinematic greatness—it's a testament to resilience, grace and an enduring love for the arts that continues to inspire generations.



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STEPHANO'S GREEK RESTAURANT



Whether you're craving a grilled kebab plate, a vibrant chopped salad or a hearty shawarma wrap, Stephano's offers a variety of dishes that are both satisfying and nourishing. The menu is filled with lean proteins, fresh vegetables, fiber-rich grains, and signature sauces made in-house. Their menu also accommodates a wide range of dietary needs, with plenty of vegan, vegetarian, and gluten-free options, making it easy for anyone to find something that aligns with their personal lifestyle or wellness goals.

"Every item on our menu is made with intention, from the ingredients we source to the way we prepare and serve each dish," said Nick Kossayan, co-owner of Stephano's. "Even as we grow, we're proud to stay rooted in our mission: serving fresh, high-quality food our local community can feel good about enjoying every day."

This health-first approach has earned Stephano's a loyal following of locals who return not just for the food, but for the consistency, convenience, and warm hospitality the brand is known for. Whether you're stopping in for a quick lunch, picking up a family dinner or catering a group event, Stephano's makes it easy to enjoy wholesome, satisfying meals any day of the week.

With wellness becoming more important to today's consumers than ever before, Stephano's continues to lead the way in showing that fast food can still be fresh, flavorful, and rooted in care. Their evolving menu, thoughtful ingredient choices, and dedication to community make them more than just a place to eat—they're a local brand you can feel good supporting.

For hours, locations and full menu details, visit stephanoslv.com or follow @StephanosLV on Instagram and Facebook.

In a fast-paced world where convenience often trumps quality, Stephano's Greek & Mediterranean Grill has become a refreshing exception, serving fast, flavorful, and health-conscious meals that locals can feel good about. With four locations across Las Vegas and Henderson, Stephano's has carved out its place as a community favorite by proving that clean eating doesn't have to be bland, boring, or difficult to maintain.

Founded in 1998, Stephano's began as a small gyro shop near the UNLV campus and has since grown into one of Southern Nevada's most beloved fast-casual concepts. The menu pays tribute to the owners' family recipes, inspired by the rich culinary traditions of Greece, Lebanon, and Armenia. While the flavors are rooted in heritage, the approach is refreshingly modern and designed to meet the evolving needs of today's health-conscious diners.

At the heart of Stephano's success is its commitment to scratch-made, nutrient-rich dishes crafted with high-quality ingredients. The brand recently made the transition to cooking exclusively with heart-healthy avocado oil, a move that reflects its ongoing mission to serve food that not only tastes great but supports long-term wellness. Avocado oil is prized for its high smoke point, anti-inflammatory benefits and monounsaturated fats that support heart health, making it a smart upgrade for everyday cooking.



Not Just a Dream Come True

Whiskful Thinking Is More Than an Eyelash Wish

By Olivia Spargur



"Food brings people together, sparks creativity, and recalls cherished memories."

There's a quiet but undeniable magic in food. It's not just nourishment—it's a universal language. Food connects families, inspires creativity, and can even launch dreams into reality.

In the case of **Korey Wells**, food—more specifically, dessert—became the medium through which she rekindled her artistic passion, built a business, and created a sweet legacy in the heart of Las Vegas.

FROM ART TO CAKES

With a collegiate background in art, Korey Wells never imagined her future would be baked, frosted, and piped to perfection. But it was motherhood that first stirred the mixing bowl.

What began as a creative outlet—decorating birthday cakes for her daughters—soon snowballed into a growing list of custom cake orders from friends and neighbors. Wells' flair for visual beauty and flavor quickly caught on.

"The decoration aspect of baking rekindled that artistic spark," she recalls. "It reminded me how much I loved creating with my hands."

A DREAM GETS REAL

After years of filling custom orders from home, Wells and her partner Cece took a leap of faith. In 2022, they opened the first brick-and-mortar location of **Whiskful Thinking Cakes**, the popular local bakery owned by **Food Network Champion Korey Wells**, in Las Vegas.

Today, three years later, Whiskful Thinking thrives—not just from its meticulously made desserts, but from its close-knit, all-female team that pours heart and soul into every creation.

DID YOU KNOW?

Only **22%** of businesses in Las Vegas are women-owned, compared to **40% nationally**. "It's more than a bakery—it's a labor of love, made from scratch, with intention and joy."

Whiskful Thinking Cakes isn't about cookie-cutter confections. Every order is custom-made, thoughtfully designed, and infused with the same love that started it all in Wells' kitchen.

These aren't just bakers—they're artists. Their display case bursts with vibrant color, intricate detailing, and a near-perfect balance of texture and flavor. The work is intentional, and it shows.

A PERSONAL TASTE

During my first visit to Whiskful Thinking Cakes, I had a chance to speak with Wells. She shared how proud she is to watch her dream become something tangible, something real.

"I'm grateful every day," she said. "To be doing what I love, to create something people enjoy—that's the best kind of reward."

I also had the pleasure of trying their Dubai-chocolate-inspired croissant. Drizzled in green and pink pastels, with rich pistachio and chocolate flavors layered throughout, it didn't just brighten my morning—it elevated it.

Trying to channel my inner Paul and Prue from *The Great British Baking Show*, I searched for flaws... and found none.

MORE THAN JUST A SWEET TREAT

In a city full of flash and fast-paced change, Whiskful Thinking Cakes is a reminder of what matters: community, craftsmanship, and the courage to chase a dream.

It's not just a bakery. It's a story of resilience, creativity, and sweetness—in every sense of the word.

Follow Whiskful Thinking Cakes
Visit them at their Las Vegas storefront
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Photo credit: Robert Morels.

A Toast to Taste: Why Vegas Locals Are Flocking to Liam's Den & Bubble Bar at Grand Canal Shoppes at The Venetian Resort Las Vegas

Las Vegas may be known for its over-the-top energy and world-class entertainment, but every local knows that finding a stylish and serene spot to unwind, especially before a show, is pure gold. Enter Liam's Den & Bubble Bar, a women-owned, art deco-inspired champagne lounge tucked inside the Grand Canal Shoppes at The Venetian Resort Las Vegas. With its plush velvet seating, wrap-around cherry blossom bar and curated cocktail experience, this elegant newcomer has quickly become the insider go-to for savvy Vegas locals seeking sophistication with a side of sparkle.

Whether you're headed to The Sphere for a concert or simply looking to elevate your next night out on the town, Liam's offers an effortless way to begin or end your Strip outing in style. Even better? Locals can take advantage of free self-parking for up to three hours (when no special events are in place), with Liam's located just steps from the parking garage elevators at The Palazzo.

This 1,500-square-foot hideaway blends the indulgence of Las Vegas nightlife with the intimacy of a private social club. The menu is anchored by top-shelf bubbles, specialty cocktails like the Sweet Redemption (mezcal, rosé vermouth and amaro), and refined bites like caviar blinis and charcuterie. Craving something rare? Try the Louis XIII cognac, served in half-ounce pours starting at \$125.

But Liam's is more than just a beautiful bar, it's a space that celebrates community and culture. Every three months, Liam's hosts Fizz & Fine Art, a rotating art exhibition series that turns the lounge into a working gallery. These themed showcases bring together emerging and established artists while benefiting local non-profits. The current exhibition, Inspired by Him, honors Father's Day with a powerful visual tribute to fatherhood, with proceeds supporting DAD INC, a Las Vegas nonprofit that uplifts fathers through free parenting and employment programs.

From cocktail soirées to bridal showers and private events, Liam's Den & Bubble Bar offers customizable packages and full venue buy-outs. Upcoming plans include weekend live music and high tea options, making it a dynamic destination for any celebration.

Liam's Den & Bubble Bar is located at 3327 S Las Vegas Blvd, Suite 2860, Las Vegas, NV 89109. The lounge is open daily from 2 p.m. to 12 a.m. Happy hour is available daily from 2 until 5 p.m. offering \$5 off select champagne and cocktails. For reservations, call 702-498-9820 or visit liamslasvegas.com. Follow Liam's Den & Bubble Bar on Instagram at @liamslasvegas and become a fan on Facebook @liamslasvegas.



Lucia Mexican Grill Brings Bold Flavor and Vibrant Energy to Virgin Hotels Las Vegas

A new go-to for bold bites, weekend brunch and effortlessly cool vibes

In a city known for its over-the-top dining and dynamic nightlife experiences, Lucia, inside Virgin Hotels Las Vegas, is carving out its place as one of Las Vegas' newest hot spots by blending authentic Mexican flavors with a vibrant, sexy energy. Lucia aims to offer a refreshing take on modern Mexican dining, full encompassing equal parts celebration, and culinary craft.

Lucia hits that sweet spot between elevated and approachable. The space is undeniably alluring, with rich textures, warm lighting, and vibrant colors that pull guests into a celebratory mindset the moment they walk through the door. Whether you're there for a weeknight dinner or weekend brunch, the vibe strikes a unique balance: stylish but never stuffy, upbeat without trying too hard. Led by Executive Chef Noe Alcala, whose roots run deep in traditional Mexican cooking, Lucia's menu is a curated tribute to regional classics. Think fire-grilled arrachera, queso birria tacos and ribeye agua chile, all elevated with fresh ingredients and an uncompromising attention to detail. The flavors are bold, the portions generous, and the presentation always Instagram-worthy.

Lucia's menu is grounded in Mexican tradition, but it's far from conventional. You won't find overly Americanized twists here, what you'll get instead is a thoughtful, curated lineup of dishes that showcase bold flavors and high-quality ingredients.

While many resort restaurants cater to out-of-towners, Lucia was designed with locals in mind. The space is stylish but welcoming, with indoor and patio seating that feels equally suited for a date night, group dinner, or casual hangout. A daily happy hour featuring half priced margaritas and \$5 beers from 5 to 6 p.m. makes it an easy go-to for after-work drinks, while weekend brunch brings the party with Fiesta Brunch, a high-energy experience complete with live DJs, bottomless mimosas, and crowd-pleasing plates like the pancake tacos and indulgent tres leche waffles.



Lucia's warm ambiance and high-energy vibe are matched by a level of service that's both attentive and relaxed, whether you're sipping mezcal cocktails with friends or grabbing a quick bite before a concert or basketball game. Conveniently located at 4455 Paradise Road, Lucia offers free on-site parking and quick access from UNLV, the airport, and surrounding neighborhoods, making it the perfect spot whether you're headed to a Strip event or catching something around the corner at Thomas & Mack.

Behind the bar, the cocktail program is just as thoughtful as the food. Hand-shaken margaritas come with inventive house infusions, while tequila and mezcal take center stage in a variety of signature drinks. A rotating selection of seasonal cocktails adds a playful twist to the menu, ensuring there's always something new to try. Pair them with Taco Tuesday specials or Chef Alcala's latest creations and you'll quickly understand why Lucia is earning buzz as one of the city's most exciting new restaurants.

With a seated capacity of up to 210 and indoor/outdoor space ideal for private events, Lucia is also gaining traction as a go-to for birthday celebrations, group dinners, and corporate gatherings. It's the kind of place that turns any meal into a memory.

Lucia isn't just another hotel restaurant, it's a new local favorite that brings the flavor, the fun, and the soul of Mexico right to the heart of Las Vegas.

To book your table, visit VirginHotelsLV.com or follow @VirginHotelsLV on Instagram for the latest updates.



VET EXPERTS TALK PETS

THEIRS AND YOURS

REAL-LIFE EXAMPLES, HEARTFELT ADVICE,
AND TIPS YOU CAN USE TODAY.

By Joe J. Owens, III

AN INTERVIEW WITH

DR. PETRA CERNA

DVM, PhD, FELINE BEHAVIOR EXPERT

Cats are not just small dogs—and treating them as such can create serious barriers to their health and wellbeing. In a special edition of the Tail Talk™ podcast, Dr. Joe Owens sat down with **Dr. Petra Cerna**, a feline internal medicine specialist and passionate advocate for cat-friendly care, to unpack what makes cats unique—and why understanding that can transform your vet visits.

Dr. Cerna holds multiple credentials in feline medicine and behavior, including membership in the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists, an advanced certificate in feline behavior (with distinction), and is currently pursuing a PhD in feline infectious peritonitis. In short: **she knows cats**.

We've adapted their wide-ranging conversation into a streamlined Q&A to help readers better understand what truly respectful, cat-centered care looks like—starting at home.

**Respect Comes First**

Dr. Owens: What's the most important thing for people to understand about cats and vet visits?

Dr. Cerna: Respect. Cats aren't animals you can force. You have to work with them, not against them. That means understanding that they experience the world very differently than dogs—stronger senses of smell and hearing, unique stress responses, and the fact that they're both predator and prey. All this makes unfamiliar environments, like vet clinics, incredibly stressful unless we make a real effort to accommodate their needs.

Vet Visits Start at Home

Dr. Owens: So many pet parents say their cats hate the vet. What can they do to make it easier?

Dr. Cerna: The vet visit starts long before the car ride. Cats



form strong bonds with their environment, so sudden changes—like a carrier pulled from the garage once a year—can be traumatic. Instead, leave the carrier out in the home regularly. Let them nap or play in it. Spray it with calming pheromones. And if your cat tends to panic, talk to your vet about pre-visit medications like Gabapentin or Pregabalin. It can make a world of difference.



Multi-Cat Households: One at a Time

Dr. Owens: What about families with multiple cats? Should they all come in together?

Dr. Cerna: As someone with six cats myself, I would never bring them all at once—not even as a vet! It's overwhelming for them and for the clinic. Unless you have a bonded pair, try to schedule individual appointments. It's not just about convenience—it's about giving each cat the best possible experience.

Medication: Making It Work

Dr. Owens: Let's talk about medicating cats—it's not easy, right?

Dr. Cerna: Not at all! Even as a vet, medicating my own cats has been humbling. The key is finding what works. Try flavored compounded medications, or hide pills in treats or food they love. It's also important to advocate for simpler dosing schedules.

Nobody wants to give meds four times a day. It's about working with your vet to find the least stressful solution for both of you.

Advocating for Better Care

Dr. Owens: What should pet parents look for in a vet clinic?

Dr. Cerna: I personally would never take my cats to a clinic that still uses scruffing. Look for a *Cat Friendly Certified* practice—many now exist, and they prioritize low-stress handling. Feline-only clinics are even better. The reduced noise and scent triggers make a big difference. If your vet isn't cat-savvy, don't be afraid to seek one who is. Your cat deserves it.

Final Takeaway

Understanding your cat's emotional and sensory world is not just a matter of compassion—it's the foundation of good veterinary care. Whether it's prepping the carrier, using calming aids, or breaking up appointments for multi-cat families, small changes can create huge improvements.

As Dr. Cerna put it: "Cats will never do what you want them to do—you have to do what they want. And that starts with respect."



Adapted from the "Tail Talk™" podcast,
hosted by Dr. Joe J. Owens, III



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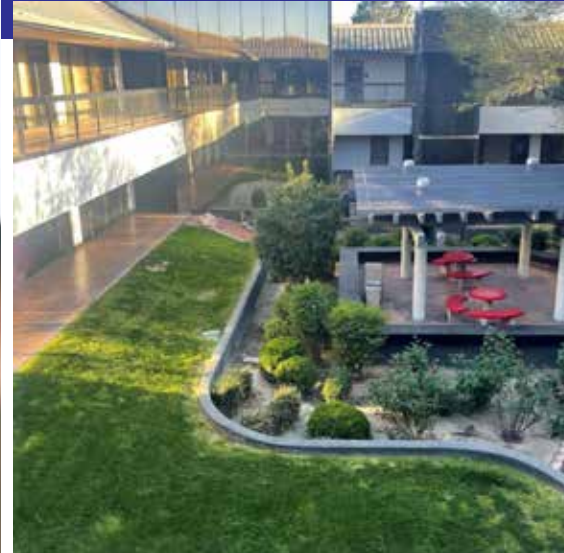


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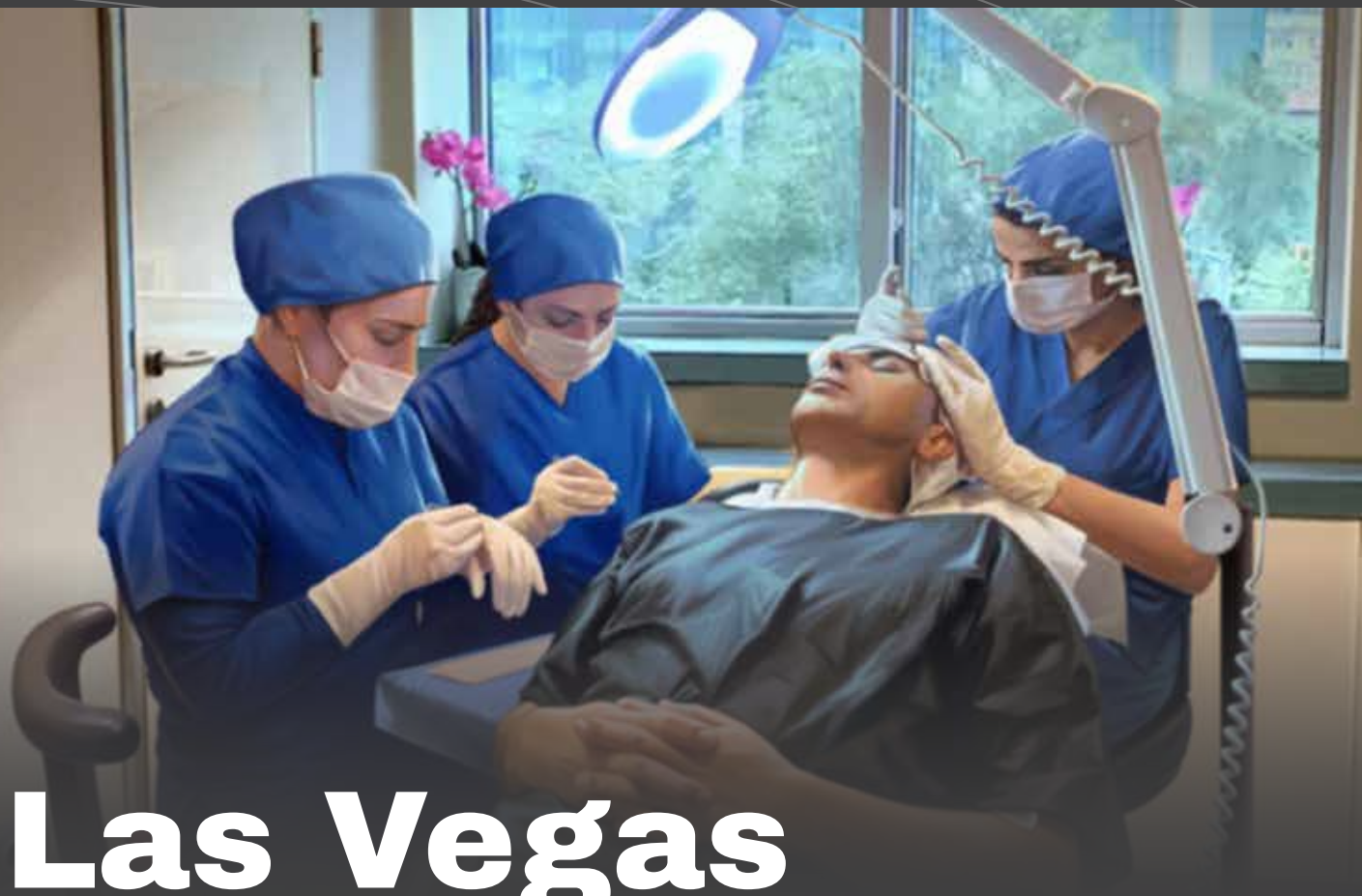
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