

# Las Vegas Weekly

## November 12 - 18, 2009



### WHO'S ON FIRST?

Don't ya just hate it when you're out partying, and you don't want to leave, but you're starving?! Strawberries swiped from a VIP table just aren't going to cut it. First Food & Bar at the Palazzo is already a great destination before heading to the club—or for late night/early morning post-party grubbing—but now you'll never have to leave.



Beginning next week, a lounge-y vibe will take over the bar and part of the restaurant on Mondays and Tuesdays. The party starts rocking at 11 p.m. with a free champagne bar for ladies until midnight.

Surfacing (or rather, resurfacing) at First is *Ménage Mondays* (previously held at CatHouse), with local house-music talent from resident DJs Brett Rubin, Jeff Retro, Marlon Florez and Freddy B. For the new Gen-X Tuesdays, prepare for a '70s, '80s and '90s flashback as DJs Michael Toast, McKenzie and Fuzion spin anything from rock and punk to new wave and hip-hop.

Now about that food. First will keep the kitchen going with a special late-night menu of creative American fare. In addition, \$150 bottles of Grey Goose will be available, and there's no cover charge for the parties that'll kick-start your week. See ya on November 16, when the party starts. We'll be the ones happily running back and forth between the party and a plate of fries.

### PIANO ENVY: A PEEK INSIDE PETE'S DUELING PIANO BAR

Two pianos are better than one. Plus there's a severe shortage of bar-wide "Greased Lightning" lyrics being shouted at the top of people's lungs in Vegas. "This is a throw-your-arm-around-your-neighbor-and-party-with-everybody place," says Richard Taylor. With his slight Texas drawl, the exuberant general manager of Pete's Dueling Piano Bar is exactly the kind of friendly guy you'd raise your glass with during a rousing chorus of "Piano Man."

Opening this Friday, and with a grand-opening celebration slated for November 18, Pete's will add some piano pizzazz to Town Square. The Dueling Piano Bar will be open for business Tuesday through Saturday, 4 p.m. to 4 a.m., with a happy hour from 4 to 7 p.m., though Taylor jokes, "Every hour is 'happy hour' at Pete's!"

As the first Pete's location outside of Texas, this fifth outpost focuses on two baby-grand pianos, front and center, with four players rotating throughout the night when the show officially begins at 8 p.m. (though before 8 there will still be live music). At the bottom of each hour, even the bartenders and wait staff get in on the entertaining, hopping up on the two bars and stage. But that doesn't mean the audience should attempt to take control of the mic or pianos and sing songs from *The Little* **49**



#### COCKTAIL OF THE WEEK THE FRENCH KISS

**INGREDIENTS:**  
0.5 oz. Dubonnet Rouge  
0.5 oz. Orange liqueur  
1.5 oz. London dry gin

**METHOD:**  
Combine ingredients (I recommend Cointreau orange liqueur and Plymouth gin) in a mixing glass over ice. Stir and strain into a chilled cocktail glass. Garnish with a lemon twist. (I prefer an orange twist.)

Party like it's 1846 with my very favorite kind of kiss. A fortified blend of Barbera and Carignane wines, herbs, spices and peels, Dubonnet Aperitif Wine had its humble beginnings as a way of making quinine more palatable for soldiers battling malaria in North Africa. But today it does equally important work preparing the palate for dinner with its bracing bitterness and fairly sweet finish. The French Kiss is a more gentle if not gentle iteration of Dubonnet's eponymous cocktail of equal parts gin and Dubonnet, and finished with a splash of orange bitters, circa 1914.

—Xaria Woodman

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**48** Mermaid (yes, we mean you, *Weekly* contributor Rick Lax). "We want to let the entertainers do the entertaining," Taylor says. "It's not a karaoke bar; it's a sing-along bar."

Taylor says it's a very energetic show, and wants customers out of their chairs, clapping and laughing. "Some people get the impression that a piano bar is kind of a lounge act, sitting back, sipping your drink. This is a driving entertainment show. People come here to celebrate."

For more on Pete's Dueling Piano Bar, visit [LasVegasWeekly.com](http://LasVegasWeekly.com).