

CAESARS PALACE

LAS VEGAS

50 YEARS AS HOME OF THE CHAMPIONS

Throughout the past 50 years, world-renowned Caesars Palace has earned its title as the “Home of Champions” by hosting hundreds of signature sporting events featuring some of the legendary athletes and sports figures of all-time including Muhammad Ali, Jimmy Connors, Mary Lou Retton, Wayne Gretzky, and Mario Andretti – just to name a few.

DAREDEVILS

Dec. 31, 1967 – Caesars Palace celebrated its first special event on when daredevil **Robert “Evel” Knievel** attempted to jump the resort’s towering row of fountains on his famous red, white and blue motorcycle.

Sept. 15, 1980 – **Gary Wells** performed another noteworthy but unsuccessful jump over the fountains, gaining much media coverage as he sustained injuries to multiple parts of his body.

April 14, 1989 – In front of a national TV audience and 50,000 cheering fans, Evel’s son, **Robbie Knievel**, successfully landed the jump his father did not – making him the first to clear the hotel’s iconic fountains.

May 4, 2006 – Broadcasted live on ESPN, “The Godfather of Freestyle Motocross” **Mike Metzger** broke the world record for longest motorcycle backflip at 125 feet over the fountains, becoming only the second person to successfully clear them on two wheels.



TENNIS



May 1972 – the first of 13 annual Alan King/Caesars Palace Tennis Classics was held. Las Vegan Andre Agassi was a teen-aged wild card entry in the 1983 tournament and Boris Becker made the quarterfinals in the 1985 classic, only weeks before winning his first Wimbledon championship. Agassi returned to Caesars in September of 1995, and with fellow Americans Pete Sampras and Todd Martin, defeated the Swedish national team in the Davis Cup semi-finals.

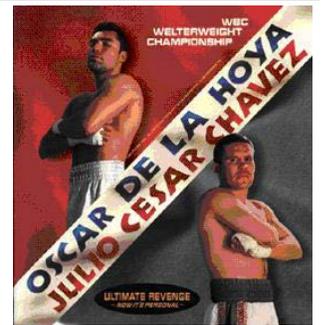
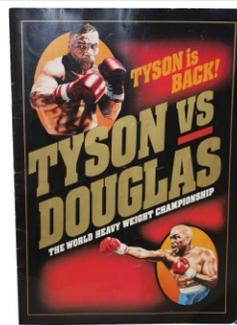


Sept. 25, 1992 – Caesars Palace staged tennis’ “Battle of Champions” pitting Jimmy Connors against Martina Navratilova in a match that would revive the Billie Jean King/Bobby Riggs controversy from a generation earlier. Connors vs. Navratilova, a best-of-three-set match, attracted more wagers in the Caesars Palace Race and Sports Book than all of that year’s Wimbledon bets combined.



Oct. 12, 2015 – Sir Elton John and Billie Jean King brought **Mylan World Team Tennis (WTT) Smash Hits**, one of the sport’s most star-studded charity events, to Las Vegas for the first time. Four former world No. 1s – Andre Agassi, Stefanie Graf, Martina Navratilova and Andy Roddick – headlined the event at Caesars Palace.

BOXING



Oct. 2, 1980 – Caesars Palace became the first resort and casino to host a mega-boxing event as Larry Holmes faced Muhammad Ali in an arena that seated 24,000 fans. An aging Ali was unable to answer the bell for the 11th round and Holmes retained the World Championship title.

Iconic fights held at Caesars Palace include:

- Larry Holmes/Muhammad Ali – Oct. 2, 1980
- Sugar Ray Leonard/Thomas Hearns – Sept. 16, 1981
- Larry Holmes/Gerry Cooney – June 11, 1982
- Marvelous Marvin Hagler/Thomas Hearns – April 15, 1985
- Sugar Ray Leonard/Marvelous Marvin Hagler – April 6, 1987
- Mike Tyson/Henry Tillman – June 16, 1990
- Evander Holyfield/Riddick Bowe – Nov. 6, 1993 (Heavyweight title fight)
- Evander Holyfield/Michael Moorer – April 22, 1994
- Larry Holmes/Oliver McCall – April 8, 1995
- Oscar De La Hoya/Rafael Ruelas – May 6, 1995
- Oscar De La Hoya/Julio Cesar Chavez – June 7, 1996

OTHER SIGNATURE EVENTS

Oct. 15, 1981 – An inclusive racetrack, complete with pit areas and grandstands, set the stage for the first of four annual Caesars Palace Grand Prix auto races held at the resort.

Sept. 27, 1991 – Caesars Palace hosted the NHL's first outdoor event in nearly 60 years as Wayne Gretzky guided the Los Angeles Kings to victory over the New York Rangers. Caesars installed 300 tons of refrigeration to make ice in daytime temperatures that soared to 95 degrees.

Oct. 11, 1996 – Ice skating legends Scott Hamilton, Viktor Petrenko, Tara Lipinski and Katarina Witt displayed their show-stopping artistry on an outdoor rink constructed atop the resort's famed row of front fountains.

Aug. 2, 2006 – Caesars Palace celebrated its 40th anniversary with a colossal toga party at the outdoor Roman Plaza amphitheater, featuring actress Jenny McCarthy as the host and a live performance by Otis Day and the Knights, the band that rocked "Shout" during the toga party scene in "National Lampoon's Animal House." Following the musical set, toga-clad partygoers attended an after-party at PURE Nightclub.