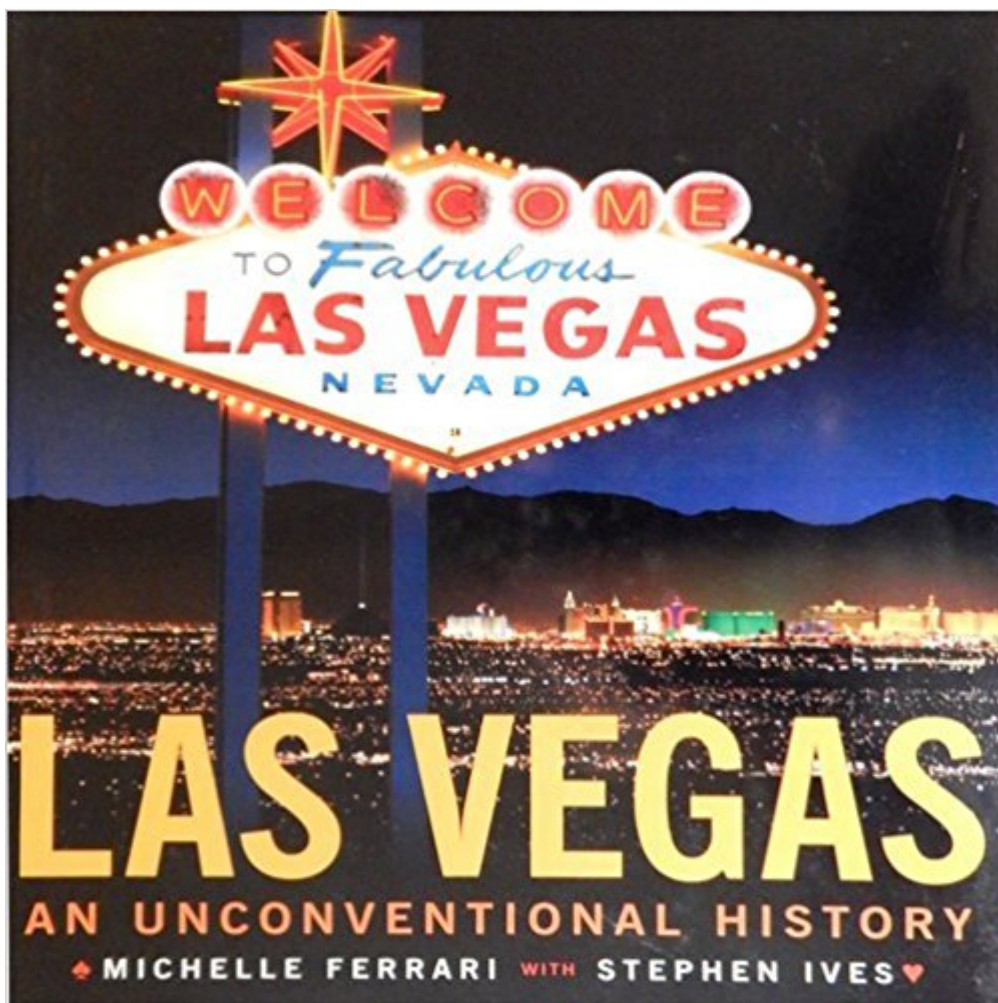




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# Las Vegas: An Unconventional History



## Synopsis

From Mormon missionaries to mega-casinos, from Bugsy Siegel to Wayne Newton, and from natural springs to atomic blasts, this companion book to a three-hour PBS "American Experience" documentary presents 100 years of sin, gin, and din. 250 images.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 272 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 14 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

Coffee-table format proves advantageous to this colorful, far-ranging tome on America's capital of civilized sin. Ferrari and Ives start at the beginning of modern Las Vegas, describing the city's hardscrabble origins and the huge local tourism market that changes in American leisure, the proximity of spectacular Hoover Dam, and the legal status of gambling fostered in the early twentieth century. The many illustrations include plenty of vintage poolside shots and examples of letterhead stationery and other accoutrements of the Flamingo, the big casino built by mobster Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel that sparked the building boom of plush gambling houses. Speaking of Bugsy, one whole chapter deals with the mobster involvement for which Vegas is nearly as famous as for gambling. Among tangential phenomena addressed are marriage mills, neon-infused architecture, the Rat Pack, and the civic-value triumvirate of "sin, gin, and din." A chapter on Vegas' commonalities with the nuclear industry provides little-known perspective on the Vegas mind-set, and the epilogue addresses the city's future. Ferrari and Ives nicely capture the uniqueness of a unique place. Mike Tribby

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"Anyone who's ever been fascinated by Las Vegas and its glamorous-yet-seedy history will

find this book captivating. " -- [www.nightsandweekends.com](http://www.nightsandweekends.com), 2005

... and an awesome book in and of itself. I was recently married, and my then fiancée (now husband) and I wanted a non-traditional guest book for the reception. Since our wedding was in Las Vegas (although on a private lake off-strip), we thought that a coffee table book about Las Vegas would be an awesome idea. So I looked at the books that had to offer, comparing reviews, content, and size, and decided on this one -- and it was a perfect choice! The book is full of fascinating facts about the history of Las Vegas. The pages are thick, the book itself a wonderful 'coffee table book' size, and overall well constructed. Thanks to these things, combined with the notes and signatures of our wedding guests, we now have a priceless guest book that we can proudly display on our coffee table for years to come. A note on 's Customer Service: We ordered this book only about a week prior to our departure for Las Vegas. The first book arrived in minimal packaging that did not protect the book completely - there were some dings and a tear on the slip cover - something that I normally would not complain about. However, in this situation, I did send a message to about the damaged book and requested that a new one be sent to us in more substantial packaging. Two days later, there it was, a perfect copy, in a larger box with more 'padding', just in time to pack and bring with us to Las Vegas! \*This\* is why I shop at .com. Thank you, !

Excellent history of Las Vegas that doubles as a coffee table pictorial. Perfect for folks who are looking for a visual history with factual stories from the turn of the 20th century to the present.

I have watched the PBS video several times and gave this book a try. Very pleased that I made the purchase. Although the text often times reads verbatim to some segments of the film, there are photographs that are not shown in the film. The right combination of text and photos, allowing either in depth and insightful read or a quick and interesting scan you will find in a good coffee table book.

Great gift.

The pictures are great ! Information is full of fun facts !

I love Las Vegas, even as a non-gambler. It was great to learn the background and the very roots of "Sin City". This book will tell you volumes about the history and current development of Las Vegas, a truly unique spot on the globe, to which we return again and again to see shows and experience

new restaurants, and generally get a "big-city" fix. A great guide to Vegas.....

If you are new to the Las Vegas area, and you plan on staying in the Las Vegas area then you should buy this book. There is so much interesting history to this City and the state of Nevada. It is well worth having this book on your coffee table.

Excellent reading, highly informative and entertaining

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