



Wine and Dine

One of the most respected Italian restaurants on the Strip, **Valentino at The Venetian**, is giving guests an opportunity to sample from its award-winning menu and wine list in a brand-new setting. Vin Bar & Lounge offers classic dishes such as antipasto and Italian crudo, as well as more inventive fare from chef Luciano Pellegrini, including blood orange lobster tail, green apple scallop and smoked swordfish carpaccio. There's also a daily happy hour from 2:30-5:30 p.m. and half-off drinks for ladies from 10 p.m.-midnight. Says Pellegrini of the new addition, "For guests that don't have time to sit for a full meal at either The Grill at Valentino or in our fine dining room, they can still take pleasure in the hospitality and cuisine that defines Valentino Las Vegas."

The Venetian, 702.414.3000



Patriotic Plates

Holidays like the Fourth of July encourage us to show our patriotism for 24-hour blocks of time, but some of Las Vegas' restaurants wave the flag 365 days a year. Below, a look at a few area restaurants that honor our nation by name. —JH

All-American Bar and Grille (Rio)

It's a casual, café-style dining meets steakhouse menu at this low-key joint right off the casino floor. Sure, you can grab a burger or sandwich, but why not really put a dent in that appetite with dry-aged and Black Angus beef from the Rio's butcher block, or ribs, lamb chops and surf and turf?

American Fish (Aria at CityCenter)

Michael Mina's newest restaurant is also one of his finest, featuring sous vide fish preparation, salt-baked prime rib and game-changing malt vinegar fries. Now that the bar runs happy hour specials from 5-7 p.m. Sun.-Fri., you can enjoy small plates and classic cocktails for a fraction of the cost of a meal.

Red, White and Blue (Mandalay Bay)

Burgers and salads are well and good, but when we think of America, we want big. RWB's Celebrity Triple Deckers are just that, offering, as in the Donny Richman, hot corned beef, hot pastrami and Swiss cheese on crying-out-for-backup toasted rye.

And in the Center Ring...

Life under the big top just got a little more wild thanks to the folks at **Rock & Rita's**. Combining the interactive nature of flair bartending with the old-school showmanship of bartender Jerry "The Professor" Thomas, the new restaurant and bar at Circus Circus will provide the themed hotel with the party element it has been missing.

"Our bartenders are going to kick the party up a notch," said David Z. Tuttleman, co-founder (with Mark Green) of Rock & Rita's.

Dishes include bar staples, and drinks are exponentially crazier: Suck It From the Bucket promises a lot of ingredients and a lot of straws, and there's a whole list of shooters destined to get the party going in a hurry. —Jack Houston

Circus Circus, 7-10 p.m. daily;
bar open 11 a.m.-2 a.m. daily.
702.691.5991

