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Eat And Drink Your Way Through Vegas Uncork'd

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Where to Party

If you scored a ticket to the sold-out Vegas Uncork'd Kickoff Party at the newly opened [Hakkasan Las Vegas](#) inside MGM Grand on Thursday, you'll be treated to Cantonese creations from chef Ho Chee Boon. You'll also be able to explore all five levels of the 80,000-square-foot nightclub outfitted with LED screens, an Asian-inspired garden, sizable VIP booths, dance floors, an exclusive mezzanine area and more. *\$150, May 9, 9 p.m., Hakkasan Las Vegas at MGM Grand.*



Hakkasan Las Vegas, photo courtesy MGM Grand Las Vegas

In the mood for an after-dinner drink? Catch a cab to Mandalay Bay for chef Brian Massie's Vodka & Caviar Social at [Red Square](#). Since he's been in tons of kitchens across Las Vegas—including Aureole, Charlie Palmer Steak at [Four Seasons Hotel Las Vegas](#) and FIX at [Bellagio](#)—you'll be in for a fun night. Be sure to step inside the vodka vault for a shot while you're there. *\$160, May 10, 10 p.m., Red Square at Mandalay Bay.*

The [Bellagio Block Party: Cured, Smoked, Braised, Grilled and Toasted](#) is sure to draw a major crowd, so get your tickets early. It's hosted by chef Michael Mina and other A-listers, including Jean-Georges Vongerichten, Edmund Wong, Akira Back and [Startle.com Tastemakers Julian Serrano and Todd English](#). "I am teaming up

with a culinary star from the local Le Cordon Bleu, and taking on Akira Back [from Bellagio's Yellowtail Japanese Restaurant & Lounge] and another Le Cordon Bleu student to battle it out in this culinary challenge," English says. The stakes are high: The winning protégé gets \$20,000 (star chefs get bragging rights) and the runner-up receives \$5,000. Serrano will be preparing traditional paella over a wood fire. "The preparation takes a day-and-a-half, and then about 40 minutes the day of," he says. "But I love the aroma and color of paella when it's cooked on a wood fire." *\$165, May 11, 8 p.m., Bellagio.*



Julian Serrano, photo courtesy MGM Resorts International

Where to Stay

Since Vegas Uncork'd kicks off at Caesars Palace, make it easy on yourself and book a room at [The Laurel Collection by Caesars Palace](#). This Forbes Travel Guide Four-Star hotel includes the Augustus and Octavius towers, a private valet entrance, elegant décor and direct access to the Five-Star Restaurant [Guy Savoy](#).



Bellagio, photo courtesy MGM Resorts International

Other hotel options include the Forbes Travel Guide Five-Star [Skylofts at MGM Grand](#). The [Tony Chi](#)-designed suites come with chic furnishings, Bang & Olufsen entertainment systems, personal butler service and convenient access to chef Joël Robuchon's Saturday night When in France dinner at [Joël Robuchon](#) inside MGM Grand. You can also opt to book a room at Forbes Travel Guide Four-Star [The Signature at MGM Grand Las Vegas](#). The beds in the three-tower, all-suite hotel are outfitted with Anichini linens, and rooms include whirlpool tubs and terraces.

But with five events taking place at the Forbes Travel Guide Four-Star [Bellagio](#), you might want to make this hotel your base. Choose from fountain-view rooms or the hotel's resort tower king or deluxe queen rooms. All provide easy access to Via Bellagio should you need to do some shopping at high-end stores such as Bottega Veneta, Hermès and Prada to find something to wear to the festival.