

LAS VEGAS

THE STRIKER VIP VEGAS INSIDER

King of Hearts: How to Create the Ultimate Romantic Vegas Getaway
By Steven Striker, "The Ultimate Las Vegas Insider"



BET ON VEGAS TO LAVISH YOUR LOVED ONE IN LUXURY

World-class sommeliers. Culinary gurus. Luxury rides. High end shopping. First class spas. Jewels, glitz, glamour. It's Vegas, baby! Las Vegas has transformed itself into a region abundant with romantic sights, sounds and services to entice couples seeking the extraordinary.

Having reached the pinnacle among the world's leading jet-set destinations, today's luxury Las Vegas is replete with lavish goods, services and amenities that transcend bachelor parties and conventions. This "Jewel of the Desert" now offers romance-seeking couples the opportunity to live like royalty as they experience the pampering, flair and retro-elegance that sets the twinkling town apart from any where else in the world.

With this in mind, here are my top 10 tips on creating the "Ultimate Romantic Getaway" for those wanting to make the most of their Vegas à deux experience, or for those who are, shall we say, "romantically challenged":

1. Well-Traveled

From private Lear jets in and out of McCarran International Airport, well-stocked limousines, stretch Hummer transports, and exotic Ferrari and Lamborghini rentals for cruising the infamous Strip to helicopter sky tours, getting into, out of and around Vegas can be a romantic endeavor unto itself. You've got to do it...make it count!



2. Tours for Two

Take your love to new heights with a romantic tour of the Vegas Strip from a different perspective: by helicopter. Soar through the sky with a bottle of champagne and chocolate dipped strawberries or an aged cognac nightcap. Take advantage of daylight hours and charter a private helicopter for an unforgettable tour of the Grand Canyon where you can take in the spectacular landscape while dining on an elegant lunch of champagne and imported caviar.

Heights not your thing? Go for a gondola ride down the Venetian's Grand Canal, slowly drifting under bridges and passing cafes and shops as your gondolier serenades the both of you.

3. Food Makes the Heart Grow Fonder

What's a romantic evening without fine dining? Take in the incredible view, ambiance and world-class French cuisine at Paris' Eiffel Tower restaurant where you can also watch Bellagio's dancing fountains. Arrange a personal visit to your table from the head chef to make your partner feel extra special.

The Foundation Room, located high atop the Mandalay Bay, has an eclectic fine-dining atmosphere that can really set the mood. The main dining room contains original paneling from the Kellogg Family estate with dimly lit antique chandeliers that reflect the ornate gold leaf ceiling. The roof-top patio provides outside dining with a phenomenal view of the Strip where the lights are sure to sparkle in each other's eyes.

Consider spending one evening "dining in" and have a movable feast in the comfort and privacy of your own suite where a culinary master can create a personalized romantic meal for two. Go that extra mile to set the mood with a private violinist, pianist, or classical guitar player who will entertain you both during your dinner à deux.

4. Priority Pampering

There's nothing like a personalized spa experience to make someone feel loved and appreciated. Whether it's at a five-star facility or within the privacy of your own suite, Vegas takes this notion to an artistic extreme. Arrange for your partner to visit an incredible on-site oasis like the Mandalay Bay Hotel Spa where personalized treatment menus tempt with exotic massage techniques, lavish body wraps, facials by world-class aestheticians, make-up and hair artistry, and Pilates and Yoga sessions with renowned gurus. Indeed, Las Vegas boasts an array of world-class spas ready, willing, and able to cater to your partner's every whim, relaxing every muscle in his or her body.

5. Those Who Shop Together Stay Together

When in doubt about how to add some fun to your romantic getaway, a shopping expedition together is sure to evoke more than a few smiles. Hold hands as you stroll through the Venetian's Grand Canal Shops, the arcade at the Bellagio, or the Caesar Forum's shops. Splurge at Ted Baker in the Caesars Forum II Mall where you can enlist the help of a private shopper and recreate a "Pretty Woman" moment of your own.

Of course, nothing ignites love and appreciation quite like a bauble or three. Do more than window shop at the city's premier jewelers, including Harry Winston, Graff, DeBeers, Tiffany, and Cartier. Call ahead and they'll greet the love of your life with champagne, chocolates and whatever else suits for a truly decadent jewelry shopping experience.

6. Hearts Aflutter

Who says romance has to be all soft music and dim lighting? For the sports fanatic, love involves adventure and a good dose of heart-pumping adrenaline. Take ATVs out for a desert trek or try a Red Rock hiking tour. Have a private car or helicopter whisk you off to a day of professional NASCAR auto racing or connect with your inner ace by commandeering jets for a mock dog fight. For the ultimate heart-pounding experience for two, try tandem sky diving.

7. Paint the Town Red

The Playboy Club combines the relaxed atmosphere of a plush leather and reptile-skin sofa, chair and settee-filled lounge with an exclusive live gaming pit replete with Playboy Bunny dealers. Or, you could ascend to the 53rd floor of the Palms Hotel's Fantasy Tower and experience the dramatic, surreal environment of Moon. For discerning couples, this is the place for mind-blowing views complete with a retractable video roof! Ivan Kane's Forty Deuce at Mandalay Bay has the look, feel and sounds of a 1940's club with leather sofas, mood lighting, and authentic and tastefully delivered burlesque performed to the sounds of an amazing three-piece band on a revolving stage.

8. Show Your Love

Take one part Moulin Rouge, add a dash of Broadway, and combine with powerhouse performers. In Vegas, the entire world becomes your stage. Surprise your partner with front and center seats at Elton John at a specially constructed auditorium in Caesar's Palace that replicates the Coliseum in Rome. Celebrate the musical legacy of The Beatles in the new show LOVE, staged by Cirque du Soleil at The Mirage Hotel. For an edge-of-your-seat experience, see Cirque du Soleil's \$200 million production KA, at the MGM. From there, take in some of the nation's leading theater productions, including Phantom of the Opera, Spamalot, Mama Mia, and The Producers.

9. Sidewalk Stoppers

The Bellagio's dramatic light and sound fountain display is a "must see" for any romantic Vegas excursion. The unique sidewalk spectacular features dancing water fountains synchronized with the greatest love songs and arias of our time. The volcano eruption at the Mirage Hotel is another Vegas staple worth stopping for as you leisurely stroll along the boulevard arm and arm.

10. The Suite Life

Even in Vegas, sometimes the best plan of all is a quiet, intimate evening. With world-class luxury suites available throughout the town, hanging up the "Do Not Disturb" sign is ever-so-tempting. The Bellagio features suites that overlook a scenic lake. The Tower Suites, which operate as a luxury boutique hotel within the Wynn Las Vegas, is the first in town to earn Mobil Travel Guide's five-star rating. The Tower Suites offer exclusive, white-glove service and accommodations that feel like luxurious private residences. The Tower Suites also have their own private restaurant, Tableau, and a private pool to serve only the Tower Suite clientele. Enjoy the "suite life" with a gourmet champagne brunch, chef-prepared dinner or couple's massage.



Steven Striker, "The Ultimate Las Vegas Insider," is the Founder and CEO of Striker VIP, Inc. a Five-Star Las Vegas Host, Concierge and Event Services Provider. The company creates exciting, extravagant, once-in-a-lifetime Las Vegas experiences for those seeking to gain access into Las Vegas' notorious inner circle, or generally enjoy a spectacular, memorable and hassle-free luxury travel experience. "Striker" can be reached through his website at www.StrikerVIP.com or via toll-free telephone at 866-VIVAVIP.