



Partnership between The Venetian and FishWise Boosts Seafood Sustainability on Las Vegas Strip

June 7, 2019

For World Oceans Day, June 8, non-profit sustainable seafood consultancy FishWise and The Venetian Resort Las Vegas announce a new partnership to monitor seafood sustainability at the iconic resort and convention center.

The new program will develop a comprehensive sustainable seafood strategy for the resort's food service operations, which include in-suite and team member dining, as well as catering and events in the resort's Congress Center and adjacent Sands Expo, according to a press release. In these areas, The Venetian Resort serves nearly 5 million meals every year.



The partnership will build upon the sustainability vision of parent company Las Vegas Sands Corp. and the four pillars of the Sands ECO360 Global Sustainability Strategy: green buildings, green meetings and events, stakeholder engagement and environmentally responsible operations.

“We are excited to gain a deeper understanding of our seafood product offerings through this partnership,” The Venetian Resort Las Vegas Executive Director of Sustainability Pranav Jampani said in a press release. “We look forward to celebrating the positive sustainability stories we already have in our operations, but also to working with our valued suppliers to implement changes where they are effective.”

In line with the fourth pillar of environmentally responsible operations, The Venetian is working with FishWise to collect data and conduct baseline environmental, traceability, and social risk assessments of its seafood purchases,” Jampani said. “Using the results, FishWise will help The Venetian prioritize areas of enhancement and develop a responsible seafood policy and procurement strategy.”

Phase two of the partnership will build on this by moving to implementation of the policies and procurement strategy, as well as deepening engagement in traceability, staff training, strategic communications and outreach on partnerships for action items. This plan taps into another key pillar of the ECO360 Strategy: stakeholder engagement.

“The Venetian Resort is committed to sustainability across every aspect of our operation, along the entire supply chain. In partnership with FishWise, we have the opportunity to make great strides toward ensuring all the seafood served from our kitchens comes from sustainable stock and is sourced responsibly,” The Venetian Resort Las Vegas Vice President of Culinary Operations Olivier Dubreuil said in the statement. “We hope to elevate sustainability standards, raise awareness among our guests and inspire other industry players to follow suit.”

In the convention center, Chef Olivier considers sustainability in every decision. In 2017, he and his team introduced Honest Food, a program that essentially revolutionized the culinary experience at the convention center's banquet operations. The program addressed the following areas: flexible and diverse menu options; local sourcing in a 450-mile radius; fresh sustainable ingredients, including partnerships with small producers; and waste reduction.

“Our guests are increasingly interested in where their food comes from and what it contains,” Chef Olivier said. “The FishWise audit is assisting us with our Honest Food goal of serving fresh and sustainable ingredients to our convention guests.”

Las Vegas receives more than 42 million visitors a year, including more than 7 million convention delegates, according to the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority. The Venetian Resort alone hosts nearly 25 of the world's 200 largest conventions in its meeting and exhibition spaces. As one of the most prolific resorts in Las Vegas, The Venetian holds a unique platform from which to demonstrate leadership on responsible business and leisure tourism.

“Seafood sustainability efforts have been evolving in other sectors, but there is still much work to be done in the hospitality industry,” Tobias Aguirre, Chief Executive Officer at FishWise, said in the press release. “It's exciting to see The Venetian, as a major player in their field, take up a leadership role.”

Photo: The Venetian Resort, Las Vegas. Credit: The Venetian

Susan Chambers
SeafoodNews.com
1-541-297-2875
susanchambers@urnerbarry.com

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