

# THE COLOSSEUM

CAESARS PALACE  
LAS VEGAS



The Colosseum at Caesars Palace, Las Vegas' premier showroom destination, is home to the greatest entertainers from across the globe while providing audiences with an extraordinarily intimate entertainment experience that only the world's best technologies can provide. Built at a cost of \$95 million, The Colosseum at Caesars Palace opened its doors on March 25, 2003 for the premiere of **Celine Dion A New Day...** The Colosseum is exclusively programmed and operated AEG Live, and was designed by world-renowned architects Scéno Plus of Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

## History

In 2000, Caesars Palace planned to renovate its anchor showroom Circus Maximus which housed many of Las Vegas' most iconic and legendary performers of the day. The venue opened with the hotel in 1962, so was entering its 38<sup>th</sup> year when the planned renovation was set to take place. In the early phases of the planned renovation, Caesars Palace was approached with a unique and exciting business venture with Celine Dion that would forever change the landscape of entertainment in Las Vegas.

Once the partnership between Dion and Caesars Palace was cemented, the Circus Maximus renovation was cancelled to make way for an even grander and more spectacular venue that would be designed and built exclusively for Celine Dion and **A New Day...**

Caesars Palace approached Scéno Plus of Montreal, Quebec to develop an architectural concept and a theatre design of what was to become The Colosseum. Constructed directly on Las Vegas Boulevard, the building is loosely inspired by Roman aesthetics with contemporary overtones. The theatre was constructed by Perini Building Company, with the project beginning in December 2002 and was completed on February 4, 2003 (six weeks before its estimated completion date).

The original construction cost was estimated to be between \$65 to \$75 million, but with the additions of several state-of-the-art technical systems, the final cost rose to \$95 million.

At the end of Celine Dion's legendary five-year run on December 15, 2007, an extensive transformation began to prepare for The Colosseum's newest generation of resident artists. The renovations were completed on January 21, 2008 and included:

**New performance area** - 7,000 total square feet. While the depth of the new stage was reduced to 60 feet from 76 feet from the **A New Day...** stage, approximately 1,500 sq. ft. of stairs were eliminated, so the current usable performance area is slightly larger despite a reduction in the total stage depth.

**Increased capacity** - 150 seats were added to increase the total capacity to 4,298.

**New stage** – the addition of a hydraulic 20x20 elevator that serves as the center stage lift, and the removal of famous raked stage (6 degree slant) from **A New Day...**

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**New rigging system** - redesign of the current rigging system with the addition of approximately 5 miles of 3/16" of wire rope with the ability to hold of 8 tons of scenery designed to hang in the air.

**Increased storage space for set and props**

**Newly enhanced and redesigned audio and lighting systems**

## Resident Artists

The state-of-the-art venue has housed such legendary resident performers such as Celine Dion *A New Day...*, Bette Midler *The Showgirl Must Go On*, Elton John's *The Red Piano*, Cher, *SHANIA: STILL THE ONE* and Jerry Seinfeld who's comedic talent has been headlining The Colosseum since 2003.

Ushering in the newest era of chart-topping, legendary resident performers, 2011 saw the return of two of The Colosseum's original residents and the addition of two incredible names to the venue's roster of unparalleled talent.

Beginning March 2011, The Colosseum at Caesars Palace once again was home to Celine Dion and her self-titled show *Celine*. The glamorous new show, directed by long time Grammys producer Ken Ehrlich, features 31 musicians consisting of a full orchestra and band and includes Celine's biggest hits mixed with timeless classics and pays tribute to some of the most celebrated songs and artists of all time. The new show, which receives rave reviews by critics and fans alike, is set to a visually stunning presentation designed exclusively for the 4,300 seat state-of-the-art venue.

In September 2011, Elton John returned with his all-new show *The Million Dollar Piano*. Accompanied by his band, which includes Davey Johnstone on guitar, Matt Bissonette on bass, John Mahon on percussion, Nigel Olsson on drums and Kim Bullard on keyboards with a special appearance by percussionist Ray Cooper, Elton and his band put on an unforgettable show: the entire audience standing, dancing and singing along with much-loved classic songs.

Legendary rock icon Rod Stewart opened his hit-packed show at The Colosseum at Caesars Palace on August 24, 2011, the first show of his two-year residency. Rod Stewart: The Hits. is a concert celebration featuring a song list of the rock and R&B favorites which have defined Stewart's unparalleled five-decade-long career and an intimate, only-in-Las Vegas concert experience.

Beginning May 6, 2015, Mariah Carey, the iconic chanteuse and best-selling female artist of all time with over 200 million records sold, premiered her headlining residency, "MARIAH #1 TO INFINITY" at The Colosseum at Caesars Palace. Performing 18 of her timeless and beloved Number One Hits in chronological order, Mariah takes fans on a spectacular journey through her life and career in an unforgettable evening filled with fan-favorite singles, new musical arrangements, her new song "Infinity" performed live for the first time, and many more surprises.

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On Wednesday, June 17, country music powerhouses Reba, Kix Brooks and Ronnie Dunn reunited onstage to premiere their new, one-of-a-kind residency, REBA, BROOKS & DUNN: *Together in Vegas* at The Colosseum at Caesars Palace. The superstar entertainers have performed to sold-out crowds and multiple standing ovations, bringing a unique pairing of their biggest hits and exciting collaborations to the stage night after night.

## **The Colosseum – By the Numbers**

Exterior diameter - 256 ft.

Exterior height - 140 ft. (approximately seven stories)

Stage - measures 7,200 sq ft and has a proscenium arch with a height of 45 ft and a width of 120 ft (roughly the length of a 40-yard field goal in football and one of the world's largest stage openings).

LED Screen - 110 ft wide by 34 ft tall manufactured by Mitsubishi Diamond Vision, adding an additional \$10 million to the construction budget.

Truss roof -- 0 support columns that obstruct views

68,000 lb. steel box girders support approximately one-third of the structure

Construction required more than 600,000 man-hours

700 people were on site daily at the peak of construction

Structure contains:

5,100 tons of steel

7,700 erectable pieces of steel

8,000 yards of concrete placed over slab on grade and metal decking to create the sloped rakes for seating

800 tons of air conditioning

142 miles of electrical wire

Fire sprinklers with 100,000 ft. of pipe that holds 10,000 gallons of water

180,000 watts of amplification and 156 speakers

10 motorized stage lifts, which compose 75 percent of the stage

200 acoustical panels to control the amplified sound

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\$2 million dollar humidity installation helps provide the perfect air atmosphere around the performers on stage for optimal acoustics, performance, and conditioning