



The Palazzo opened on the Las Vegas Strip in January.

DETAILS: Located at 3325 Las Vegas Blvd. S., Las Vegas. Rates from \$199 on weeknights. Call 866-263-3001 or visit palazzolasvegas.com.

▶ Desert Palace

Fireworks, women on stilts and about 1,000 paparazzi lent dazzle to the January grand opening of **The Palazzo** on the Las Vegas Strip. But even without flashbulbs, The Palazzo impresses.

Its suites are larger than a city apartment, with sophisticated furnishings and state-of-the-art environmental controls. The lobby fountain is a jaw-dropper (though the foyer fountain, with podiums for dancers, is more fun). And its retail portfolio may be the city's most exclusive and eclectic. Barneys New York

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anchors the hotel's gallery of shops, Jimmy Choo and Chloe head up the boutiques, and Bauman Rare Books lends unexpected intellectual cachet.

Chicago's Charlie Trotter livens up The Palazzo's celebrity chef roster with Restaurant Charlie, which he describes

as "fine dining but not foreboding." Says Trotter: "Chicago fine dining is like church. This is us letting our hair down."

While some describe The Palazzo as merely an annex of its sister hotel, the Venetian, it's just as big, glossy and expensive as its neighbors. —Lena Katz