Fine Dining At Romeo's Ristorante And Lounge In The Plazas On West Sahara



Longtime friends Romeo Schiavi and Duke Moliner have been reunited at Romeo's Ristorante and Lounge which Schiavi opened in January. The two met when they were entertainers in a Las Vegas showroom, and their association has lasted 25 years. Schiavi, a successful businessman and restauranteur for 20 years, hired Mollner to be Entertainment Director and Manager at Romeo's and calls him "a natural showman."

Romeo Schiavi has come a long way from his days as a successful dancer in a Las Vegas

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It's Back To Caesars Palace For Rodney Dangerfield Through March 16

Rodney Dangerfield is back in the Caesars Palace Circus Maximus showroom March 9-16, starring in nightly cocktail shows which also feature comic/impressionist Bob Nelson.

Dangerfield has received rave reviews for his starring roles in the films "Caddyshack," "Easy Money" and the current hit "Back to School." He also won a Grammy for his album "No Respect." His trademark red tie and white shirt are on display at the Smithsonian Institution in

That was 1962. Now, 25 years later, he is a successful businessman and restauranteur, evidenced by the enormous popularity of his new fine dining establishment, Romeo's Ristorante and Lounge, which opened in January at The Plazas on West Sahara.

"I think it's going in the right direction," says Schiavi, who was a dancer when he first arrived in Las Vegas from Italy, where his family owned a restaurant. "We've got the right people working for us, and our many friends who have dined here already say they really enjoy the food, the good prices and good atmosphere."

Schiavi, who spun away from the entertainment business when a management position opened at the old Cioppino Restaurant, has been a stalwart in the field of fine dining, having been captain in the showrooms of both the International (now Hilton) and MGM (now Bally's) Hotels before moving to San Diego to open his own restaurant. The restaurant, Portofino, was voted the No. 1 eating establishment in the San Diego area during his tenure.

Schiavi recently hired Duke Mollner as Entertainment Director and Manager of Romeo's. They met when they were both dancers, and Schiavi calls Moliner "a natural showman. I brought him in because you can't teach a person to be a host."

Pianist Steve Beyer will be Romeo's first live entertainer, performing along with female vocalist Barbara Blair for a two-week engagement beginning March 3. "Their romantic ballad-style music fits into what we want to provide for our patrons," explains Schiavi.

As for the future, Schiavi says he has invited guest chefs from Europe to introduce regional Italian cuisine to Romeo's customers. "They should be arriving during the summer, and then our friends are in for a real taste threat."

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On stage, Dangerfield is enjoying his second time around, though, this time with more success. He began writing jokes at age 15, and was reasonably successful from age 19-28. Then, he married, guit show business and decided to live a "normal" life. At age 40, the comic juices began stirring again, and Rodney made the decision to go back into comedy on a full-time

Ed Sullivan gave Dangerfield his first big break, signing him to appear on Sullivan's weekly TV variety show. Dozens of appearances on Johnny Carson's "Tonight Show" followed, and Dangerfield soon became one of the nation's top comedy headliners.

Bob Nelson's wit and celebrity impressions were featured on HBO's 1985 "Young Comedians Special," hosted by Dangerfield. A veterans of the nation's top comedy clubs, Nelson has also appeared on TV's "Late Night With David Letterman" and the NBC special "Sports Talk Looks at Sports Humor."

Dangerfield and Nelson will perform nightly cocktail shows in the Caesars Palace Circus Maximus Showroom. For reservations phone 702/731-7333 or 800/445-4544 (outside Nevada, within the U.S.).



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