

## New Orleans Saints and Caesars Entertainment Announce Partnership: Stadium Rebranded as Caesars Superdome

Home of the New Orleans Saints and Super Bowl LIX, state-owned building to be renamed Caesars Superdome

NEW ORLEANS, July 26, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- The New Orleans Saints and Caesars Entertainment announced today the formation of a 20-year, exclusive naming-rights partnership that rebrands New Orleans' iconic downtown stadium as the Caesars Superdome.

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Caesars Superdome will host all Saints home football games, and Super Bowl LIX to be played in February 2025. The building will also host the 2022 NCAA Men's Final Four, the annual Sugar Bowl and College Football Playoff contests, a variety of concerts and hundreds of other annual events including Essence Festival, the Bayou Classic football game between Grambling State and Southern University, the New Orleans Bowl and the Louisiana State High School Athletic Association Football Championships.

"All of us at Caesars are proud to be part of New Orleans' vibrant culture. We understand that the Superdome is more than an iconic venue, it's the symbol of a resilient and innovative community," said Tom Reeg, CEO of Caesars Entertainment. "We've had a strong relationship with the New Orleans Saints for nearly two decades and we are thrilled with the opportunity to strengthen it and celebrate our commitment to the city, the state, and the entire Gulf Coast region."

In the last five years, Caesars Entertainment has led with its heart in the Pelican State, giving more than \$30 million directly into community non-profits and services. Through a combination of volunteer hours, grants from the Caesars Foundation, and donations supporting local non-profit programs dedicated to disadvantaged populations, tourism, and infrastructure, Caesars remains committed to the state of Louisiana and its residents.

Caesars Superdome will stand as testament to Caesars' commitment to the New Orleans Saints and to the city of New Orleans as it embarks on a \$325 million renovation to transform Harrah's New Orleans into Caesars New Orleans.

"This partnership sends a strong message about the positive future for the New Orleans Saints, Caesars Entertainment, and the entire state of Louisiana," said Saints Owner Gayle Benson. "That message states that companies with the global reach of Caesars Entertainment is investing in our city, state and region. Caesars has long been one of the world's most respected entertainment companies. Caesars is in the midst of creating a first-class multi-million dollar entertainment facility in downtown New Orleans, this significant investment also demonstrates the strength of their commitment to our state and region. We are proud to partner with a company that is dedicated to the economic growth of our city, state and region."

The agreement between the Saints and Caesars Entertainment represents a union between two iconic companies and brands that are built on creating economic growth in their communities. Both are engaged in spearheading expansive projects, which will help spur significant economic growth for the state of Louisiana and the entire region.

"Having faced a very trying 2020 with the Covid-19 Pandemic, this is wonderful news to see that two iconic brands like the Saints and Caesars are partnering on a long-term business deal that will not only benefit New Orleans, but the entire State," said Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards. "I congratulate Mrs. Benson and her team on securing this partnership. The Superdome is an iconic building, globally recognized and I am certain that Caesars will be very pleased having their name on the building that will be hosting future Super Bowls, Final Fours, and Essence Festivals, to name a few."

"In addition to being one of the world's premier entertainment operators, the investment Caesars Entertainment is making into its downtown property that is being transformed into Caesars New Orleans will create an impact that will be felt throughout our entire state and region for many years," said Saints President Dennis Lauscha. "Caesars is a great partner for the Saints and the region, as they are investing \$325 million into their downtown facility, while at the same time, significant work and investment is being made into making our playing facility state-of-the-art not only for Saints football, but multiple major events that benefit the entire community. In 2009, when the Saints and State reached their new agreement, the team took on the responsibility of selling the naming rights to the Superdome; a model that has resulted in no lease generated general fund requests from the State. The team has brought two iconic global brands in Mercedes-Benz and now Caesars Entertainment to this state-owned building. This agreement represents a tremendous opportunity for the New Orleans Saints

franchise and further entrenches Caesars Entertainment as one of the region's leading and dedicated corporate citizens."

"The partnership between the Superdome and Caesars Entertainment represents a powerful combination of two legendary entertainment brands," said Michael Hecht, President & CEO of Greater New Orleans, Inc. "The Superdome contributes close to \$600 million in annual economic impact to the state of Louisiana, and Caesars is the largest gaming company in America. Together, they will ensure that our iconic stadium drives even more jobs, tax revenue, and global brand awareness for New Orleans and Louisiana. The fact that the Superdome is so integral to the culture of New Orleans, and that Caesars is well-known as a community-oriented company, makes this partnership that much more compelling and promising for our collective future."

The Caesars Superdome, in a partnership between the Saints, the State of Louisiana and the Superdome Commission, is currently undergoing a \$450 million dollar renovation that is positioning the stadium to remain one of the world's premier spectator sports and entertainment venues. Prior to the most recent renovation, the facility had seen over \$350 million in improvements in the last 12 years. This most recent project will enhance the quality of experience for the spectator at all levels, with the addition of field level suites, improved concessions and vertical spaces which improve the environment and amenities and ingress and egress, as well as operational upgrades crucial to event operation. This renovation, which is expected to be completed by Super Bowl LIX, will help the Caesars Superdome retain its place in the pantheon of sporting facilities, having hosted seven Super Bowls (the most of any facility), the most recent, Super Bowl XLVII, which propelled \$480 million in spending in New Orleans and approximately \$262.8 million in direct spending by visitors. The last Super Bowl played in New Orleans also helped inspire an estimated \$1.2 billion in public and private improvements to the city. The facility has also hosted five NCAA men's basketball Final Fours, three BCS College Football Championship games, the 2019 College Football Playoff National Championship game and three NCAA College Football Playoff semifinal contests.

Edwards added, "The Superdome is currently undergoing a much needed state-of-the-art renovation, an investment that will prove to be a benefit for many years to come. I am thankful to the board of the Louisiana Stadium and Exposition District, and specifically it's chairman Kyle France, for the hard work on this critical investment in a state facility. I am pleased that the Saints, who may only use the building a dozen times in a year, are contributing \$150 million of the \$450 million and it should be noted that the building hosts hundreds of events annually...so everyone that uses the building will benefit."

"In 2009, the State, in its new lease agreement with the Saints, gave the team the right to sell naming rights to the Superdome, thereby eliminating State subsidies to the team," said Senator Page Cortez President of the Louisiana Senate. "Today, we are thrilled with the announcement of a 20-year deal between the team and Caesars. In 2011, the State approved Mercedes-Benz as the naming rights partner for the Superdome, that 10-year partnership presented to the State by the Saints. What is important to note here is that the team is working to create its own revenue sources for New Orleans and the Superdome. That is very important in our deal with the team. It is a good business deal for the state."

The New Orleans Saints and Gayle Benson have pledged all proceeds from this partnership will go directly back into the state-owned building to help with ongoing and continued renovations, which include enhanced and expanded concourses, vertical transportation systems and on-field high-end hospitality luxury suites.

This naming rights partnership for the Caesars Superdome is a perfect fit with the corporation's burgeoning local investment. Caesars Entertainment, the parent company of Harrah's New Orleans, is currently in the midst of a \$325 million renovation and construction project to transform the property, the only land-based casino in Louisiana into Caesars New Orleans. The project will create a flagship resort steps from the French Quarter, including an all-new 340 room hotel tower and new culinary and hospitality offerings within the casino, putting hundreds of people to work on the project, and creating more than 500 sustainable, long-term jobs. Caesars Entertainment is the largest gaming company in the United States, holding more than 50 first-class gaming facilities worldwide.

Lauscha added, "We need to thank the Oak View Group, for their tireless work in helping our team finalize the deal with Caesars. Their partnership was a win-win for us."

"This partnership is a long-term business investment, in the city of New Orleans, but the entire state can benefit from having Caesars and the Saints partner in this naming rights deal," said Representative Clay Schexnayder Speaker of the House of Representatives. "It is wonderful to see this deal take place after we have all had to deal with a terrible pandemic and hopefully this is a signal that commerce is coming back."

The Caesars Superdome has housed the Saints since 1975. The naming rights agreement include the opportunity for Caesars Entertainment branding on the exterior of the facility, as well as stadium signage and other unique displays inside the stadium.

Mercedes-Benz USA held the naming rights to the stadium since 2011, with the brand experiencing significantly increasing sales and visibility. That visibility now shifts to Caesars Entertainment. Caesars Entertainment and the New Orleans Saints have started work already to enhance the look of the stadium in support of both the Caesars Entertainment brand and the anticipated success of the 2021 Saints season and other events scheduled to take place at the facility.

The Superdome is home to a record seven Super Bowls, including Super Bowl XII (1978), XV (1981), XX (1986), XXIV (1990), XXXI (1997), XXXVI (2002), XLVII (2013), plus another, coming in 2025 (LIX). A formal press announcement will be scheduled by the New Orleans Saints and Caesars Entertainment at a future date.



#### About Caesars Entertainment, Inc.

Caesars Entertainment, Inc. (NASDAQ: CZR) is the largest casino-entertainment company in the US and one of the world's most diversified casino-entertainment providers. Since its beginning in Reno, NV, in 1937, Caesars Entertainment, Inc. has grown through development of new resorts, expansions and acquisitions. Caesars Entertainment, Inc.'s resorts operate primarily under the Caesars®, Harrah's®, Horseshoe®, and Eldorado® brand names. Caesars Entertainment, Inc. offers diversified gaming, entertainment and hospitality amenities, one-of-a-kind destinations, and a full suite of mobile and online gaming and sports betting experiences. All tied to its industry-leading Caesars Rewards loyalty program, the company focuses on building value with its guests through a unique combination of impeccable service, operational excellence and technology leadership. Caesars is committed to its employees, suppliers, communities and the environment through its PEOPLE PLANET PLAY framework. Must be 21 or older to gamble (Must be 19 or older in Ontario). Must be 18 or older for pari-mutuel wagering in Florida, Indiana Louisiana and Pennsylvania. Must be 18 or older to participate in a poker wagering activity in Florida. Know When To Stop Before You Start®. CO, MS, NV or NC: Gambling Problem? Call 1-800-522-4700. CA, IL, NJ or PA: If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, crisis counseling, and referral services can be accessed by calling 1-800-GAMBLER (1-800-426-2537). AZ: 1-800-NEXT-STEP. LA: 1-877-770-STOP. MO: 1-888-BETSOFF. IA: 1-800-BETSOFF. IN: 1-800-9WITHIT. FL: 888-ADMIT-IT. OH: For help, call the Ohio Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-589-9966 or visit the Ohio for Responsible Gambling website at [www.org.ohio.gov](http://www.org.ohio.gov). MD: Please play responsibly, for help visit [mdgamblinghelp.org](http://mdgamblinghelp.org) or call 1-800-GAMBLER. Ontario: PlaySmart 1-866-531-2600. ©2021, Caesars Entertainment. For more information, please visit [www.caesars.com/corporate](http://www.caesars.com/corporate).

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Additional assets available online:  [Video \(1\)](#)  [Photos \(6\)](#)

<http://caesars.mediaroom.com/2021-07-26-New-Orleans-Saints-and-Caesars-Entertainment-Announce-Partnership-Stadium-Rebranded-as-Caesars-Superdome>