

**EXCLUSIVE** Tony Hsieh Talks About What's Next for the Downtown Project [PAGE 14]

VEGAS

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THIS WEEK IN YOUR CITY



## BELOW THE SURFACE

By  
**CATE  
WEEKS**

Caroline Lauzon and 5 other ex-Strip performers dive into unique second careers — proving there is indeed **LIFE AFTER THE SPOTLIGHT**

# Essential Eats & Drinks: Your Fall Epicurean Calendar

♦ **AUTUMN HAS ARRIVED**, and with it comes Las Vegas' second delicious social season. This is everywhere you need to eat, drink and be merry right now!

## OCT 9

Capitalize those Cs as **A. Hardy U.S.A.** offers a Cognac tasting and five-course Champagne dinner at **Sage** hosted by property mixologist Craig Schoettler and Hardy Cognac House CEO Benedicte Hardy. Sample a celebrated collection of Cognac—including a rare blend of small lots collected after World War I—and enjoy a menu by executive chef Richard Camarota with Champagne pairings chosen by Aria wine director, Kim Wood. Highlights include pork terrine, foie-gras custard brûlée, chestnut soup Maison Rouge, Kobe skirt steak Diane and dark chocolate panna cotta. \$500, 6 p.m., in *Aria*, 702-693-8400 for reservations, *Aria.com*.



Sonoma County's award-winning winery **Ferrari-Carano** has been a leading producer of world-class, nationally acclaimed wines since 1985. Taste them alongside a six-course tasting menu by chef Francisco Hernandez at an intimate tasting in the private dining room at the **Charcoal Room**. \$85, 6 p.m., in *Palace Station*, 702-221-6678, *PalaceStation.SCLV.com*.

White truffle season is upon us, and no one does it like **Restaurant Guy Savoy's** lavish six-course prix-fixe menu: scallops two ways, pumpkin soup, risotto and roasted guinea hen—all featuring white truffles—followed by two desserts. \$420 per person, items also available a la carte, in *Caesars Palace*, 702-731-7110, *CaesarsPalace.com*.

## OCT 9-12

Check out Las Vegas' newest dining and shopping destination at the **Downtown Summerlin Street Festival** on Festival Plaza Drive. Activities include opening ceremonies, a light show, DJs, kids activities, fashion shows and makeovers. For a complete list of events, visit *DowntownSummerlin.com/PDFs/DTSFestivalGuide.pdf*.

## OCT 10

**Communities In Schools of Nevada** presents its fourth annual **Harvest for Hope**, with live dance, magic and comedy performances, as well as food from 10 Cosmopolitan spots, including Blue Ribbon Sushi Bar & Grill, Estiatorio Milos, Rose. Rabbit. Lie., Comme Ça, Jaleo, China Poblano and Scarpetta. All proceeds benefit CIS, the local affiliate of the nation's leading dropout-prevention program. \$350 adults, \$100 children, 5-9 p.m., *Cashman Center, CISNevada.org/Harvest-2014*.

## OCT 10-11

Sixty wineries, 20 bands and eight immersive experiences await thousands of wine and music lovers at the two-day wine and music wonderland that is **Rock 'n' Roll Wine's** ninth annual **Wine Amplified Festival**, this year presented at the MGM Resort Village across from Luxor. Tickets start at \$69, 4 p.m.-midnight, *WineAmplified.com*.

## OCT 11

After nearly five delicious, charitable and locally sourced years, the **Project Dinner Table** communal supper series concludes with one final event at the Marjorie Barrick Museum at UNLV with chefs from Caesars Palace and charity partners Safe Nest and the Blind Center of Nevada. For more about the event, see Page 68. \$175, 5:15 p.m. social hour, dinner at 6:15 p.m., *ProjectDinnerTable.com*.

## OCT 13

This month's **Farm Table Dinner** at Honey Salt welcomes **One Hope Wines**, presenting a three-course meal that features caramelized squash with burrata and braised beef cheeks. Plus, during October, 50 percent of proceeds from all One Hope sales will be donated to breast cancer research. \$45 dinner, \$25 wine pairing, 6:30 p.m., 702-445-6100, 1031 S. Rampart Blvd., *HoneySalt.com*.

## OCT 15-19

**Las Vegas Foodie Fest** returns, showcasing more than 50 of the nation's best food trucks, plus beer, wine and liquor tastings, as well as carnival rides, eating contests and a beer garden. Tickets start at \$8, 4-midnight Oct. 15-17; noon-midnight Oct 18; noon-10 p.m. Oct 19, at the *Linq*, *LasVegasFoodieFest.com*.

## OCT 16

Chopped judge/chef Scott Conant's **DOCG Enoteca** gets in on the fall beer agenda with a **Tap That Cask Party**, featuring "real ale," beer that finishes its maturation and carbonation process in the barrel—and the party won't stop

till the keg (by Henderson's Bad Beat Brewing) runs dry. Paired finger foods will be served family style. \$50, 6:30 p.m., in the *Cosmopolitan*, 702-698-7920, *CosmopolitanLasVegas.com*.

## OCT 17

Students assist in setup, operations and logistics at the Epicurean Charitable Foundation's 13th annual **M.E.N.U.S.** (Mentoring & Educating Nevada's Upcoming Students), a poolside dine-around. (Previous participants have included Gordon Ramsay Burg'r, KGB by chef Kerry Simon, DW Bistro and Tao Asian Bistro.) Proceeds help fund scholarships for Clark County high school students seeking hospitality careers. Ticket includes admission to a **Zac Brown Band** concert. \$600, at *MGM Grand*, 702-932-5098, *ECFLV.org*.

## OCT 18

Take it outside for **Double Helix Wine & Whiskey Lounge's** inaugural **Tacos + Granos**. Chef Doug Vega will be grilling \$2 Shortie Tacos on the patio, and the Whiskey of the Month—Rittenhouse Straight Rye—is half off. Noon-5 p.m., at *Town Square*, 702-735-9463, *Townsquare.DoubleHelixWine.com*.



## OCT 20

This is it, the final day of **Hearthstone Kitchen & Cellar's #EscapeToSonoma** social media contest awarding a two-night trip for two to Sonoma's **Jordan Vineyard & Winery** in Healdsburg, California. Visit *HearthstoneLV.com* for rules on how to enter.

## OCT 22

The original **Aces & Ales** location hosts a tapping of rare specialty brews by **Beachwood BBQ Brewing** head brewer Julian Shrago, including System of a Stout Imperial Armenian Coffee Stout and Mocha Machine Imperial Coffee Chocolate Porter. Bring your 2014 Strong Beer glass for \$4 fills. 5 p.m., 3740 S. Nellis Blvd., 702-436-7600, *AcesAndAles.com*.

## OCT 23

**Champagne Taittinger** takes on the cuisine of Charlie Palmer's **Aureole** for

a six-course wine-pairing dinner hosted by export manager Clovis Taittinger and Mandalay Bay wine director Harley Carbery. Executive chef Vincent Pouessel and executive pastry chef Megan Bringas' menu includes Mozambican langoustines, roasted veal tenderloin and braised cheeks and preserved lemon St. Honoré with Taittinger Nocturne. \$225, 6:30 p.m., 702-632-7401 for reservations, *CharliePalmer.com*.

## OCT 25

It's **OAKtoberfest** at **Aces & Ales Tenaya**, with more than a dozen oak-aged brews and specialty foods starting at noon, Ghostbuster Trivia and a Halloween costume party at 8 p.m. with prizes and cash giveaways. 2801 N. Tenaya Way, 702-638-2337, *AcesAndAles.com*.

## OCT 31

Wear a costume if you like—mad scientist and monster-inspired suggested—but do come thirsty to chef Rick Moonen's **Ricky Horror Halloween Bash** at **Rx Boiler Room**. The eerie evening will feature contests, prizes, specialty cocktails by lead barman Eric Smith and themed menu items. 8 p.m., in the *Shoppes* at *Mandalay Place*, 702-632-9900 for reservations, *RxBoilerRoom.com*.

This is your last chance to enjoy the October bar and lounge menu at **Wolfgang Puck Pizzeria & Cucina**. Throughout the month of October, enjoy bites inspired from the Lazio Region of Central Italy, all for less than \$8 each, with Lazio wines for \$10 and under. Available daily, open till close, through Oct. 31, at the bar and lounge, in the *Shops* at *Crystals*, 702-238-1000, *TheShopsAtCrystals.com*.

## NOV 5

**Cantina Laredo's** quarterly tequila dinner pairs a four-course menu by executive chef Damon Workman with **Avion Tequila**. Avion representatives will guide guests through the agave selection process and techniques of proper tequila production. \$50, 7-9 p.m., in *Tivoli Village*, 702-202-4511 for reservations, *CantinaLaredo.com*.

## NOV 22

**Drink Local** all night long at the **Aces & Ales Tenaya** location, where all the taps will be taken over by Nevada breweries. 5 p.m., 2801 N. Tenaya Way, 702-638-2337, *AcesAndAles.com*.  
—Xania Woodman



For more beer events, visit *VegasSeven.com/Fall-Beer-Calendar*. For even more fall and winter epicurean events, visit *VegasSeven.com/Fall-Epicurean-Calendar*.

