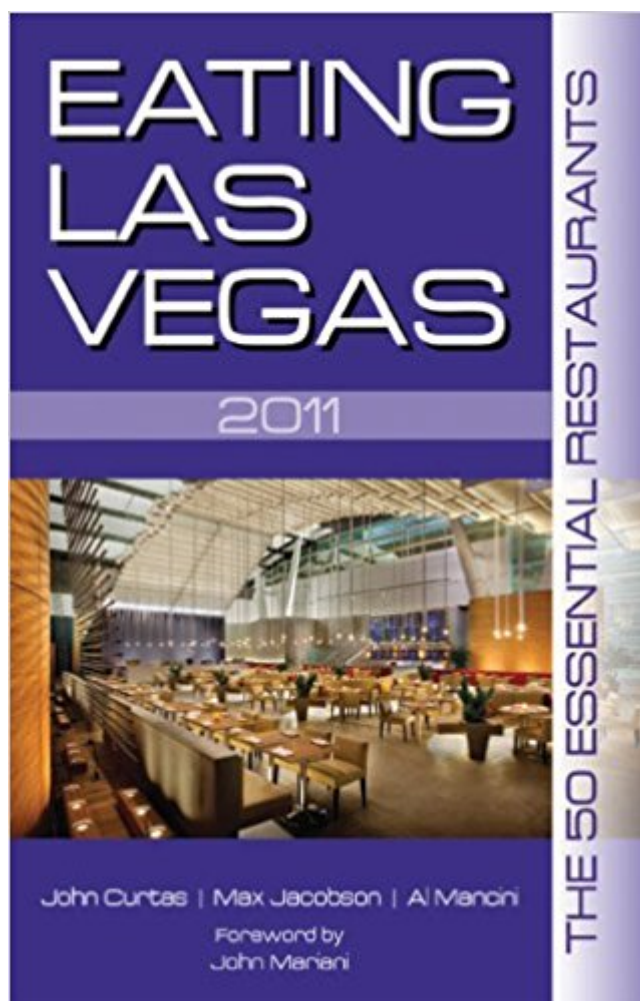


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# Eating Las Vegas: The 50 Essential Restaurants



## Synopsis

Restaurant guides typically give readers a singular viewpoint. Eating Las Vegas triples the ante, offering reviews from three local food critics who hail from completely different generations, backgrounds, lifestyles and tastes--and who usually disagree on the merits of any particular restaurant. After countless arguments over lunch, Las Vegas' best-known dining writers accomplished the impossible and came up with a list of the eateries all three could happily recommend. In Eating Las Vegas, John Curtas, Max Jacobson, and Al Mancini spotlight the 50 restaurants they could all agree are essential stops for foodies, visitors, and locals seeking an unforgettable meal in the city that boasts more than 2,000 places for eating out. With reviews ranging from some of the Strip's most lavish dining rooms to hole-in-the-wall ethnic gems, this groundbreaking food guide propels readers to the dizzy heights of culinary nirvana. And once you've made your way through all 50, you can truly say you've "eaten Las Vegas." As added bonuses, Eating Las Vegas features lists of the best restaurants in a dozen categories and a special veto section, including some of the restaurants prized by one critic and rejected by the others, over which the authors engaged in their most heated disagreements.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

John Curtas is the restaurant critic for KNPR and KLAS radio stations; Max Jacobson writes about food for Seven Magazine, and Al Mancini pens a weekly dining column for the alt-weekly Citylife.

We love to go to Vegas once a year and our favorite thing is to try new restaurants. This trip was going to be short, so I made sure to read up and plan in advance. I have several problems with recommendations from the book, although it was fun to read.

Con: Some of the phone numbers are incorrect. After trying to make reservations, I ended up having to go to the hotel websites to get the correct phone numbers.

Con: May need to be a recognized food critic to get the "good" food that these 3 authors did because the listed restaurants don't all deliver.

Pro: Paper is nice, shiny, white and easy to read. Perfect size book.

Section I - Top Ten

The top ten restaurants in this guidebook are all rated Expensive or Very Expensive. Definition is \$75 and up/pp for an appetizer, entree, a desert and a cocktail. We didn't approach any of these restaurants. I would hope for this price, they are all good!

Section II - The rest of the best.

PRO: Included our favorite restaurant - Julian Serrano at Aria. We've pretty much eaten down the entire menu and everything is wonderful except maybe the rabbit which none of truly enjoyed. But that could just be us - it was my first time eating rabbit but it was dry and on the bone.

Payards Patisserie was on our plan for Saturday lunch for the gourmet \$19.95 price fix meal. However, just so you know, they don't serve this on weekends. We were not in the mood for their Saturday brunch, so we went next door to the "express" Payards. I would highly suggest to just SKIP this place all together. They were out of all kinds of food, including their famous quiche, and it wasn't even 12:30 pm and they were very rude. I won't say that this would translate to the sit-down restaurant, but their croissants were as good as Costco's.

We picked one more restaurant out from the book for our main dinner on Saturday night. So far I had struck out at lunch...and this night unfortunately we had to return 2 of our 3 dishes after we waited 90 minutes for our order. The owner was great about it and comped our drinks and offered us a return visit on him (food was that bad and we actually couldn't eat it), but I'm not sure how this place made it into this book. Service=bad, Food=bad, Restaurant=very loud, Wine=bad. Because the owner was so nice, I will not post the name of this restaurant. But CAN'T believe this restaurant made it into the book.

There are also another main "Celebrity Chef" restaurant in this book that I had been to about 3 years ago where I would rather have eaten at taco bell. Food was just really that bad.

My friends did eat at "MunchBar" and they thought it was good food for what that is worth.

A previous trip we did eat at Shibuya, pg 137, at the MGM. It was very good and made the "Additional Recommendations" page.

Like I said, I enjoyed reading this book, but given the high recommendations by the 3 authors, I anticipated more from each restaurant and because of our short stay, each restaurant better deliver. I was hoping for more and obviously the consistency just isn't there (unless maybe you are a recognized food critic?)! Therefore 3/5 stars given.

This is an excellent compilation of Las Vegas' top 50. Written by three food critics with varying backgrounds, extensive experiences and vastly different tastes, they sat down and argued over which 50 restaurants to list. It's one thing to have people with similar tastes agree to something and it's a completely different animal when these three agree. It's a must-have for food-centric travellers to Vegas who want to guide that runs the gamut of hole-in-the-wall off-Strip locations to mortgage-priced meals at glitzy casinos.

If I could afford most of the restaurants listed..... maybe then I would have rated higher. I was looking for a review of the Vegas buffets (strip, downtown, and off strip). I figured they would mention at least the top ones. The Thai restaurant and the Soul Food one was dead on accurate. Couldn't really afford the others. Oh well, I'll try another guide instead.

With so many food choices in Las Vegas, as a vacationer with only a few days to eat you don't want to waste a single meal. This fun, well-written guide boils it down to the essential 50, which will help make sure you sate your hunger wisely and get the maximum enjoyment from every bite. Locals and regular visitors will find some interesting selections they may not have thought to try.

This is mostly a rehash of the 2011 version, but for the Vegas foodie/fanatic, this is certainly worth picking up. The arguments between the three co-authors are entertaining, and there are a number of off-Strip gems highlighted.

I visit Las Vegas around 4 times a year, this is a great book to find out of the way places and deals on Happy Hours or Bar Menus. It has many places I had never heard of. Highly Recommended.

This is a must have eating out guide if you like to eat at great restaurants. It offers three distinct point of views for each of the restaurants. It makes a Great Gift!!!

Consider this a restaurant review guide with a three edged sword. I loved the way Curtas, Jacobson and Mancini made significant comments on each entry with wit and humor. Ten times the guide Michelin is. I wish the Vetoes section would have been longer and it would have been nice for the steakhouses in Vegas to have their own section (with extensive comments). This is a must for the semi-frequent business traveler who needs to impress. Job well done.

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