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Casino hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA
This article is about Flamingo Las Vegas. For other uses of Flamingo, see Flamingo (ambiguity). Flamingo Hotel redirects here. For the former Hotel in Florida, see Flamingo Hotel, Miami Beach. Flamingo Las VegasFlamingo Las Vegas in 2005
Location Paradise, Nevada, U.S. Address 3555 South Las Vegas BoulevardOpening dateDecember 26, 1946; 73 years ago (1946-12-26)ThemeArt DecoMiamiNo. of rooms3,460Total gaming space72,299 sq ft (6,716.8 m2) Permanent showsPaula AbdulRuPaul's Drag Race Live! Signature attractionsWildlife HabitatNotable restaurantsCenter Cut SteakhouseJimmy Buffett's MargaritavilleOwnerCaesars EntertainmentPrevious namesThe Fabulous Flamingo (1947-1974)Flamingo Hilton Las Vegas (1974-2000)Renovated in1953, 1967, 1974, 1977, 1982, 1990, 1993, 2004, 2009, 2014, 2018Coordinates36°6′58″N 115°10′14″W﻿ / ﻿36.11611°N 115.17056°W﻿ / 36.11611; -115.17056Coordinates: 36°6′58″N 115°10′14″W﻿ / ﻿36.11611°N 115.17056°W﻿ / 36.11611; -115.17056Websitecaesars.com/flamingo-las-vegas
Flamingo Las Vegas (formerly The Fabulous Flamingo and Flamingo Hilton Las Vegas) is a casino hotel on the Las Vegas Strip in Paradise, Nevada. It is owned and operated by Caesars Entertainment. The property has a casino of 72,299 m2 and 3,460 hotel rooms. The architectural theme is reminiscent of Art Deco and Streamline Modern style Miami and South Beach. The hotel stays true to its theme and name and has a courtyard that serves as a wildlife habitat for flamingos. The hotel was the third resort to open on the Strip and is still the oldest resort on the Strip in operation today, and it has been since 2007 with the closure and demolition of The New Frontier. It is also the last remaining casino on the strip, which opened before 1950, that is still in operation. Flamingo has a Las Vegas Monorail station called Flamingo & Caesars Palace station at the back of the property. Since its opening in 1946, it has undergone a number of ownership changes. History Land background and hotel design (1945) Flamingo site occupies 40 acres originally owned by one of Las Vegas' first settlers, Charles Pops Squires. Squires paid \$8.75 an acre for the land. In 1944, Margaret Folsom bought the canal for \$7,500 from Squires, and she later sold it to Billy Wilkerson. Wilkerson was the owner of The Hollywood Reporter as well as some very popular nightclubs in the Sunset Strip: Cafe Trocadero, Ciro's and La Rue's (Hollywood). [1] In 1945, Wilkerson purchased 33 acres on the east side of U.S. Route 91, or about a mile south of the Hotel Last Frontier, in preparation for his vision. Wilkerson then hired George Vernon Russell to design a hotel influenced by European style. Wilkerson also requested that the hotel be different from the sawdust joints on Fremont Street. Planned a hotel with luxurious rooms, a spa, a health club, a showroom, a golf course, a nightclub, an exclusive restaurant and a French style casino. Because of high costs in wartime, Wilkerson ran into financial trouble almost at once, finding himself \$400,000 short and hunting for new financing. [recon needed] Development under Bugsy Siegel (1945) Bugsy Siegel's original Flamingo Las Vegas in 1947 In late 1945, gangster Bugsy Siegel and his partners came to Las Vegas. Vegas reportedly piqued Siegel and his mob interest because of his legalized gambling and off-track betting. At the time, Siegel had a keen interest in Trans America Wire, a racing publication. [2] Siegel began by buying El Cortez on Fremont Street for \$600,000. His expansion plans were hampered by unfriendly city officials who knew about his criminal background, so Siegel began looking for a place outside the city limits. [3] Siegel and his partners ran as businessmen and directly bought two-thirds of the project. [3] Siegel took over the final stages of construction and convinced several of his underworld employees, such as Meyer Lansky, to invest in the project. Siegel allegedly lost patience with the project's rising costs, and he once mentioned to his builder, Del Webb, that he had personally killed 16 men. Supposedly, when Webb seemed scared after hearing that Siegel reassured him, Don't worry - we only kill each other. [4] Siegel had also built a secret ladder in the Presidential Suite to escape if necessary. The ladder led down to an underground garage where a chauffeured limousine was always waiting. [5] Flamingo Hotel & Casino opens (1946) The West's Greatest Resort Hotel, matchbook advertising flamingo resort, circa 1946 Siegel finally opened flamingo hotel & casino on December 26, 1946, at a total cost of \$6 million. [6] Billed as The West's Greatest Resort Hotel, the 105-room property - and first luxury hotel on the Strip[7] - was built 4 miles (6.4 km) from Downtown Las Vegas. During construction, a large sign advertised the hotel as a William R. Wilkerson project. The sign also read Del Webb Construction as the hotel's primary contractor and Richard R. Stadelman (who later researched In El Rancho Vegas) as a building architect. Reportedly, Siegel named the resort after his girlfriend, Virginia Hill, who loved to gamble and was nicknamed Flamingo. Siegel is reported to have called her this because of her long, thin legs. [8] The organized criminal king, Lucky Luciano, wrote in his memoir that Siegel once owned an interest in the Hialeah Park Race Track and saw the flamingos, who populated nearby, as a good omen. The Flamingo name is reported to have been given to the project at the start of Wilkerson. [9] Siegel's death (1947) Factual article is disputed. Disputed. can be found on the conversation page. Help ensure that disputed statements are reliably sourced. (July 2017) (Learn how and when to remove this template message) Siegel's problems with Flamingo began when, a year after its official groundbreaking, the resort had not produced any revenue and drained the resources of its mob investors. So Meyer Lansky charged - at a big mob conference in Cuba - that either Siegel or Hill was skimming from the resort's building budget. That charge was amplified at a time when Hill was revealed to have taken \$2.5 million and had gone to Switzerland, where the skimmed money was thought to be on the way. [10] Las Vegas Sun' Ad Congratulations Flamingo's Grand Opening in 1945 There was no doubt in Meyer's mind. Luciano recalled in his memoir that Bugsy had skimmed this dough from his building budget, and he was sure that Siegel was ready to jump as well as skim if the roof were to fall in on him. Luciano and the other mafia leaders in Cuba asked Lansky what to do. Torn because of long ties to Siegel, whom he considered a brother, Lansky nonetheless agreed that someone stealing from his friends had to die. Initially, Lansky persuaded the others to wait for the Flamingo's casino opening; if it was a success, Siegel could be persuaded in other ways to repay. Luciano agreed and persuaded the others to agree. [11] Bugsy Siegel Memorial at flamingo Las Vegas in 2012 The splashy opening - stars in attendance included Spanish bandleader Xavier Cugat (whose band provided the music), George Jessel, George Raft, Rose Marie, and Jimmy Durante as entertainment, with guests including Clark Gable, Lana Turner, Cesar Romero, Judy Garland, Joan Crawford, and others - was a flop. [recon needed] Lansky managed to persuade the mafia chiefs to pardon Siegel again and give the Flamingo more time. But in January 1947, Siegel had to order the resort closed until the hotel could be finished. [recon needed] Flamingo reopened in March despite the fact that the hotel was not complete and this time the results turned out to be different. In May, the resort reported a \$250,000 profit, so Lansky could still point out that Siegel was right in Las Vegas. But it wasn't quite enough to save Siegel. On June 30, 1947, at the Beverly Hills house he shared with Hill, who was away at the time, Siegel was shot to death. [recon needed] A plaque is found in flamingo square near the outdoor wedding chapel. [12] Post-Siegel ownerships (1947-1960) Casino management changed the hotel's name to The Fabulous Flamingo on March 1, 1947. After Siegel's death, Moe Sedway and Gus Greenbaum, magnates at the nearby El Cortez Hotel, took possession of him. Under their partnership, it became a non-exclusive facility affordable for almost everyone. They made the company extremely in 1948 alone, it was \$4 million profit. [13] The Fabulous Flamingo presented lavish shows and accommodations for its time, becoming known for comfortable, air-conditioned rooms, gardens and swimming pools. Often credited for popularizing the complete experience as opposed to just gambling, its staff were known for wearing tuxedos on the job. [recon needed] Among the many entertainers who performed there between 1947 and 1953 were Martin and Lewis, Sammy Davis Jr., Danny Thomas, Tony Martin, Marge and Gower Champion, Polly Bergen, Lena Horne, The Mills Brothers, Alan King, Betty Hutton, Billy Eckstine, Sophie Tucker, Pearl Bailey, and Spike Jones. [recon needed] Rose Marie, who was one of her first entertainers under Siegel's ownership in 1946, remained loyal to the property for the rest of her life, only performing at other casinos with the permission of the boys at Fabulous Flamingo, according to her last words. In 1953, the hotel's management spent \$1 million on renovations and refurbishments. The original entrance and signage were destroyed. A new entrance with an upswept roof was built and a pink neon sign was designed by Bill Clark of Ad-Art. A neon-bubbled Champagne Tower sign with pink flamingos rimming the top was also installed in front of the hotel. [14] From 1955 to 1960, the property was operated by Albert Parvin of Parvin-Dohmann Corporation. [15] Parvin owned 30% of the stock, while businessman Harry Goldman owned 7.5%; other investors included singer Tony Martin and actor George Raft. [16] In recent years (1960-present) In 1960, it sold for \$10.5 million to a group including Samuel Cohen, Morris Lansburgh, and Daniel Lifter, Miami residents with reputed ties to organized crime. [15] [17] Lansky allegedly acted as an intermediary for the deal and received \$200,000. [15] [16] The Flamingo name has been used for gaming activities elsewhere. Such as this New Orleans riverboat, circa 1997 Kirk Kerkorian acquired the property in 1967.[18] making it part of Kerkorian's International Leisure Company, but Hilton Corporation bought the resort in 1972 and renamed it the Flamingo Hilton in 1974. . 1993, and the hotel's garden was built on site. [recon needed] Flamingo's four hotel towers were built (or expanded) in 1977, 1980, 1983, 1986, 1990 and 1993. A 200-unit Hilton Grand Vacations timeshare tower was opened in 1993. [19] In 1998, Hilton's gaming properties, including flamingo, were spun off as Park Place Entertainment (later renamed Caesars Entertainment). The agreement included a two-year license to use the Hilton name. Park Place chose not to renew this agreement when it expired at the end of 2000 and the property was renamed Flamingo Las Vegas. [20] In 2005, Harrah's Entertainment acquired Caesars Entertainment, Inc. and the property became part of the The company changed its name to Caesars Entertainment Corporation in 2010. On September 9, 2012, Port Adelaide Football Club AFL footballer John McCarthy died after falling 30 feet (9m) from a roof of the hotel. The incident took place at the start of a post-season holiday for McCarthy and other Port Adelaide players. They had arrived in Las Vegas just a few hours before the incident. [21] [22] [23] After examining evidence, police said McCarthy had tried to jump off the roof of a palm tree but fell to the ground. [24] The hotel underwent a \$90 million makeover completed in 2018. [25] The designer, Forrest Perkins, used gold and pink in the 3,500 upgrade rooms, describing them as modern retro-chic, focusing on the hotel's 70-year history. Amenities and attractions The 15-acre area's architectural theme is reminiscent of the Art Deco and Streamline Modern style in Miami and South Beach, with a courtyard with a wildlife habitat with flamingos. It was the third resort to open on the Strip, and it is the oldest resort on the Strip still in operation today. Flamingo has a Las Vegas Monorail station, Flamingo/Caesars Palace station, at the back of the property. Flamingo Las Vegas Front Entrance in 2010 The farm houses a wildlife habitat featuring Chilean flamingos, Ringed Teal ducks and other birds. There are also koi fish and turtles. [26] It was home to penguins, but they have since been moved to the Dallas Zoo. [27] A Jimmy Buffett restaurant and gift shop opened in December 2003, expanding the hotel's tropical theme. [28] An adjacent Margaritaville minicasino opened in October 2011. [29] Headline acts perform in the Donny and Marie Showroom. The throwback venue was remodeled in 2014 that included many technological updates improving sound systems and lighting. It has room for 780 with floor seat and balcony. It maintains the style and feel of early Vegas with red and white themed booths and chairs, red velvet curtains as well as red carpets. It allows for close intimate interactions between the performers and the audience due to the clam-shell layout. It was officially named Donny & Marie Showroom at Flamingo Las Vegas after the Brother and Sister duo who headlined for an eleven-year period between 2008 and 2019. From the end of November 2019, Donny & Marie Showroom went back to its original name Flamingo Showroom. [recon needed] Theatre Bugsy's Cabaret hosted the show X Burlesque, which debuted in 2002. In addition, Piff X-Perience uses the same phase. [30] Flamingo habitat Current headlines Paula Abdul began a stay on August 13, 2019 with her Forever Your Girl production[31] and is currently scheduled for January 4, 2020. Along with Paula Abdul's residence, RuPaul's Drag Race Live! will also debut in January 2020, drag queens who once competed at RuPaul's Drag Race and RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars like Aquaria, Derrick Barry and Yvie Oddly. [32] Previous headlines From 2008 to November 2019, the main show of flamingo was the brother-sister's musical duo Donny and Marie Osmond. Their show premiered in September 2008, and was extended to November 2019 for an eleven-year run. [33] The show was rated in The Best of Las Vegas online competition. Donny and Marie OSRAME were named Best Performers of Las Vegas in 2012, 2013 and 2014. Previous headlines include Gladys Knight in 2003 with his Knight in Vegas[36] residence. Toni Braxton's show ran from August 2006 to April 2008 and closed due to Braxton's health problems. [37] Singer Olivia Newton-John maintained a longer stay at Flamingo from April 2014 to 2016. Additional former artists at The Flamingo include Judy Garland in '58, Bobby Darin in '63 (for several weeks), Fats Domino in '63 (and for several years), Jerry Lee Lewis in '63, and Ray Charles in '63. The Supremes in '66, James Brown in '67, Little Richard in '67, Tom Jones in '68 (for the album Tom Jones Live in Las Vegas), Wayne Newton (longtime Vegas resident) in '68, Ella Fitzgerald in '70, B.B. King in '71, Kenny Rogers in '97, Alien in '00, Vinnie Favorito in '03, The Beach Boys in '03, Jimmy Buffett in '04, Sly & the Family Stone (from San Francisco) in '07, Old Dominion in '17, Aaron Carter in '17, Everclear in '17, Lit and Alien Ant Farm (both from L.A.) in '17, Richard Marx in '17, Smash Mouth (from San Jose) in '17, Rita Ora in '18, and Gin Blossoms (from Phoenix) in '18. In popular culture Film The film from 1964 Viva Las Vegas and the 1960 version of Ocean's 11 were filmed at the hotel, which was a flashback sequence from the 2001 version of the latter film. In the 1960 version, flamingo was one of the five Las Vegas casinos robbed by characters played by Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra, Peter Lawford, Sammy Davis Jr. and others. The 1991 film Bugsy, starring Warren Beatty, depicted Bugsy Siegel's involvement in the construction of the Flamingo, although many of the details were changed for dramatic effect. For example, in the film, Siegel derives the idea of flamingo, instead of buying ownership from Billy Wilkerson, and is killed after the first opening on December 26, 1946, rather than the second opening of the Flamingo in 1947. Television The original Netflix series Lilyhammer with E-Street Band guitarist and singer Steven Van Zandt has a nightclub in Lillehammer, Norway, called Flamingo. During his construction, Van Zandt's character, Giovanni Henriksen (aka Frank The Fixer Tagliano), the hotel and casino, as well as Benjamin Siegel, as inspiration for the nightclub. In the TV series Vega\$ (1978-1981), starring Robert Ulrich, and filmed entirely in Las Vegas, Flamingo Hilton is featured prominently in the opening montage. Music The debut solo album by The Killers' lead singer Brandon Flowers, Flamingo, is named after the casino. Literature Hunter S. Thompson and Oscar Zeta Acosta stayed at the Flamingo while attending a seminar at the National Conference of District Attorneys on Drugs and Dangerous Drugs held at the Dunes Hotel across the street. Several of their experiences in their room are depicted in Thompson's Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas: A Savage Journey to the Heart of the American Dream. The Flamingo featured prominently in Tim Power's novel Last Call. In the novel, Flamingo is supposedly based on Siegel's mythical/mystical paranoia to be persecuted and killed for his archetypal position as the King of the West, known mythologically as the Fisher King. Supposedly the flamingo itself was meant to be a real-life personification of The Tower map of tarot decks. See also List of casinos in Nevada List of hotels in the United States References ↑ Lewis, Jon (2017). Hard-boiled Hollywood: Crime and punishment in postwar Los Angeles. University of California Press. p. 70. ISBN 9780520284326. ^ Moe, Al W. (2012). Nevada's golden age of gambling. Create space. p. 26. 9781479352654. ↑ 1 0 1 1.1 McCracken, Robert D. (1997). Las Vegas: The great American playground. University of Nevada Press. p. 60. ISBN 9780874173017. ↑ The Green Field Jungle ^ ^ Koch, Ed; Manning, Mary. Topikar, Dave (May 15, 2008). Showtime: How Sin City evolved into 'The Entertainment Capital of the World'. Las Vegas Sun. 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