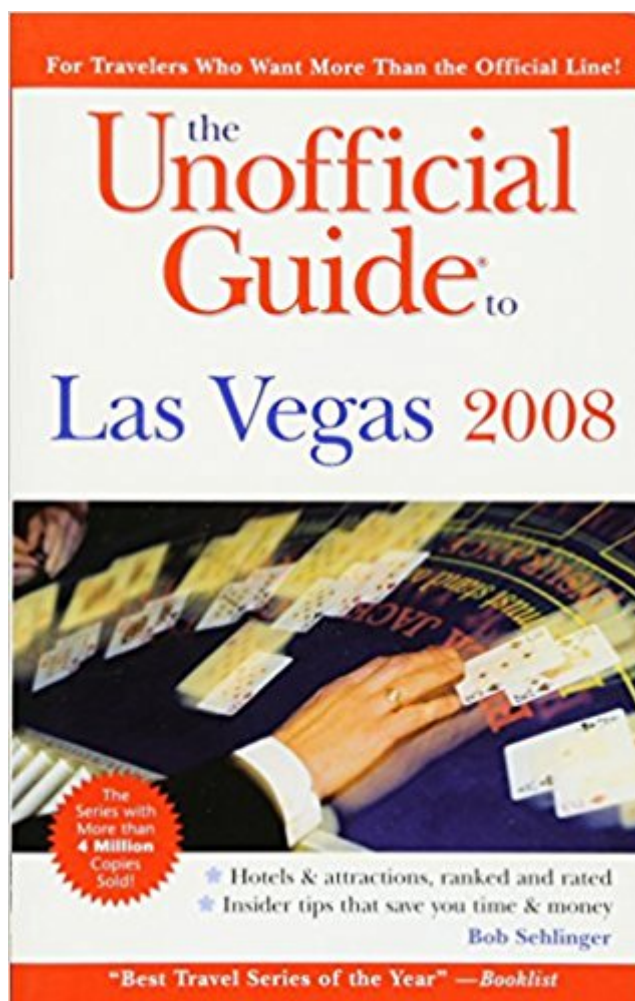


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# The Unofficial Guide To Las Vegas 2008 (Unofficial Guides)



## Synopsis

From the publishers of The Unofficial Guide(r) to Walt Disney World(r) "A Tourist's Best Friend!" -Chicago Sun-Times "Indispensable" -The New York Times Five Great Features and Benefits offered ONLY by The Unofficial Guide(r): \* Over 100 hotels and casinos rated and ranked - the most offered by any guidebook - plus proven strategies for getting the best rate \* Complete detailed descriptions of each casino and casino hotel \* In-depth critical reviews of Las Vegas' 60 best shows and 30 top nightspots - the most offered by any guidebook \* Detailed reviews of more than 100 restaurants - a complete dining guide within the guide, plus the best buffets rated and ranked \* Fifty pages of gambling tips from how to play, recognize sucker games, and cut the house advantage to the bone

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## Customer Reviews

From the publishers of The Unofficial Guide to Walt Disney World "A Tourist's Best Friend!" -Chicago Sun-Times "Indispensable" -The New York Times Five Great Features and Benefits offered ONLY by The Unofficial Guide: Over 100 hotels and casinos rated and ranked - the most offered by any guidebook - plus proven strategies for getting the best rate Complete detailed descriptions of each casino and casino hotel In-depth critical reviews of Las Vegas' 60 best shows and 30 top nightspots - the most offered by any guidebook Detailed reviews of more than 100 restaurants - a complete dining guide within the guide, plus the best buffets rated and ranked Fifty pages of gambling tips from how to play, recognize

sucker games, and cut the house advantage to the bone

Bob Sehlinger is the publisher of Menasha Ridge Press and the author of numerous Unofficial Guides, including the Unofficial Guide to Las Vegas and the best-selling Unofficial Guide to Walt Disney World.

I've been a fan of Bob Sehlinger, the author, ever since I first discovered his other book, *The Unofficial Guide to Walt Disney World 2008* (Unofficial Guides). Since I was planning a trip to Las Vegas, I decided to buy this guidebook even though I'd been to the city many times before. Partly I was curious to see if this would live up to his WDW book, and partly because I wanted input on planning which shows to see, which restaurants to visit, etc. I've broken my comments on each major section of the book into separate paragraphs below.

**Hotels:** This section is kind of an odd grab bag of information. The author has an extensive list of covered hotels and offers a write-up of each one. Yet the information covered is often more of a general description than a true critique that would help the average traveler. For example, the Wynn Las Vegas receives three full pages of text but in all of that, there is virtually nothing said about the rooms. When reading these entries, it's more similar to how a novelist would set a scene than how I would expect a travel writer to critique a hotel. There is a chart that shows an overall rating for the hotel as well as a room rating, but no details are offered.

**Restaurants:** There are far too many restaurants in Las Vegas for any guide to review them all in depth but the author does a good job of breaking down your options at the major hotels. Beginning with summarized lists that show favorites by category, coverage then shifts to more detailed write-ups for each location in alphabetical order. Each restaurant receives ratings for quality, value, and an overall score. In addition, there are helpful comments. This section is very helpful.

**Entertainment:** There is a chart that ranks all shows in order of entertainment value followed by detailed write-ups of each show with ratings broken down by age group. This is by far the best coverage of shows that I've seen in any of the Las Vegas guides. Given the cost of tickets to these extravaganzas, this section alone is worth the price of the book as it can steer you to a great experience or help you avoid a less worthy show that you might have been considering.

**Nightclubs:** This section is not as comprehensive as those listed above, but it is still quite good. There are no ratings, but there are detailed reviews and tips for each of the major clubs. I don't spend a lot of time on this because I'm not a clubber, but this is at least as much coverage, and probably more, as I've seen in the other guides.

**Gambling:** This is the only Las Vegas guidebook that I have seen with a whole section devoted to teaching the basics of gambling. I'm not sure how seriously to take the

advice since I definitely feel they overstate the difficulty of playing blackjack. Overall, it's nice that they included this, but it's no substitute for a good book on the subject. Other: The Unofficial Guide does a decent job of covering all the miscellaneous bases. Attractions such as the Star Trek Experience at the Las Vegas Hilton get solid reviews that will help you decide whether it's your cup of tea or not. The Liberace Museum, however, is almost buried in the back with a single paragraph of coverage. All in all, I would say that these items are covered better in the Frommer's guide and if they are a big priority to you, it will be something of a black mark against this book. Overall, it's easy for me to recommend this book. I spent quite a bit of time going through *Frommer's Las Vegas 2007 (Frommer's Complete)* and *Fodor's Las Vegas 2007 (Fodor's Gold Guides)* and this is much more comprehensive. It does have some weaknesses, however, and they are worth considering. The worst flaw is the nature of the hotel coverage. While a good many pages are devoted to it, detail on rooms gets short shrift. Still, this is Las Vegas and people generally don't come here to spend a lot of time inside their rooms so maybe you really do care more about the casino, lobby, etc. on which a lot of the author's prose focuses. A more minor quibble is the coverage of miscellaneous attractions but this is still pretty solid for the most part. If *The Unofficial Guide to Las Vegas* isn't quite up to the level of the author's *Walt Disney World* guide, that's not really a crime. The key is how well it stacks up to other Vegas guides and the answer is very well indeed. I give it four stars and a strong recommendation. I'll hold the fifth star for the edition where hotel coverage is strengthened a notch.

Just got back from a trip to Las Vegas and put the guide to use for the two day quickie. Picked it up after our last trip to the town in the desert and thought that with this help, we would be able to add to our enjoyment while there. Does the guide have insight it does. But does its value hold up and is it timely? No. That is one of the failings. Is it all inclusive, again no. Las Vegas is more than the casinos, the major casinos and those few sites that the town offers for major tourism. There is a great deal more and this 'unofficial guide; does not do the other parts of the town justice. Then the question of timeliness to me has to do with looking at the guide and getting the idea that the pricing it is reporting to me is correct when it is so not. Every casino now seems to have some private club incentive, not discussed in the guide, the big boys doing there best to keep you captive. Further the pricing reported is way off. When the guide tells you expect to pay between 15 and 30 for a meal, double that 30 to 60. When the height of expensive is reported, consider what the guide tells you to be low. Even in the midst of a recession, consider what the guide is telling you to be wrong about costs, for Las Vegas and bargains seem to not be synonymous. If anything places the guide steers

you too, for a bargain are sure to hit you with some charges that make a bargain a memory. But if you were to stay on the strip, then the guide is your bible. That is covered. And the strip has so much to do that you could spend a couple weeks and still have not covered half of it. But you would undoubtedly be broke.

If you are looking for a hotel, nightclub, show, and dining options, this is a fantastic book. But, I had already made my hotel arrangements, and really am not a big show person. I don't gamble and am with my family, so nightclubs are not of interest. I just wanted to let you know why my rating is not 4 or 5 stars. So, the dining section was the only part I found interesting - perfect for me, as there are so many dining options in Vegas. There was a very small section towards the back of the book that devoted attention to attractions for families. I probably should have bought a book titled "Las Vegas for Families" instead.

We went to Vegas for our honeymoon in 2008 and prior to going we read this book and then took it with us. SO MUCH GREAT INFORMATION IN THIS BOOK!! We found some great places to eat that we never would have found had it not been for this book, as well as some other great deals and helpful information while staying in Vegas!! I definitely recommend these guides for traveling, although of course be sure to pick up the most recent edition, as I'm sure things change over the years.

I've had this book in my hands for all of an hour and a half, and my trip isn't for a few months, but the book has already made itself worth well more than its cover price. By searching Internet travel web sites and comparing the inexpensive results to the reviews, I was able to find that one of the cheapest hotels is just as likeable to me as some half again as expensive, and verify that the rate I'm being offered is reasonable. The book has a ton of information on hotels, restaurants, and shows - enough that I will be wading through it for a couple weeks to plan my ideal vacation. Normally when I'm traveling I buy 3 or 4 travel books and together they give me the information I need to know... after receiving this book, I think I will likely cut it back to just this one, and perhaps one for my travel companion.

Great

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