



WELCOME THE MORNING *Quirky menu is a gourmet delight*

BY E.C. GLADSTONE

It's been a long time since Vegas has had one "scene" restaurant where *everyone* wants to be—quite frankly, there have been just too many great choices. But Simon at Palms Place has truly managed to capture the town's fancy with its whimsical, all-encompassing Sunday pajama brunch. On any particular weekend you are likely to see *Peepshow* star Holly Madison, local food critic John Curtas, other chef/restaurateurs like Paul Bartolotta or any number of visiting celebs at the feast. Kerry Simon, chef and ringleader, even "tweets" about his specials and guests!

And the best thing about Simon on Sundays isn't even the scenery (though the poolside setting is certainly pleasant). It really is the food. A tightrope walker's balance of weight and whimsy, guilt and granola, Simon's one-price brunch includes

both a buffet and hot dishes to order, and you'll want to explore all the options before digging in.

The first thing you encounter—after the cute servers in the morning-after wear of men's button-down shirts and boxers (pajamas really are the dress code here)—is a big display of corner-store candy. But resist that temptation until the end, and instead go straight to the Bloody Mary bar, one of the most impressive drink setups I've seen: You get your choice of vodka and Bloody Mary mix in a big tumbler with a lemon pepper rim, to which you are encouraged to add anything from the traditional celery stalk, ground horseradish and Tabasco sauce to chopped cilantro and parsley, pickled peppers, gherkins, giant beef sticks, several stuffed olives and more than a dozen

SIMON

PALMS PLACE,

SUNDAY BRUNCH: 10 A.M.-4 P.M., \$38, \$10 ADDITIONAL FOR UNLIMITED BLOODY MARYS, \$12 KIDS 12 AND UNDER; RESTAURANT: 7 A.M.-11 P.M. DAILY.

702.944.3292



Eggs Benedict and Bloody Mary

other hot-sauce options. If that isn't your flavor, there are certainly fine Bellinis or straight champagne to be savored, as well as fresh-blended fruit smoothies.

From there, you'll find all the usual suspects: Bagels with smoked salmon, trout and the trimmings; peel-and-eat shrimp (with a great sharp-sweet cocktail sauce), eggs Benedict, buttermilk pancakes, French toast (cornflake-crusted, with blueberries), even Fruit Loops and sticky buns. But have some fun: Try the breakfast pizza (egg, ham, bacon, cheese and gravy), the down-home deep-fried chicken breast and waffles, or the signature Simon omelet, oozing crabmeat, artichoke and Havarti cheese (with a crispy hash browns bird's nest).

And please, don't miss the pressed-to-order panini (blue cheese and fig jam, ham and fontina, or my favorite, pecorino and honeycomb), the pigs in blankets (sharp garlicky mini dogs coddled by sesame-seeded phyllo) or their signature spicy tuna over crispy sesame rice (with sweet eel sauce and sriracha). You could certainly restrain yourself and choose from the healthiest options—they will still bring you their "junk food" dessert: a platter of fancy takes on Rice Krispies treats, Snowballs, Hostess cakes and cotton candy.

If your weekend in Vegas hasn't quite found its memorable moment yet, go to Simon's Sunday brunch. It's waiting for you there. LVM