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THE 2013 POWER LIST

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PROVE UNDER 40
IS WHERE IT'S AT
AND 50 WHO
ARE SIMPLY
INDISPENSABLE

33 Watches
Ready for
Prime Time

+

MANDALAY'S DAY
The Vegas Resort Gets
All Spiffed Up for JCK

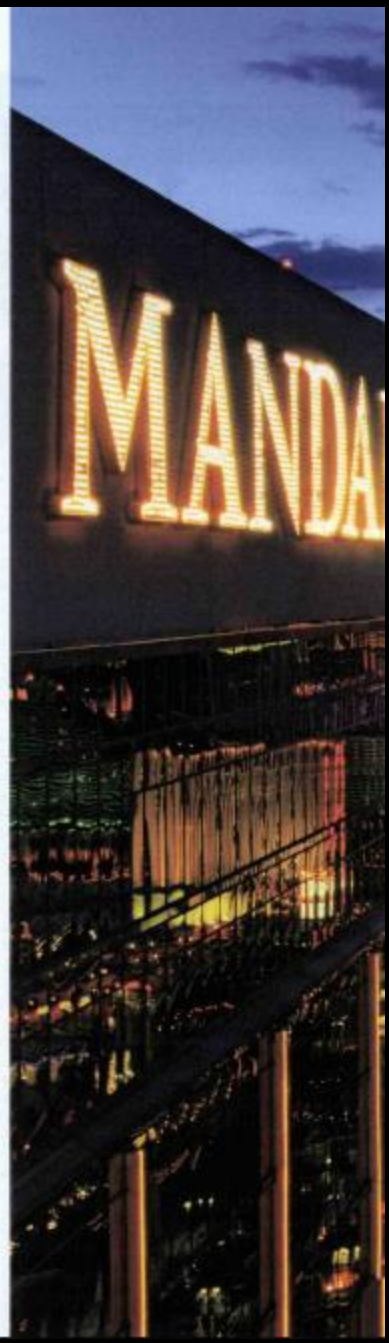


Bay Watch

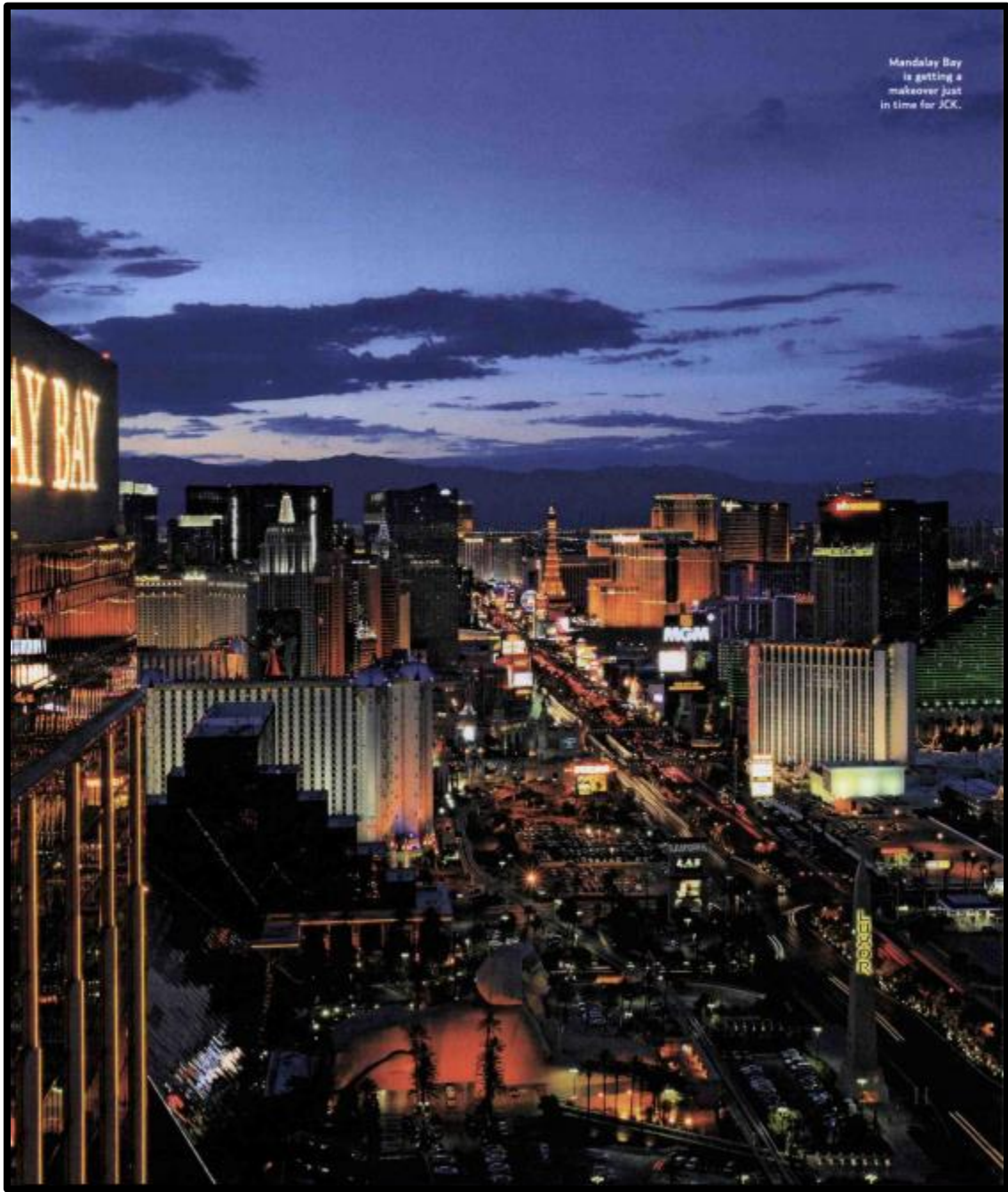
Just when you thought you knew the lay of the land at Mandalay Bay, think again. A long list of changes will be implemented at the luxury resort before the next edition of JCK Las Vegas, marking the most significant lineup of improvements and investments introduced to the destination in a decade. All of which means big-time room renovations, imaginative dining venues, and a slew of groundbreaking entertainment possibilities. When you arrive, you might not recognize the place, but it's safe to say you'll be more than pleased.

Mandalay Bay's revamped dining and nightlife scene is so good that while you can check out any time you like, you may never want to leave

By Tanya Dukes



Mandalay Bay
is getting a
makeover just
in time for JCK.





The Four Seasons is coming off a top-to-bottom renovation that includes rooms and a new lobby bar.

CHAT AND CHEW

It's a universally accepted truth that show business continues long after the exhibition floor shuts down. The grueling work of entertaining or—better still—being entertained extends well into mealtime. Three updated restaurants are redefining the Mandalay Bay dining experience, along with existing gourmet destinations from chefs Michael Mina (StripSteak), Charlie Palmer (Aureole), and Alain Ducasse (miX).

Citizens Kitchen & Bar has replaced the restaurant formerly known as Red, White & Blue. The newcomer serves classic comfort food (think bread pudding, banana pancakes, and baby back ribs) devised by Brian Massie, executive chef at The Light Group. Open breakfast through dinner, the expansive dining room looks like a vintage-inspired canteen.



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pudding, banana pancakes, and baby back ribs) devised by Brian Massie, executive chef at The Light Group. Open breakfast through dinner, the expansive dining room looks like a vintage-inspired canteen.

While not technically brand new, Red Square will still feel that way. The Russian-themed bar-skosh-restaurant adjacent to Citizens Kitchen & Bar has an overhauled menu featuring contemporary interpretations of dishes like beef Stroganoff and chicken Kiev and a refreshed interior. Fans of the kitschy-cool bar composed entirely of ice will be comforted to know it remained unscathed in the transition. Side up and order a themed vodka flight like Made in the USA, a tasting of four American vodkas.

HELLO, DELANO!



This time next year, THEhotel at Mandalay Bay will look a lot like Delano South Beach.

For devotees of THEhotel at Mandalay Bay, there's good news and even better news. The 43-floor tower has been a popular option for its supersized all-suite accommodations and boutique hotel atmosphere. After a lobby-to-rooftop redesign that begins this fall, THEhotel will become Delano Las Vegas in spring 2014 thanks to a partnership between Mandalay Bay and Morgans Hotel Group, owner of the Delano brand. The name should be very familiar to anyone who's spent time in Miami, the location of the brand's glamorous, white-on-white flagship hotel. Delano Las Vegas will be the second U.S. location in the brand's portfolio and will retain THEhotel's all-suite approach. Details about decor and dining and entertainment options remain under wraps, but Michael Gross, CEO of Morgans Hotel Group, promises the "same five-star service, dynamic energy, and personalized experience Delano is known for internationally." It's a safe bet that these spanking new suites will be some of the most in-demand reservations for next year's edition of JCK. Procrastinators should plan to sleep elsewhere. —TD

PHOTO: MANDALAY BAY FOUR SEASONS, AND AMERICA COURTESY OF MORGAN HOTEL GROUP



Find classic comfort food for breakfast, lunch, and dinner at Mandalay's new Citizens Kitchen & Bar.



The hotel's new **LIGHT** nightclub will feature Cirque du Soleil performers swooping up and around.

Meanwhile, the bar at Wolfgang Puck's Lupo is getting a major makeover, with new lighting, bar stools, and artwork. And the restaurant itself—a Roman-inspired trattoria with an exhibition kitchen—will have a new pizza, sandwich, and light appetizer counter to create additional seating for dinner and late-night dining.



ALL ARIA ACCESS

Come May, the Mandalay Bay campus will boast a luxe makeover, but don't forget that the nearby CityCenter complex was designed with luxury as a guiding principle. From the lush rooms at the ARIA Sky Suites to the chic clothing and accessories emporiums at shopping mecca Crystals, CityCenter's hotel, dining, and nightlife options are always popular with JCK's highest rollers. This year, expect a few amenities designed to make staying at ARIA even more convenient:

- Door-to-door luxury transportation from the hotel to the show, with no stops in between
- JCK information counters and "Ask Me" people stationed throughout the hotel to answer show-related queries
- A late-night lounge on Friday and Saturday nights (10:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m.), sponsored by JCK, LUXURY, and Prestige Promenade



Live the luxe life at ARIA, minutes from JCK.

Regardless of which hotel showgoers patronize, however, Martie Sparks, Mandalay Bay's vice president of catering and convention services, makes clear that all employees of MGM Resorts (which owns Mandalay Bay and ARIA) are fully prepared for the jewelry onslaught. "You can walk into any of our sister properties and mention those three letters—JCK," she says, "and everyone will know what you're talking about." —Victoria Gomelsky



AFTER HOURS

Mandalay Bay's extracurricular options will improve this year, too. Exhibit A: The hotly anticipated arrival of a permanent Cirque du Soleil production that celebrates the music of Michael Jackson. Details about the project are tightly guarded—at press time, Cirque had revealed little more than the title (*Michael Jackson ONE*), start date (May 23), and running time (a Vegas-friendly 90 minutes)—but Mandalay's Bowling refers to it as the "A-act" the property has been seeking. Cirque du Soleil's frequently sold-out Las Vegas track record—there are currently seven productions running in the city—means purchasing tickets before getting to the Strip is a must.

There's more than one way to capture the latest Cirque du Soleil experience. The high-flying troupe is entering the nightlife business for the first time with the new club LIGHT, created in collaboration with hospitality brand The Light Group. Scheduled to open its doors in April, guests should expect an environment that inundates the senses, with performers strategically placed throughout, including suspended from overhead rigging. Light Group vice

president of public relations Casey Brennan touts "high-tech video mapping and LED lighting systems" designed to make the space infinitely flexible. "One moment it can look like it's underwater and the next like outer space," Brennan says.

The Mandalay Bay venue has booked an impressive roster of resident DJ talent for its inaugural season. International superstars Skrillex, Sebastian Ingrosso, Zedd, and Baauer are among the hard-to-pronounce but very of-the-moment talent that will cycle through the mega-club, which measures 38,000 square feet and is reputed to have the largest dance floor and general admission area in Vegas.

The city's habitués know better than anyone that any ill effects from a late night are best remedied poolside. Daylight, Mandalay Bay's new adult pool, began construction in January and finishing touches should be in place just in time for JCK's arrival.

The sum total of refinements will offer JCK attendees their most varied and welcoming experience yet, all under the same roof as the show. Mandalay's Bowling makes it crystal clear: The property's mission is "to focus on being a real, true destination resort where everything is at your fingertips." ■