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Fodor's Las Vegas 2009 (Travel Guide)



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As an annual Las Vegas visitor, I know the city. And because I know the city, I can tell you that this guide does not. The real title of this book should be, "Fodor's Las Vegas, 2009: The Guide for Those Who Can Afford to Stay at The Best Places on The Strip and Plan to Never Leave It". There is an appalling lack of depth or completeness in this book, and an equal lack of witty writing, guidance to places off the Strip. To wit: I usually stay in old Downtown Las Vegas, the Fremont Street Experience for several good reasons: it's cheaper, the gambling is much better, everything is closer, and it's an altogether better experience. I can name at least eight very good hotels in Downtown; Fodor's names two, and calls Downtown "really sketchy." Come ON! You are in Las Vegas! If more middle class people is your idea of sketchy, then I guess it is. Nor is there any real reviews of places off the Strip and off Downtown. For instance, Texas Station consistently has one of the highest-rated steakhouses in the city, and has won multiple awards. And it's not even mentioned. In addition, the magnificent South Pointe Hotel and Casino a couple miles south of the Strip on Las Vegas Blvd. isn't even mentioned, even though it's a stellar spot and a bargain to boot. For the layperson, here's how bad this book is: The Stratosphere Hotel and Casino - you know the big needle, space tower-looking thing that is ubiquitous to the LV skyline? Not any kind of review of this hotel and casino. There is a trend emerging here: this guide book is for people who can afford to stay at The Venetian, The Hotel, and other outrageously expensive Strip hotels. The rest of us, apparently, have to eat cake. Other guide books are much better. I highly recommend the OUTSTANDING Frommer's book on Vegas, which is everything this book is not: witty and complete, and not geared only for people making six-figure salaries. The Time Out guide - written by British journalists - is also much better. Skip this guide.

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