

BELLAGIO - TEN THINGS YOU CAN'T MISS
6/2-3/2026

00 INTRO - OUTRO

00a Intro Stuff

Dale VO:

How many times over the years have we featured the Bellagio Conservatory and its many themes? Too many to count! But... it's been more than 4 years since we talked about Bellagio itself...and there's so much to say about this award-winning resort!

[Conservatory clips/snippets: IMG_1017, 1059, 5796, 8080, 7825]

[Bellagio exterior shots:

DJI_0432 drives in

DJI_0441, IMG_3322 hold on marquee

DJI_0435 holds on front fountain

IMG_3315 goes up Bellagio from front]

Dale Live:

So get ready...

00b Outro Stuff

[see section 10]

[DJI_0454, 55, 56 driving footage for speedup]

01 ABOUT THE LAKE

01a Lake Info

We'll kick things off right out front, here at one of the most photographed spots in the entire world. This 8-and-a-half acre, man-made lake was the brainchild of Steve Wynn, who built the Bellagio. The lake is 1200 feet long and 600 feet wide, with a depth that varies from 4 to 13 feet.

[start from side view: DJI_0437 and/or 0438;

Then around front DJI_0439 & IMG_3319 go right to left;

DJI_0440 & IMG_3320 go left to right across whole front;

IMG_3317 goes up the front]

01b Water Info

Now here's the fun fact: Wynn was only allowed to build it on the condition that it would use less water than the Dunes golf course that used to be here. And, it does, about 2/3 as much. Some water comes from a well that was previously used for the golf course; plus water from the "O" aquatic show drains into the lake.

[use any clip from **01a** that you didn't use already as a backdrop;
postcard of Dunes golf course;
Clips of O entry IMG_3367, 8481; also pics of O entry; pic of show 8504]

02 ABOUT THE TREES

02a Hard Rock Trees

Recently we showed you a little forest of palm trees near where we live - trees that the Hard Rock folks had salvaged from the Mirage and intend to put back.

[DJI_0835 Dale talking; clip IMG_7473 or 7474 of trees]

02bc Pool Deck-Privets

Bellagio's builders did something similar, way back in the 1990s. They saved nearly 300 pine trees from the Dunes golf course, and made them part of the Mediterranean design of the resort's gorgeous pool deck.

[IMG_2639 pans from above; IMG_3368 & 3369 pan pines from balcony; also 4 clips from the actual pools - you choose]

They also spent more than a year searching for mature Japanese privets - which can withstand our harsh summers - and found them at the Government Center in Ventura County, California, of all places. They dug up and transplanted more than 30 of them here to the Bellagio.

03 ALMOST BEAU RIVAGE

03a Design Change

When Steve Wynn bought the Dunes hotel in 1992, he initially planned to replace it with a French-themed resort named Beau Rivage. But...after a visit to Lake Como, prompted by the resort's designer, they changed direction, scrapped 10 months worth of design work, and themed it after the small town on the shores of Lake Como, named Bellagio.

[Wiki pics of the Dunes, Bellagio, Lake Como]

03b Beau Rivage-Bellagio

Not to worry though, Wynn saved that design, and opened the Beau Rivage in Biloxi, MS, just a year later. At the time, it was the largest US hotel-casino outside of Nevada. [[Wiki pic of Beau Rivage](#)]

Bellagio Las Vegas opened in October 1998, at a cost of \$1.6 billion. Then, it was the world's most expensive resort.

[[FB pic of opening, IMG_3315 up front](#)]

04 THE CHIHULY SCULPTURE

[This is actually broken up to **04a Video** and **04b Photos**]

You only have to step into the lobby to immediately see how some of that money was spent! Above your head is the world's largest glass sculpture, measuring about 2000 square feet. It's called "Fiori di Como", created over a two-year period by acclaimed glass artist Dale Chihuly.

[start with [DJI_0442](#) enter lobby; then could go up or down the front end, the side view, the far end - all IMG clips as named; Wiki pic of artist in **04b**]

Elaine Wynn tells the story this way: "We went over to Dale's house, where he had put a glass art installation at the bottom of his lap pool. And I said to him, 'I want that in my ceiling in the Bellagio lobby.' So that's how we got that".

[[Pinterest pic of Chihuly pool in 04b](#)]

05 THE CASINO-BARS

05a Bellagio Casino

Bellagio has one of the larger casino floors in Las Vegas, at 156,000 square feet. One thing to note is how the signage above the slot machines has been kept to a minimum - you just don't see a lot of glaring advertising here. That was on purpose - Steve Wynn wanted the guests to focus on the architecture in here.

[[DJI_0443, 0444, 0445](#) walk casino; [DJI_0446](#) or [IMG_3331](#) show ceiling architecture]

05b Bellagio Bars

Another fun fact - and boy we wish we could see this! The resort has more than 50 bars all over the property, and all of them are served by a pump room containing 1800 bottles of alcohol. Those lines have to travel from 1000 to as far as 10,000 feet, to reach the bar.

[[3 clips of bars, 8 photos of bars](#)]

06 LOTS OF ART

06a Gallery of Fine Art

The vision for Bellagio from the start was to redefine Las Vegas, emphasizing luxury and romance. Art was always part of the plan. The Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art opened along with the resort, and originally held artwork owned by the company and Steve Wynn himself.

[DJI_0449, 0453]

In the MGM era, the gallery has become a rotating exhibition space, featuring collections on loan from museums all across the country. Art lovers who may think there's no culture here, should definitely find time to visit this exquisite gallery.

[DJI_0450, 0451, 0452]

[folder **06x** has a bunch of photos of the exhibit, but we shouldn't need those]

06b Statue at Entrance

Now honestly, you need look no further than the main entrance to find art pieces. This sculpture was put in place in 2015, created by the late master stone carver Masotoshi Izumi. (Mah-sah-toe-shee Ee-zoo-mee) It is carved of basalt stones, and represents Earth's 4 elements.

[pics 3294, 3303 show both; clips IMG_3297, 3298 show each one separately; web pic of artist]

07 VIA BELLAGIO

07ab Video-Photos-Via Bellagio

I'm not sure how we never knew this, but the Veia Bellagio shops, this long elegant hallway that leads from the casino out to the Strip sidewalk - was actually the first retail center in Las Vegas that focused on luxury brands! This was the first time we saw Vuitton, Chanel, Gucci, Air-Mez, Prada, and Tiffany here in the southwest desert. They were surely onto something, because today of course, there are multiple outlets for all these brands, up and down the Strip!

[DJI_0447 walks the entire thing end to end; pics of each storefront and sign in **07b Photos**]

08 THE CONSERVATORY

08a Must-See Attraction

All right, next up we'll talk about Paula's favorite, the Conservatory. Anyone who's watched our channel for any length of time knows how committed we are to capturing the seasonal themes each year, and presenting them in detail. We consider this one of the must-see free attractions in Las Vegas - and so do 20,000 other people, who visit this place every single day!

[Video clip snippets in order: IMG_9428, 8092, 5861, 7016, DJI_0938 if needed]

[Folder **08a Photos** has a bunch of pics too, if needed]

08b Seasonal Themes

The conservatory and botanical garden is about 14,000 square feet, situated under a huge skylight. [IMG_5761]

A dedicated horticulture staff of 100 or more keeps everything alive and thriving, and is responsible for the changeovers.

[IMG_1056, 1084, 1104]

The themes change 5 times a year, with each one costing about a million dollars to bring to life. As you watch this, the spring 2026 theme is being dismantled, and next weekend, the summer theme will be unveiled.

[Video clip snippets in order:

IMG_2680, 5306, 5366, 7969, 7087, 7093 (the train), 9891; end with previous summer theme IMG_9874 and/or 1703]

[Folder **08b Photos** has a bunch of pics too, if needed]

In case you didn't know, as the plants are removed from the displays, plant sales for employees are held, with the proceeds benefitting the company's charitable foundation.

[news station video here:]

<https://www.ktnv.com/news/what-happens-to-the-plants-when-the-bellagio-conservatory-changes-themes>

09 THE FOUNTAINS

09a The Spectacle

A Wynn-built property always has to have a spectacle out front, and this one is world-renowned: the fabulous Fountains of Bellagio. Steve Wynn came up with the idea, and the design firm WET built it for \$40 million - one of the most expensive fountains ever.

[DJI_0600 or 0061 (start 20 seconds in); DJI_0233 (start 15 seconds in); IMG_1711]

09b Facts and Figures

There are more than 1200 water nozzles, nearly 5000 lights, and 183 speakers set in the lampposts for optimum sound.

[Nozzles IMG_6353 and/or 9038; Lights IMG_6504;
Speakers IMG_3306, 3308, 3310, 3311 - use any]

The dancing waters are choreographed to a wide variety of musical styles, with the most dramatic notes shooting the water as high as 460 feet. No matter where you watch the fountains from, they're a showstopper.

[Dancing IMG_2857 (water 460 ft at 1 min 26 sec);
Last line - from Eiffel Tower Restaurant either IMG_1778 or 1802]

09c Restaurants-Weddings

[This is actually broken up to **09c Video** and **09d Photos**]

Not only are there several Bellagio restaurants with fountain views...there's also a terrace perfect for your destination wedding!

[Videos in **09c**:

DJI_0436 or IMG_3313/3314 pan across restaurants from outside;
IMG_8465 from Spago; 9044 from Lavo patio; 6555 from Lavo dining room; DJI_0233 from Jasmine]

[Photos in **09d**: pics of all the restaurant signage; 2 pics of Fenny wedding]

10 WHO OWNS IT

[come back and do this live, as the lead-in to the outro]

[IMG_3305 is 1 min hold on front fountain, as a potential backdrop]

That was a peek at Bellagio - but there's so much more we can say about it, as a world-class resort destination!

First, the rooms and suites - both the main tower and spa tower have been updated with a multi-million dollar redo in the past 5 years. This was our fountain-view room a couple years ago.

[3 clips from the main tower, remodeled 2021]

Plus, as of 2024, they've partnered with the Marriott BonVoy loyalty program, and Bellagio is now part of their Luxury Collection.

Second, that pool deck - it's a Mediterranean oasis all right, one of the most gorgeous and opulent on the Strip. Many pools, lots of lush landscaping, it's gorgeous.

[pool clips in **02b** that we didn't use]

Third, the restaurants - Bellagio has more than 20 distinct dining options on property, so make sure you try a few... at least one that has that fabulous fountain view. You owe it to yourself, it's your vacation!

[fountain view stuff in **09c & 09d**]

And last, let's talk about ownership. That's certainly been in the news this week, hasn't it? Is a bid to buy MGM Resorts on the table? Caesars sure is!

Not even two years after Bellagio opened, Steve Wynn's Mirage Resorts merged with Kirk Kerkorian's MGM Grand Inc, and Steve moved on. He always said he was the design-and-build guy, and so, he was off to do his next big thing.

In 2001 (barely 3 years after opening), Bellagio became the very first hotel-casino to earn the AAA 5-diamond award. And, after that, won it every year, time after time.

MGM held ownership of the property for nearly 20 years, but in 2019 they sold it to New York City investment firm Blackstone Inc. Nowadays MGM just operates it, via a lease arrangement.

As for the future...stay tuned, things may be changing yet again!