

# From a bordello to the devil's own cantina, Sin City's pouring it on

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The Luxor's Cathouse touts itself as 'a discreet playpen.'

**NIGHT WATCH: LAS VEGAS**

Las Vegas is teeming with illuminating experiences after dark. Three of the newest options topped my list -- for charisma as much as cocktails.

## **CATHOUSE**

**At the Luxor; opened in December 2007, 702-262-4-CATS; [www.cathouselv.com](http://www.cathouselv.com), no cover charge.**

Cathouse touts itself as "a discreet playpen for spontaneous, provocative and sophisticated entertainment," and the vibe inside struts a perfect line of sin and whimsy. It's a tastefully shocking type of experience that makes you blush slightly, yet remain smiling. The 19th century bordello décor -- including scrolling wallpaper, dripping chandeliers and crushed blue velvet banquettes -- includes fake doors with peepholes that offer glimpses of vintage European erotica. You

can take dessert back to your room -- and several sets of the lingerie worn by cocktail waitresses may be ordered "to-go" as well (sans the person wearing them).

## **THE BANK**

**At the Bellagio; opened in December 2007, 702-693-8300; [www.bellagio.com/nightlife/the-bank.aspx](http://www.bellagio.com/nightlife/the-bank.aspx), cover \$30 for men, women free entry.**

Though it's been open only a few months, The Bank already has secured a name as the rendezvous for the Fortune 500. It is one large room with a vortex effect created by the tiered levels of bottle service tables leading down to the glass-wrapped dance floor -- basically an aerial view of the Jet Set, set to sternum-vibrating music from world-class DJ talent. Don't make this your first nightlife experience in Las Vegas, because nothing else will ever compare. Furthermore, be prepared for pampered bottle service at a cost -- \$450 only gets you started.

## **DIABLO'S CANTINA**

**At the Monte Carlo; opened in October 2007 (undamaged by recent fire), 702-730-7979; [www.lightgroup.com](http://www.lightgroup.com), entry \$5 upstairs only.**

A red neon devil with décolletage and a spiked tail announces the Strip's newest version of spicy entertainment at the Monte Carlo: Diablo's Cantina. Call it a respite from the upscale club scene. Think spicy chicken wings in smoked jalapeno sauce, imported beer, exotic tequilas and David Bowie tunes. The staff's *mi casa es su casa* attitude makes one keen to shove a lime wedge in the beer, toss cowboy boots up on the table and call the waitress back to pour fresh salt on her wrist for the next round. The lack of pretension inside makes Diablo's Cantina wickedly fun and understandably packed. Try it on a Sunday night for a feel for how the locals like to party.