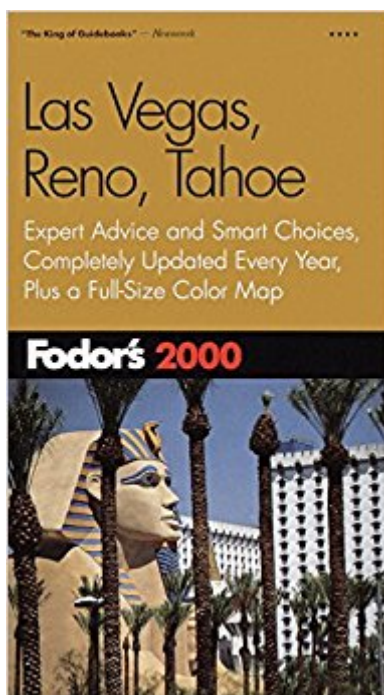


The book was found

Fodor's Las Vegas, Reno, Tahoe 2000



Synopsis

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Customer Reviews

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Destination: Las Vegas, Reno, Tahoe. For 50 years, up until the early 1990s, the name Las Vegas was instantly recognized around the world as a fantasyland for adults, a place that existed for one reason and one reason only: gambling. Then Las Vegas went through an abrupt transformation, as the traditionally X-rated city strove for the big "G" of general admittance, and tried to attract adults, children, friends, baby-sitters, grandparents, nongamblers, and nonsmokers -- in short, everybody. These days, fabulous theme hotels such as Luxor, New York-New York, Venetian, and Paris, and amusement parks such as Wet 'n Wild, Grand Slam Canyon, and MGM Grand Adventures all provide a minivacation's worth of excitement -- without visitors ever having to step up to a slot machine or blackjack table. Why did Las Vegas seemingly abandon its adults-only image in favor of appealing to a wholesome family market? For one thing, gambling was spreading around the country, and the world, at such a furious pace that Las Vegas felt it had to broaden its appeal to maintain its edge. Secondly, the demographically powerful baby boomers began having children, which changed the shape of their vacation demands. Finally, Las Vegas cast its wanton gaze toward the No. 1 tourist destination in the country, Orlando. In 1995, for the first time ever, Vegas glitter outpulled Mickey Mouse. Despite the new focus on families, every year tens of millions of visitors still come to Las Vegas for the traditional reason -- to seduce the goddess of chance. You are constantly reminded of this fact as you walk or drive along the Strip or stroll the pedestrian mall on Fremont Street. There are no supermarkets, post offices, video-rental stores, or other conveniences of everyday life, only places where you can buy a hamburger or a souvenir, get married, and lay down a bet. Winning and Losing. Times are changing, but gambling is still the thing to do in Las Vegas. The first-time visitor is faced with a terrifying choice of possible bets, what

seems like 1,001 different ways to part with your hard-earned dollars. But once you know your way around the casino, you'll quickly settle on your wagering thrill of choice. Blackjack and video poker offer the best odds for winning in a Vegas casino. The average bankroll of a Vegas gambler is \$500, but you can experience either the excitement of winning or the frustration of losing for a lot less. The smaller casinos off the Strip are often the best bet for the amateur gambler; the pressure is less intense, the minimums are reasonable, and the staff is friendlier. The Las Vegas Buzz Besides the renowned enticements of Las Vegas, there are other, more subtle ones. There's the twisting of time, noticeable, for example, in coffee shops, when at any hour some people are having breakfast, others lunch or dinner, and still others snacks or coffee. There's the unmistakable air -- sounds, smells, sights -- of a casino. And there's the phenomenon of a city that never closes or seems to sleep, that galvanizes and emblazons the familiar activities of daily life.

I purchased this book for information on Reno. What a disappointment. More than half the book is dedicated to Las Vegas, the remainder of the book is dedicated to the REST of Nevada. I would MAYBE purchase this book if I were going to Las Vegas, otherwise, forget it.

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