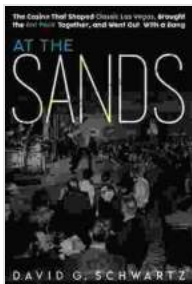


# The Casino That Shaped Classic Las Vegas, Brought the Rat Pack Together, and Went Up in Flames



**At the Sands: The Casino That Shaped Classic Las Vegas, Brought the Rat Pack Together, and Went Out with a Bang** by David G. Schwartz

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English  
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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
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In the heart of the Las Vegas Strip, where towering casinos and neon lights illuminate the night sky, there once stood a legendary landmark that played a pivotal role in shaping the city's modern era. The Sands Hotel and Casino, with its iconic Rat Pack performances and mobster connections, left an indelible mark on Las Vegas history before meeting a tragic end in a devastating fire.

## The Rise of the Sands

The Sands Hotel and Casino opened its doors in 1952, a time when Las Vegas was still a relatively small desert town. However, the Sands quickly

established itself as a major destination, thanks to its luxurious accommodations, world-class entertainment, and convenient location. The casino attracted high-rollers and celebrities alike, becoming a playground for the rich and famous.

One of the Sands' most famous attractions was its Copa Room, a legendary nightclub that hosted some of the biggest names in entertainment. Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, and Sammy Davis Jr. were among the many stars who performed at the Copa Room, forming the iconic Rat Pack. Their performances at the Sands helped to solidify Las Vegas' reputation as the entertainment capital of the world.

## **Mob Connections**

Behind the glitz and glamour of the Sands Hotel and Casino lay a darker secret. The casino was controlled by the Chicago Outfit, one of the most powerful organized crime syndicates in the United States. The mob used the Sands as a base of operations for their illegal activities, including gambling, money laundering, and prostitution.

The mob's involvement in the Sands Hotel and Casino was an open secret, and it added to the casino's allure. Many visitors were drawn to the Sands because of its reputation as a place where anything could happen. The mob's presence also gave the Sands an air of danger and excitement.

## **The Fire**

On June 21, 1967, the Sands Hotel and Casino was destroyed by a devastating fire. The fire started in the casino's basement and quickly spread throughout the building. Firefighters battled the blaze for hours, but they were unable to save the iconic landmark.

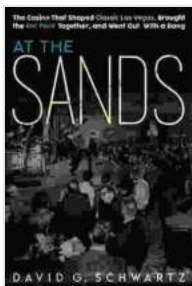
The fire at the Sands Hotel and Casino was a major tragedy. The casino was a beloved landmark and a significant part of Las Vegas history. The fire also caused millions of dollars in damage and forced the casino to close its doors permanently.

## Legacy

Although the Sands Hotel and Casino is gone, its legacy lives on. The casino played a pivotal role in shaping Las Vegas into the entertainment capital of the world. The Rat Pack's performances at the Sands helped to solidify Las Vegas' reputation as a major destination for entertainment. And the mob's involvement in the casino added to its allure.

Today, the site of the Sands Hotel and Casino is occupied by The Venetian Resort Hotel Casino. However, the Sands' legacy continues to live on in the stories of the stars who performed there, the mobsters who controlled it, and the unforgettable moments that unfolded within its walls.

The Sands Hotel and Casino was a legendary landmark that played a pivotal role in shaping Las Vegas into the city it is today. Its iconic Rat Pack performances, mobster connections, and tragic end have left an indelible mark on the city's history. Although the Sands is gone, its legacy continues to live on, reminding us of the glamorous and dangerous world of classic Las Vegas.



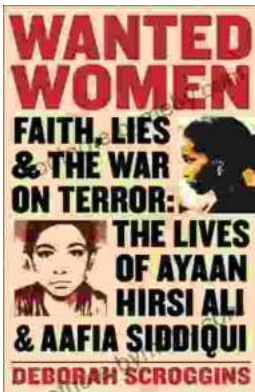
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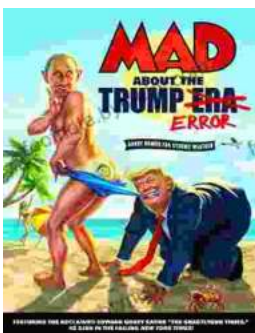
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