

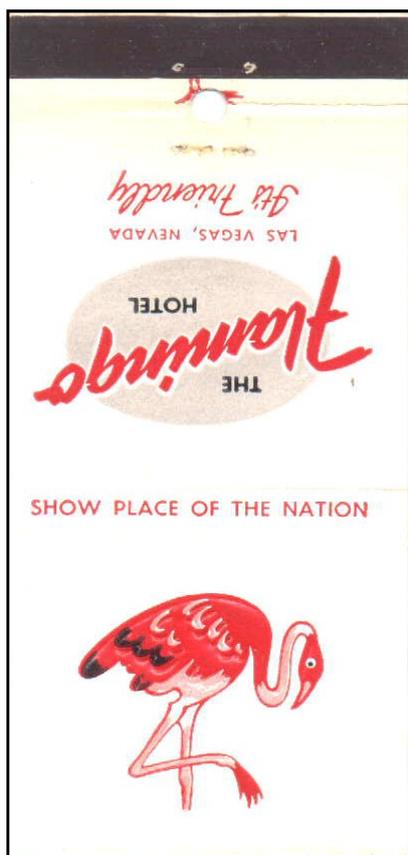
Historic Hotels!

XLVII: Las Vegas's *Flamingo Hotel*

The Sands, The Flamingo...I remember them all! When I was a boy, my family lived in Los Angeles...and my dad was a gambler! We usually went to Las Vegas several times a year, and that continued all the way into my college days, so I have many fond (and not so fond) memories surrounding all those glitzy, star-studded casinos —the giant statues, the neon nights, the constant sounds of “ka ching!” “ka ching!”, rush-hour traffic on the Strip...at 2 AM! And right in the middle of it all was the Flamingo!

Bugsy Siegel's desert dream, The Flamingo, has anchored the Las Vegas Strip since they started rolling dice there in 1946. The modern version is a self-contained casino and resort, offering everything an adventurous vacationer could want — including a Wildlife Habitat and a 15-acre Caribbean-style water playground. Set on the famous four corners of Las Vegas Blvd. and Flamingo Road, this hotel combines heart-pounding Las Vegas excitement with hospitality and service that's second to none...Operated now by Caesar's.

The Flamingo had singles, doubles, suites, and penthouse rooms, as well as a midnight buffet. The Flamingo Room was updated and the Stage Bar had a revolving stage featuring "name" entertainment from dusk 'til dawn. The casino and casino lounge were updated and the Terrace Room contained walls of glass showing the back of the resort.



Remembering that Las Vegas is out in the middle of the desert, it's interesting to note that the Flamingo has been described as its own city. Pure and fresh artesian water from three wells on the hotel grounds served the entire resort. A highly efficient water plant, capable of serving the needs of a community of 5,000 people, filtered the water, purified it, softened it, and made an unlimited supply available at all times. By practical engineering design, "used" water was reclaimed and stored during the day in 150,000 gallon reservoirs to be used at night time for irrigation purposes.

I currently have 23 covers from the Las



Vegas Flamingo, plus, I believe, a couple of boxes.