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HIGHLANDER

Lifestyle Magazine for the MacDonald Highlands Community



Summer 2025

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It's In Season Catering's Guava-Glazed Berkshire Pork Belly served at our Founder's Day Event.

Read about it on Page 16.
Credit: M Place Photography

THE HIGHLANDER

Lifestyle Magazine for the MacDonald Highlands Community

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FOUR SEASONS
PRIVATE RESIDENCES
LAS VEGAS

AN AZURE, LUXUS AND
TWO ROADS DEVELOPMENT

QUARTERLY CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

**Brad Meltzer, Partner and
President of Two Roads
Development**

On behalf of our development team—including our valued partners at Azure and Luxus Developments—I'm pleased to share the first installment of our construction updates.

We're excited to report that the site is now fully active. Suffolk Construction, one of the nation's premier builders, is mobilized and operational. With the building permit issued and the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) finalized, we have officially commenced work on the site. Installation of micro piles is underway at the location of what will become the North Tower.

Our design team—featuring WATG, Wimberly Interiors, DeSimone Consulting Engineers, and EXP—is among the very best in their respective fields. From the project's earliest planning stages to its eventual completion, our commitment remains focused on delivering exceptional quality at every step.

We look forward to keeping you informed with regular updates. Stay tuned for our next construction progress report in the upcoming quarterly edition.



SCAN TO
DISCOVER
MORE!

Four
Seasons
Residences
Las Vegas
Renderings.



FROM THE DEVELOPER

Richard C. MacDonald

I would like to thank everyone for the best wishes, prayers and flowers for Claire on her recent stroke. She is back walking around and except for a prohibition from flying for a couple of months, she is back and doing well.

Our remaining lots and sales are in, finally. These lots all have strip views that will knock your socks off. I have mentioned this previously, but if you have been thinking about getting an incredible view lot for your dream home, you now have 12 or so choices left. When those are gone, prices will escalate, which happens when individuals resell, so you need to act while you have options.

The club remodeling is almost completed, except for the card room. Construction has begun on a wine cellar there. This is an area for your wine storage, your smaller intimate parties and wine tastings. We expect this room to be completed by the fall.

Many of you have been asking about our 3rd gate, which will be at the end of Viento Puntero Drive (midway between Stephanie and Gibson roads). The good news is that we have received our city approvals and once our utilities are completed, we will be able to begin construction. This will take some of the construction traffic off Stephanie and move it east. At some point, we will make changes to the Stephanie gate to improve it and, in the future, it will be primarily for residential access only.

It is quite rewarding to see our custom homes climbing the MacDonald Mountain. The plan is coming to fruition, and I cannot tell you how rewarding it is to see. The next 3 years will move our community toward completion, and while we do love construction, it will be pleasant to have most of this finished and just enjoy the community we have built.

The big question has been, "what's next"? Well, Four Seasons will be completed in 2 years which will substantially increase the quality of our community. By the time you get this, the huge construction loan will have funded that will enable us to complete the construction of the towers. While most of you have not seen all the construction going on, for the last year all the grading and infrastructure has been ongoing.

Our new development in Utah is also starting up. It is a mid-range community of about 550 units with many amenities. St. George, Utah has been the fastest growing area for several years. Our New Harmony Ranch development will consist of 4 builder pads, several hundred custom lots, tennis, pickle ball, riding stable, a fishing lake, and some commercial. It should be a fun little development.

Claire and I are looking forward to seeing you at the club. Enjoy your summer somewhere cool and we will see you when you return in the fall.

HOA LETTER

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

and Summer Watering Information

Dori Sampson

It is that time of year to focus on property maintenance. One item that has been identified needing attention on our regular community inspections is fence maintenance/painting. When discussing fence maintenance, this refers to any rear, side or front yard fencing you may have on your property, which is your responsibility as a homeowner to maintain, repair and replace. Over time, your fencing becomes faded, rusted, and can even start to crumble from water penetration, so it is imperative you take a look at your property fencing for necessary maintenance.

The Association approved color for your fencing is Foothills Mahogany through Sherwin Williams (450HS, Foothills Mahogany). You can purchase paint from any Sherwin Williams with this color information, but a location close to you, where the master color scheme is located, is at the Sherwin Williams located at 191 N. Pecos Rd., Henderson, NV 89074. Their phone number is (702) 260-3300. Painting your fencing any other color is not allowed without prior approval from the ARC Committee.

It is also the time of year to start planning your Palm trimming. Palms are best suited to be trimmed and have their fruit removed during the months of late May – August, so please contact your landscaper or trees service provider to have your Palms placed on their schedule for trimming. Slots book quickly, so it is better to contact them now to secure your spot.

With the change of seasons upon us, we would also like to remind you of the Summer watering restrictions in effect through August 31 through the SNWA. The seasonal restrictions prohibit landscape irrigation between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday (Sunday watering is prohibited year-round), when water can be lost to intense heat and high winds. To avoid water loss, the SNWA recommends you water your landscape in the early morning hours before sunrise to reduce evaporation.

While landscape irrigation is permitted six days a week, the SNWA Conservation Manager advises watering landscapes fewer days per week may in fact promote healthy plants, trees and shrubs. He states that over watering plants can do more harm than good, and drought-tolerant plants only need thorough watering once or twice per week and true desert plants may go weeks between waterings, even in summer heat.

Exceptions to the mandatory season restrictions include hand-watering using a hose with a positive

shut-off nozzle, supervised sprinkler system testing, and watering new or reseeded landscapes for up to 30 days. In addition, allowing water to spray or flow off your property is considered water waste and may result in a water-waste fee. The seasonal restrictions apply to both turf and drip irrigation. To learn more about how often and how long to water, and for other important landscape watering tips, visit snwa.com.

We hope you find this information useful, and wish you a happy, safe & relaxing summer!

Home Owners Association

The community association is led by a five person Board of Directors which protects and enhances MacDonald Highlands. Its duties include many responsibilities, such as maintenance of community assets and the operation of the community itself, creation of annual budgets and design review implementation and construction oversight.

HOA Board Members

Paul Bykowski, President

Rich MacDonald, Vice President

Gene Raper, Secretary

Jeff Spivack, Treasurer

Nancy Storey, Director

RPMG, Inc. assists the HOA Board in its quarterly meetings. The Architectural Review Committee assists homeowners in remodeling their homes. Any changes to existing homes must be approved by the Design Review Committee.

For any other forms or documents you may need, visit: www.rpmginc.com.

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DRAAGONRIDGE

member spotlight



WELCOME COACH JOSH PASTNER AND FAMILY TO MACDONALD HIGHLANDS

Meghann Trager, Assistant General Manager

If you've ever wondered what it looks like to juggle a high-profile coaching career, a bustling household of six, and still find time to run up the mountains and ride a spin bike — meet Josh Pastner. The new head coach of UNLV Men's Basketball recently made MacDonald Highlands home along with his wife Kerri and their four children: daughters Harper, Kamryn, Payten, and son Cason.

"We're just really down-to-earth people," Josh said. "We love being at home, hanging out, going out to eat, and watching shows together. That's really what we enjoy most — just spending time as a family."

The Pastners have moved around with Josh's career, from Memphis to Atlanta and now Las Vegas. Their three daughters were born in Memphis while Josh was head coach at the University of Memphis, and Cason arrived in Atlanta during his time at Georgia Tech. While their schedules stay packed, they keep things simple when it comes to day-to-day life.

"We're definitely a take-out family," Josh said with a laugh. "With the kids' busy schedules, it just

makes sense. If we are cooking, Kerri's the chef. I can make cereal... and that's about it."

Kerri and Josh met at the University of Arizona, where Josh played and coached basketball and was part of the 1997 National Championship team. "She was working at a bank, we met through a mutual friend, and the rest is history," he said. "She's my best friend and my right hand. She's awesome."

What brought them to MacDonald Highlands? A mix of practicality and community. "The proximity to the airport and UNLV is great, but it's more than that. It's beautiful, the people seem great, and we love that it's a real family neighborhood. With four kids, that was really important for us."

Josh is also excited to be a part of DragonRidge Country Club. "Anyone who knows me knows I love to eat — and I can eat a lot," he joked. "So I'm definitely excited for the restaurants. But I'm also really looking forward to the gym, getting to know other families, and just being around people. The minimums every 6 months for food and beverage won't be a problem in our house with as much food as I eat, even though I do like healthy options."



When I first called Josh to ask him about this article, he answered right away — even though he had just wrapped up practice. You could hear the sound of sneakers squeaking and players shuffling in the background as he encouraged his athletes to hydrate and finish strong. It was clear: he's all-in, whether it's family, basketball, or community.

Now entering his 15th season as a head coach, Josh brings a wealth of experience from Memphis, Georgia Tech, and now UNLV. He played and worked for the legendary Lute Olson at Arizona and later coached under John Calipari before stepping into leadership roles of his own. He's also worked with major networks like ESPN, CBS Sports, Turner, and NBC/Peacock.

Josh's coaching philosophy is rooted in three simple but powerful words: motor, discipline, and drive. "Motor is about giving 100 percent effort 100 percent of the time. Discipline means knowing your job and doing your job. And drive is that internal/self motivation to get the job done. I also really believe in alignment — everyone in our program needs to be aligned what is most important to me and that is Competitive excellence in everything."

He's high energy, no question — but also grounded in gratitude. "Every breath is a gift. Every heartbeat is a gift. Every day is a gift," Josh said. "There are a lot of things I might not be good at, but one thing I feel I am good at is recognizing every second of every day how fragile and precious life is. I don't take any of it for granted."

That mindset shows up in his admiration for everyday heroes. "All first responders are heroes,

law enforcement, firefighters, paramedics, military members, nurses, doctors, etc.. — people who risk their lives for others. Pat Tillman is a hero of mind. He left the NFL to join the US Army after 9/11 and died in the line of duty. There's an organization called the Carnegie Hero Fund that honors people who save people at great personal risk. Read the stories about people helping others without ever knowing them and at times people losing their lives to save others. It is an incredible organization that honors heroes."

And while he's incredibly driven professionally — earning both his bachelor's and master's degrees in just seven semesters, without ever taking any summer school or any credits coming into school, — he's also quite low-maintenance. "A neat fact about me is I've never had a soda in my life. Not even a sip," he said. "My parents didn't give it to me growing up, and I just stuck with it just saying this is cool to tell people that I never had a soda."

The Pastners are excited to build their next chapter here in Henderson. They're looking forward to meeting more families, getting involved in the community, and of course, bringing a little Rebel spirit to the neighborhood.

"We're so excited to be here. I hope MacDonald Highlands becomes a big contingent for UNLV basketball," Josh said with a smile. "UNLVtickets.com — just putting that out there!"

And he's not kidding. We'll be planning some member outings this season to cheer on the Rebels, so be on the lookout for more info and some fantastic events!

Let's give the Pastners a warm welcome—and go Rebels!



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MACDONALD HIGHLANDS LUXURY REAL ESTATE

MARKET REPORT Q2 2025

Kristen Routh-Silberman, MacDonald Highlands Master Listing Agent

The below excerpts from recent article by NAR Chief Economist Lawrence Yun sum up my thoughts on what's happening in The Las Vegas Real Estate Market very well

(June 3, 2025) – National Association of Realtors® Chief Economist Lawrence Yun said “The housing market remains very difficult at the moment, as you know,” Yun told a ballroom of real estate professionals. “Part of the delay in recovery is because the Federal Reserve has changed its outlook and appears to be on pause for a longer period.”

In 2024, the Federal Reserve previously forecast that gross domestic product would increase 2.1% and inflation would rise by 2.4%, but it downgraded that forecast in March 2025, lessening its forecast for GDP to rise by only 1.7% and raising its inflation forecast to 2.7%.

“The fast ascent of mortgage rates has really hurt the real estate market,” Yun added.

When it comes to the housing market Yun explained to the audience, “Your past clients are all happy. But for new home buyers, their monthly payment obligation has increased, and this is what's killing the housing market. Mortgage rates are the magic bullet, and we're waiting and waiting until those come down.”

Yun explained that inflation was at 2.3% in April, slightly higher than the Federal Reserve's 2.0% implicit target, stating, “We're not there yet, but we're very close. The Fed will cut interest rates once inflation is fully under control.”

Regarding the housing market, Yun stated, “Home sales have been very difficult over the past two years. We've had the lowest home sales in 30 years for two consecutive years.”

“There's a light at the end of the tunnel based on recent rises in mortgage applications to buy a home,” Yun added optimistically.”

TOP REAL ESTATE TRENDS & NEWS

1 in 3 Baby Boomers Say They'll Never Sell Their Home

A Redfin-commissioned survey found that 33.5% of baby boomers who own homes say they'll never sell, and another 30% plan to hold on for at least a decade. Many cite emotional attachment, nearly paid-off mortgages, or unaffordable

replacement homes as reasons for staying put—trends that contribute to tight inventory for younger buyers. With most boomers occupying single-family homes, their reluctance to move limits access to family-sized housing, despite a market shift favoring buyers and a projected 1% drop in home prices by late 2025.

In another sign of a buyer's market, fewer homes are selling above asking price

Just 28% of U.S. homes sold above asking price in early June—the lowest spring level since 2020—signaling a clear shift toward a buyer's market. Pending sales dropped 1.1% year over year, and fewer homes are going under contract quickly, with only 37.6% selling within two weeks. Redfin says buyers now have more negotiating power, with many sellers accepting lower offers and offering concessions to close deals.

Fed leaves interest rates unchanged again in widely expected move

The Federal Reserve held interest rates steady at 4.25%–4.5% in June, citing solid labor conditions and still-elevated inflation, while signaling possible rate cuts later in 2025. Fed Chair Jerome Powell emphasized the uncertainty caused by new tariffs and reiterated the Fed's focus on restoring price stability amid concerns of stagflation. Despite political pressure from President Trump, the Fed remains cautious, noting that high mortgage rates and a long-term housing shortage persist.



TOP 10 HOME SALES IN ALL LAS VEGAS HIGHEST SALES							
JANUARY 1- JUNE 19TH, 2025 SALE YTD	SF	BED	BATH	CAR	YEAR	SP/SF	SOLD PRICE
3 Stoneshead Ct	10,459	6	8	6	2024	\$1557	\$16,250,000
48 Augusta Canyon Wy	18,210	8	13	6	2020	\$851	\$15,500,000
14 Magic Stone Ln	14,322	6	10	6	2020	\$1,026	\$14,700,00
9409 Kings Gate Ct	17,643	7	9	7	2050	\$811	\$14,325,000
19 Flying Cloud Ln	12,445	5	8	4	2013	\$1085	\$13,500,000
591 Cityview Ridge Dr	8,364	5	7	5	2024	\$1249	\$10,450,000
505 Dragon Gate Ct	9,160	5	8	11	2020	\$927	\$8,500,000
649 Dragon Peak Dr	7,018	4	6	4	2023	\$1196	\$8,400,000
631 Cityview Ridge Dr	7,449	5	7	4	2022	\$1073	\$8,050,000
11 Anthem Pointe Ct	14,703	7	13	8	2008	\$531	\$7,800,000

*MacDonald Highlands Properties Highlighted



The Vegas Luxury Market

As of May 31, 2025, there were 171 sales of \$1 million and above in May, 11 fewer than April and one fewer than the 172 sales in May 2024.

As of May 31, 2025, there have been 810 luxury sales, 7.5 percent higher than the 752 in the first five months of 2024. There are 199 pending sales of \$1 million and higher.

As of May 31, 2025, the higher end of the market slowed down. There were only six sales of \$4 million and higher in May. That's down from 14 in 2024 and 11 in 2023.

As we get ready to Celebrate The 4th of July, Let's Salute Nevada – The Land of the Free !MacDonald Highlands -The Home of the Brave !

The MacDonald Highlands sales team would love to show you some of the finest lots and views in Las Vegas! The Real Estate Sales Office is located in the Clubhouse next to the Pro-Shop and is Open Tues-Sun 10a-5p and always open by appointment.

See you at the MacDonald Highlands Real Estate Sales Office.

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Henderson Market Report

LUXURY SEGMENT SIM+ MAY 2025

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Las Vegas Valley Market Report

LUXURY SEGMENT SIM+ MAY 2025

Median Sales Price		
May 2025	May 2024	Percent YoY
\$1,375,000	\$1,587,500	-15.4%
Average Price per SF		
May 2025	May 2024	Percent YoY
\$459	\$475	-3.3%
Properties Sold		
May 2025	May 2024	Percent YoY
36	42	-14.3%
Days on Market		
May 2025	May 2024	Percent YoY
54	35	+54.0%

Median Sales Price		
May 2025	May 2024	Percent YoY
\$1,345,000	\$1,437,000	-6.4%
Average Price per SF		
May 2025	May 2024	Percent YoY
\$428	\$457	-6.4%
Properties Sold		
May 2025	May 2024	Percent YoY
152	156	-2.6%
Days on Market		
May 2025	May 2024	Percent YoY
45	34	+32.0%



Kristen Routh-Silberman, MBA, REALTOR
 #1 Las Vegas, #1 Nevada, #39 Nationally
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SWINGING INTO SUMMER

Summer Tee Times, Gear Tips & Events at DragonRidge

Gerry Montiel, PGA Director of Golf

It's officially summer time! I'm finally starting to get settled in getting to know many of our members. The staff did a great job in getting me through the crazy spring and we were able to survive and had very successful events. Thank you to all of our golf event participants and a special thank you to everyone who has made me feel very welcome. I encourage everyone to continue to introduce themselves and say hello if I haven't already met you!

GET FITTED!

We had a few very successful demo days and will have several more in the fall. Until then, please utilize our staff and our performance center to get fitted. Schedule a fitting with one of our staff members even if its just to get your "swing DNA". Knowing your exact swing speeds and angles will help us know if you're optimized with your current clubs and hopefully we can squeeze out some extra yards out of your unique swings!

APPAREL AND CLUBS / MERCHANDISE!

We have an array of premier golf brands in the golf shop and we encourage you to check with us before running down to any of the big box stores. Many of you have shop credit already and please note we have similar (if not better) pricing on all of our merchandise. If we don't have something in stock, we can special-order just about anything from just about any golf brands and even get our

logo on it with a very quick turn-around. Come see me or Rylie to get your special orders in. We will continue to tweak our orders for stock based on special orders and current inventories. Ladies apparel is top on our list and whenever possible, please let us know what brands you like. We've been placing orders for the Fall already but can adjust based on needs.

HELP LUKE HEADLEY!

We all know Luke (Superintendent) is in survival mode for the summer so please help with filling divots and raking your footprints in the bunkers. He's doing a great job with handling our water restrictions and obviously focusing on keeping the greens healthy and smooth. Fix your ball marks whenever possible!

UPCOMING EVENTS

July

7/3: Summer Series Begins

7/4: Fire Cracker Scramble

August

8/9: Summer Scorcher

September

9/4: Summer Series Ends



The DragonSlayer

Champions: Mike Trump & Matt Donovan
 Runner up: Ralph Barletta & Sri Myneni
 3rd Place: Brian Edwards & Alex Hancock

Men's Match Play

Champion
 Caleb Clemons
 Runner up
 Erik Kirschner

Member-Pro

1st - Brian Wedderspoon / Ron Maurice / Jorge Morales / Brendan Cobb
 2nd - Brad Elliott / Shane Harley / John Manni / Gerry Montiel
 3rd - Mark Donadio / Jeff Kinsler / Tina Kunzer-Murphy / Patrick Hanley
 4th Pat Welby / Eric Rietz / Lester Krawitt / Jason Edmiston



Diamonds & Dragons

Net Champions: Cindy Kang / Sarah Kim / Jin Lee / Kay Hwang
 Gross Champions: Tina Mabanta-Hazard / Melissa Hoffman / Katelyn McCullough / Rachael Sigsbee

Men's Member-Member

1st: Ryan Davidson & Paul Sallach
 2nd: Jim Reilly & Max Reilly
 3rd: Mike Trump & Dean Aaron



Club Championship

Overall Gross Champion - Ben Itterman
 Cobalt Gross Champion - Neal Yung
 Men's Senior Gross Champion - Stephan Gordan
 Super Senior Gross Champion - Jeff Spivack
 Ladies Gross Champion - Debbie Love
 Ladies Net Champion - Sandy Barletta

Hole In One Club

Ray Beeghly
 14th Hole
 Paul Buchi
 5th Hole
 Ken Young
 5th Hole

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BETTER GOLF, MORE FUN: HOW TO ADD BACKSPIN IN SHORT GAME



Jason Edmiston, PGA Director of Instruction

One of the most common questions I get from players is “How do I get my short game shots to spin like the pros?”. While a high-spin shot isn't always the best option depending on the scenario, there's no question it's a useful shot to have in your short game arsenal.

So let's start by listing the major factors which influence backspin:

- 1. Clubhead speed**
- 2. Friction**
- 3. Spin Loft**

Clubhead speed is typically going to be at low or moderate levels in short game, so we don't get a lot of help here. This makes the remaining two factors even more critical in short game if we want to enhance backspin.

Friction describes the interaction between the cover of the golf ball and the metal face of the club. Using a golf ball with a softer cover (usually urethane) helps increase spin. Keeping the clubface and grooves clean and dry will also enhance friction and increase spin. If you take practice swings, carry a towel so you can wipe down the club prior to hitting your shot.

Spin Loft is a term which has become popular in the launch monitor era. It's roughly defined as the difference between the dynamic loft of the clubface at impact and the club's angle of attack at impact. That may sound a bit technical and complicated, so let's look at a some examples to help simplify things:



EXAMPLE A

Player is using a 56 degree wedge but arrives at impact with only 48 degrees of loft due to the club face being slightly closed and the shaft leaning toward target. Player hits slightly down on the ball for an attack angle of minus 4 degrees. The spin loft in this example is 52 degrees (the angle difference between 48 and minus 4).



EXAMPLE B

Player is using a 56 degree wedge and arrives at impact with 56 degrees of loft. Player hits down on the ball for an attack angle of minus 6 degrees. The spin loft in this example is 62 degrees (the angle difference between 56 and minus 6).



EXAMPLE C

Player is using a 56 degree wedge but arrives at impact with 66 degrees of loft due to playing the shot with an open clubface. Player hits down on the ball for an attack angle of minus 6 degrees. The spin loft in this example is 72 degrees (the angle difference between 66 and minus 6).

As we move from spin lofts of 52 to 62 to 72 in these examples, the amount of backspin created will increase significantly. By the time we get to 72 degrees the ball will start to check up and stop very quickly when it lands.

A simple way to summarize all of this? Strike the shot with a downward angle of attack and a lofted clubface if you want to generate more backspin.

Of course, changing these variables will come with side effects, and you'll need to work through things like alignment, swing direction, ball contact, turf interaction and distance control during your practice time. My advice is to practice with an experimental mindset and remember that you can learn just as much from bad shots as you can from good ones. After all, that's what practice time is for!

If you have any questions about this topic, or any other area of your golf game, please feel free to contact me at 702-354-1387.



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A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

*Celebrating 25 years
of DragonRidge
& Rich MacDonald's
80th Birthday*

Ashley Powell





DragonRidge Country Club recently celebrated a milestone 25 years in the making—and the 80th birthday of its founder, Rich MacDonald. The evening was a tribute to the legacy of innovation, perseverance, and community that helped shape not only the Club but the entire MacDonald Highlands community. It all started back in the 1970s, when Rich MacDonald began acquiring rugged hillside land that most considered unbuildable. With vision and determination, he transformed those hills into a world-class residential enclave, known today for its modern design, architectural integrity, and elevated lifestyle.

The anniversary celebration brought together members, guests, and some of Las Vegas' top culinary talent for a night of delicious flavor and festive energy.





Guests were treated to a variety of dishes including Truffle Tuna Carpaccio from Akira Back, Wagyu Beef Tartare and Grilled Spanish Octopus from Antidote Las Vegas, and hearty Italian classics from Chef's Roma Kitchen. It's In Season Catering wowed with fresh seasonal fare, including a Modern Caprese, Vegan Curry Pani Puri, and a guava-glazed Berkshire Pork Belly. Chef Roman Allen presented a show-stopping Potato Pave with shrimp mousse, while DragonRidge's own culinary team served Wagyu Banh Mi Sliders, Wild Boar Ragù, a vibrant Salmon Tart, and kid-friendly Baked Mac n Cheese with Fried Chicken Bites. For dessert, guests enjoyed a colorful assortment of shooters by Las Vegas Custom Cakes—dark chocolate, raspberry mascarpone, tropical flavors, and more. Melissa's Agua Fresca added a refreshing touch throughout the evening.

Live performances by The Full Betsy and the Lon Bronson Band kept the dance floor lively, while guests took home commemorative DragonRidge golf coins and watched a stunning fireworks finale light up the night sky.

The evening was more than a party—it was a celebration of the dream Rich MacDonald brought to life. And as DragonRidge looks ahead, it continues to embrace the values that built it: excellence, community, and innovation.



CHEF AKIRA BACK



Akira Back, the name that is synonymous for cutting edge cuisine and exquisite taste in the restaurant and hospitality industry. A first-class and world-renowned idealist who is a revered chef and has triumphantly built a global empire over the past two decades spawning 30

locations operating around the world with more on the horizon. In addition to his lengthy resume and accolades that continue to mount, Back is persistently on the forefront of innovation and artistry having won a Michelin Star for his Korean concept, Dosa, in both London and Seoul.

Born in Seoul, Korea and raised in Aspen, Colorado, Akira Back moved to the rocky mountain state as a young teenager for his father to pursue the family business. Living in Aspen, Back picked up snowboarding as a hobby which led him to pursue the professional circuit where he appeared in a handful of extreme sports movies and garnered praise from the sports top trade publications. During this time, Back began working at a local Japanese restaurant to supplement his income. After seven years on the pro-snowboarding circuit, Back realized that he felt the same thrill in the kitchen as he did on his board, shaping his decision to pursue a full-time culinary career.

Chef Back has created a diverse portfolio of restaurants and lounges around the globe which pride themselves on creating innovative culinary experiences combined with a social atmosphere and elegant ambiance. Combining his passions for adventure, travel and culinary exploration, Back studied throughout the world, establishing the framework of his technique and amplifying his knowledge of Asian cooking, allowing him to incorporate his artistic vision and Korean heritage.

His restaurants span the globe in cities including London, Paris, Beverly Hills, Dubai, Tenerife, San Francisco, Riyadh, Toronto, Singapore and Seoul. With new locations on the cusp in Rome, Taipei, Hong Kong, Montana, Red Sea, Florence and more.

Website: www.akiraback.com

Instagram: [@chefakiraback](https://www.instagram.com/chefakiraback)

ANTIDOTE



Born from resilience and rooted in friendship, Antidote LV is a Las Vegas-based culinary venture founded by Chopped Champion Thomas Tapat, Executive Chef Alvin Layugan, and business partner Cal. The three friends—each with a strong background working on the Las Vegas Strip—came together during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic to turn adversity into opportunity.



What began as a pop-up evolved into a full-fledged

food truck, quickly capturing the attention of locals with its fresh, made-to-order island comfort food. For nearly four years, Antidote LV operated on wheels, building a loyal following thanks to its bold flavors, modern twists, and commitment to quality.

In 2023, the trio opened their first brick-and-mortar location in west Las Vegas, bringing their vision to life in a permanent space. Specializing in Hawaiian and Filipino-inspired dishes, Antidote offers a menu that's inventive, satisfying, and always cooked fresh. Fan favorites like the Spicy Salmon Bombs and Wagyu Beef Tartare showcase their culinary creativity, while their signature motto—"The cure to all your cravings"—remains a promise they consistently deliver.

Whether you're a longtime fan or a first-time visitor, Antidote LV guarantees a memorable dining experience that blends comfort, innovation, and community.

Website: www.antidotelv.com

Instagram: [@antidotelv](https://www.instagram.com/antidotelv)



CHEF RICARDO ROMO

Chef Ricardo Romo, co-owner of Chef's Roma Kitchen, brings over two decades of culinary experience, having worked in renowned restaurants from Martha's Vineyard to The Cosmopolitan and Aria in Las Vegas. His restaurants in Henderson and Southern Highlands offer traditional Italian fare in inviting, upscale settings that reflect his passion for authenticity and excellence.

Website: www.chefsromakitchen.com

Instagram: [@chefsromakitchenlv](https://www.instagram.com/chefsromakitchenlv)

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Website: www.itsinseason.com | Instagram: [@its_in_season](https://www.instagram.com/its_in_season)



CHEF ROMAN ALLEN SARMIENTO

Chef Roman Allen Sarmiento's culinary journey is driven by a deep love of food, culture, and creativity. After exploring paths in engineering, fitness, and the arts, he found his calling in the kitchen upon relocating to Las Vegas. Drawn to Japanese culture and anime, Roman saw becoming a sushi chef as the closest modern equivalent to being a samurai.

He trained under acclaimed chefs Akira Back, Jonathan Li, and Taka San at Yellowtail, where he gained global experience and honed his craft. Known for his innovative spirit and dedication to quality, Chef Roman has since led multiple culinary ventures, always infusing his dishes with bold flavors, heart, and imagination. From mystery omakase boxes to sake brand launches, his approach continues to celebrate the artistry of food and the joy of dining.

Instagram: [@chefromanallen_'s](https://www.instagram.com/chefromanallen_'s)



LAS VEGAS CUSTOM CAKES

Las Vegas Custom Cakes is a premier luxury bakery specializing in bespoke cakes and gourmet desserts for weddings, milestone celebrations, and high-end events. Known for its impeccable artistry, bold flavor profiles, and exceptional service, the bakery has become a go-to destination for locals and visitors alike who seek show-stopping sweets with a personal touch. From towering wedding cakes to whimsical birthday creations, every dessert is handcrafted with elegance and intention. With a focus on quality, creativity, and community, Las Vegas Custom Cakes continues to sweeten life's most unforgettable moments.

Website: www.lasvegascustomcakes.com

Instagram: [@lasvegascustomcakes](https://www.instagram.com/lasvegascustomcakes)





SERVING UP A SMASH *Spring Tennis Highlights & What's Next*

Adam Barr

Spring was a smashing success for the DragonRidge tennis community! From April through June, we saw a surge in participation, competitive wins, and exciting program additions. Several of our teams made it all the way to Districts, which was a huge testament to the dedication and energy of our players and coaches.

We introduced new programming, including popular evening drop-feed clinics and enhancements to our morning drop-ins, bringing more structure and energy to every session. Monday Night Live Ball continued to be a hit—pairing competitive rally play with upbeat music and an incredible community vibe.

Our junior program experienced strong growth this spring, with new players joining and thriving. We kicked off summer with Tuesday/Thursday youth sessions, which have been a blast—despite the heat! Summer camps are also in full swing, offering young players the opportunity to train, play, and grow on and off the court.

Big news on the staff front: Freddy was named Head Pro, and we're thrilled to welcome Coach William Crawford to the team. Their combined expertise and passion are already elevating our programming.

We also launched several specialty workshops and bootcamps, adding variety and deeper training opportunities. While our Cinco de Mayo mixer was unfortunately rained out, the event we held in partnership with Audi and Lamborghini was a huge success, setting the tone for future luxury-sponsored events.

A major highlight of the season was our new partnership with Wilson. In addition to outfitting us

with high-performance apparel and gear, Wilson helped us host an unforgettable clinic featuring world No. 1 Matt Walrider on the stadium court. Great tennis, great turnout, and fantastic giveaways—truly a night to remember!

Looking ahead, the summer season is packed with more exciting programming. On June 13, we're hosting our Wimbledon White Event, again sponsored by Lamborghini and Audi. Expect a themed celebration complete with a mini grass court, social play, and some fun surprises.

Our Summer Tennis Slam—a self-scheduled round robin tournament—will culminate in a finals celebration in late August. As we move into fall, we'll roll out new workshops and bootcamps, as well as relaunch our junior program in mid-August as school gets back in session.

Mark your calendars for our U.S. Open Mixer on September 5, followed by league play through fall. We're hopeful many of our teams will qualify for Districts—and even Sectionals—in October.

Also coming this fall:

A Beginner Racket Sports Program for adults interested in learning the basics of tennis or pickleball

Friday Night Junior Match Play, starting in September

The return of our Halloween Mixer, Friendsgiving Tennis, and Holiday Socials

There's a lot happening on the courts at DragonRidge—and we're just getting started. Whether you're brand new to tennis or chasing championship titles, there's something here for every player. We can't wait to see you out there!

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A DESTINATION TRAVEL UNFORGETTABLE ESCAPES

Paige MacDonald

When I'm helping clients plan their next dream vacation, Virtuoso resorts are often at the top of my list. These properties go beyond just five-star amenities — they offer curated, intimate experiences with elevated service, insider perks, and thoughtful details you won't find just anywhere. With me as your travel advisor, you will also receive special Virtuoso amenities. Whether you're planning a romantic getaway for two or a memory-making trip with the whole family, the right resort can make all the difference. Here are my top 5 Virtuoso resorts for couples looking to connect — and for families who want to play, relax, and explore together.

PAIGE'S TOP 5 VIRTUOSO RESORTS FOR COUPLES

1. Jade Mountain – St. Lucia This is the kind of place you don't just visit — you feel it. With open-air sanctuaries, infinity pools in every suite, and panoramic views of the Pitons and Caribbean Sea, Jade Mountain is pure romance. There are no TVs or distractions, just nature, peace, and serious wow-factor. Perfect for honeymoons or milestone anniversaries.



2. Aman Venice – Italy Set in a 16th-century palazzo right on the Grand Canal, Aman Venice feels like stepping into a dream. It's ultra-private, with only 24 rooms, and the service is both intuitive and discreet. Sip Prosecco in the garden, glide down the canal in a gondola, and soak up every ounce of this decadent escape.

3. Four Seasons Resort Bora Bora – French Polynesia There's something magical about overwater bungalows, and Bora Bora nails it every time. The Four Seasons is a stunner — crystal-clear lagoons, jaw-dropping sunsets, and impeccable service. It's the ultimate backdrop for reconnecting, celebrating, or just getting away from it all.

4. Post Ranch Inn – Big Sur, California For a nature-filled, adults-only retreat that doesn't require a passport, Post Ranch Inn is one of my go-tos. Perched high above the Pacific, this eco-luxury resort blends rustic charm with upscale comfort. It's all about slow mornings, cliffside hot tubs, and stargazing at night.

5. Royal Mansour – Marrakech, Morocco If your idea of romance includes candlelit courtyards, private riads, and Moroccan mystique, this is your place. Royal Mansour was built by the King of Morocco, and it shows in every detail — from mosaic-tiled plunge pools to rooftop dining with Atlas Mountain views.

PAIGE'S TOP 5 VIRTUOSO RESORTS FOR FAMILIES

1. Grand Velas Riviera Maya – Mexico This is one of my favorite all-inclusives for families who want

luxury and ease. With a world-class kids' club, teen zone, and incredible dining, everyone finds their happy place here. The family suites are spacious, and the service is so warm and personal.

2. Four Seasons Resort Orlando at Walt Disney World® Resort – Florida Yes, it's in Disney Orlando — but hear me out. This resort is a serene, sophisticated oasis just minutes from the parks. Parents love the spa and golf; kids go nuts for the lazy river and water slides. Plus, they offer character breakfasts and park perks, minus the chaos.

3. The Brando – Tetiaroa, French Polynesia If your family wants a once-in-a-lifetime kind of trip, The Brando is it. Set on Marlon Brando's private island, it's all about sustainability, education, and barefoot luxury. The Lagoon School keeps kids engaged while you sneak off to the spa or snorkeling reef.

4. Six Senses Laamu – Maldives For a family that loves adventure, Six Senses Laamu delivers. Think: dolphin cruises, diving with marine biologists, and jungle cinema nights. Their villas accommodate families easily, and the kids' activities are both meaningful and super fun.

5. Montage Palmetto Bluff – South Carolina, USA This Southern charmer offers a beautiful blend of nature, culture, and comfort. There's horseback riding, river kayaking, s'mores by the fire pit — and the vibe is relaxed, not stuffy. It's an easy-to-love domestic destination with serious charm.

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Whether you're chasing a romantic escape or a bonding family adventure, these Virtuoso resorts deliver experiences that go beyond the ordinary. I've seen firsthand how the right property can transform a trip from "nice" to "unforgettable." If you're dreaming about one of these destinations (or ready to start planning), I'd love to help you make it real — with all the Virtuoso extras, including complimentary daily breakfast and \$100 resort credit. Contact me for all the details.



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Spicy Paloma

TURN UP THE HEAT

By Jake Lakritz

There's something undeniably refreshing about a Paloma—the crisp pop of grapefruit, the smooth tequila, and a splash of sparkle to bring it all together. But here at DragonRidge, we like to add a little extra flair. Enter the Spicy Paloma: a fiery, flavor-packed version of the beloved cocktail that's perfect for patio sipping, summer soirées, or simply spicing up your usual happy hour routine.

Crafted with Loca Loka Tequila, fresh citrus, and just the right amount of heat, this drink balances bold and refreshing with effortless style.

Ingredients

- 2 oz Loca Loka Tequila (blanco)
- 2 oz fresh grapefruit juice
- ½ oz fresh lime juice
- ½ oz agave syrup
- Dash of chili powder or 2–3 jalapeño slices (optional)
- Sparkling water
- Salt (for the rim)
- Ice
- Grapefruit wedge (for garnish)



Directions

1. Optional: Rim your glass with salt for that perfect savory edge.
2. In a shaker, combine tequila, grapefruit juice, lime juice, agave syrup, and your choice of chili or jalapeño slices.
3. Shake well with ice and strain into a salt-rimmed glass filled with fresh ice.
4. Top with sparkling water and garnish with a grapefruit wedge.

Not a fan of spice? No problem—skip the heat and enjoy the traditional version of this crowd-pleasing cocktail.

Whether you're hosting or just toasting to the weekend, the Spicy Paloma is your go-to sip for summer with a kick.

Coconut Cucumber Cooler

(Non-Alcoholic)

By Jake Lakritz

REFRESH YOUR SUMMER

When the temperatures rise, there's nothing quite like a cool, clean mocktail to reset your senses. Enter the Coconut Cucumber Cooler—a light and hydrating drink that's as rejuvenating as it is delicious. Whether you're winding down after a workout or just need a midday boost, this chilled concoction hits all the right notes: crisp cucumber, tropical coconut, and a bright touch of lime.

Simple, elegant, and perfect for DragonRidge's sun-soaked afternoons.

Ingredients

- ½ cup coconut water
- ¼ cup fresh cucumber juice (blend + strain cucumber)
- 1 tbsp lime juice
- 1 tsp honey (optional)
- Mint leaves
- Ice
- Garnish: cucumber slice + mint sprig

THE HIGHLANDER MAGAZINE | 29 | SUMMER 2025



Directions

1. In a shaker, combine coconut water, cucumber juice, lime juice, and honey.
2. Shake well and pour over ice.
3. Garnish with cucumber and mint.

Pro Tip: Add a splash of soda water for a fizzy twist, or use crushed ice for a slushier, spa-like sip.

Light, herbaceous, and ultra-refreshing, this mocktail is your go-to for effortless summer hydration—with style. Whether you're poolside, courtside, or just relaxing at home, the Coconut Cucumber Cooler brings the chill.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: LPL FINANCIAL

Sam Petetti, Brett Graham & Stu Cohen
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A STRONG FOUNDATION OF EXPERTISE

Since our inception, we have combined decades of experience in the financial industry. Each of our advisors brings a independent perspective and skill set to the table—Sam began his career in 1999, Brett in 2014, and Stuart in 2012. This diverse range of experience allows us to address various financial situations with a comprehensive and independent approach. Our partnership through LPL Financial further strengthens our capabilities, providing us with the tools and resources necessary to serve you effectively.

WHAT MAKES US DISTINCT?

At LV Advisor Group, we believe that wealth management goes beyond numbers—it's about

building relationships and trust. Our commitment to holistic financial planning sets us apart. We focus on understanding your individual circumstances, offering personalized service that revolves around your financial goals. By emphasizing risk management and goal-oriented strategies, we ensure that every strategy we propose is tailored specifically to you.

Our collaborative approach fosters an environment where we work closely with you, ensuring that your financial journey is supported at every turn. We prioritize open communication and understanding, helping you navigate the complexities of wealth management with confidence.

OUR MISSION: HELPING YOU PURSUE FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE

At the core of our philosophy is a commitment to helping you pursued and maintain financial independence. Whether you are planning for retirement, saving for your children's education, or looking to build a lasting legacy, we are here to guide you every step of the way. Our client-focused wealth management strategy is designed to adapt to your unique set of financial circumstances, our objective is to help you achieve your short- and long-term objectives.

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- **Investment Planning:** Our team will work with you to develop a diversified investment portfolio to work toward maximizing potential returns while seeking to manage risk..
- **Estate Planning:** We assist in crafting a comprehensive estate plan to ensure your assets are managed according to your wishes, providing confidence for you and your family.
- **Insurance Solutions:** Protecting your financial future is vital. We provide guidance on various insurance products to safeguard your wealth.
- **Tax Strategies:** Our advisors wwill make every effort to minimize your tax burden, helping you retain more of your hard-earned money.

• **Education Planning:** If you're saving for your children's education, we can help you create a savings strategy that meets your family's needs.

• **Risk Management:** Understanding and managing risk is crucial to any financial plan. Our experienced will evaluate your situation to develop appropriate risk management strategies.

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THE Good Times

DragonRidge Country Club Event Highlights





Good Times



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DragonRidge **EVENTS**

JULY

- 7/1 Book Club
- 7/4 Fourth of July Scramble
- 7/4 Fourth of July BBQ/Fireworks
- 7/11 Dive in Movie
- 7/13 Wimbledon Tennis Mixer
- 7/15 Travel Tuesday
- 7/17 Hiking Club

AUGUST

- 8/5 Book Club
- 8/9 Summer Scorcher
- 8/16 Family Fun Day
- 8/21 Hiking Club
- 8/25 Vino Vinyasa
- 8/29 Dive in Movie

SEPTEMBER

- 9/1 Labor Day Pool Party
- 9/2 Book Club
- 9/3 Ladies Tennis League Bootcamp
- 9/4 Glow in the Dark Golf
- 9/5 US Open Tennis Mixer
- 9/13 Adult Fall Tennis League Begins
- 9/18 Hiking Club

OCTOBER

- 10/1 Book Club
- 10/9 Match Pod Play Begins
- 10/15 Whiskey Hoedown
- 10/16 Hiking Club
- 10/25 Trunk or Treat
- 10/28 Halloween Yappy Hour
- 10/29 Halloween Happy Hour
- 10/30 Halloween Tennis Mixer

SAVE THE DATES!

*Please note that all events are subject to change without notice.

NUMBERS & INFORMATION

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Stephanie Gate

702-434-4169

DragonRidge Country Club

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reception@dragonridgecc.com

Tennis & Athletic Center

1400 Foothills Village Drive
Henderson, NV 89012
702-407-0045

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Assistant Food & Beverage Director

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Duane Jose

Executive Chef
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Luke Headley

Golf Course Superintendent
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CLUBHOUSE HOURS

Clubhouse Closed Mondays

Dragon Grille

Tuesday - Sunday 7:00 am - 8:00 pm
Breakfast 7:00 am - 2:00 pm
Lunch 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Dinner 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Log onto the app to order takeout.

Red Dragon Sushi Bar

Tuesday - Thursday 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Friday - Sunday 12:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Onyx Bar & Lounge

Tuesday - Thursday 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Friday - Sunday 12:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Happy Hour Available
Wednesday & Friday
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Montrose

Wednesday - Friday 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
702-614-4444
Reservations Recommended

Golf Shop Hours

Tuesday - Sunday 6:30 am - 6:00 PM
Tee Times Available on the app starting at
6:30 am.
Closed Mondays

Tennis & Athletic Center

Monday - Friday 5:30am - 8pm
Saturday - Sunday 7am - 6pm

Tennis Courts

Monday - Sunday 6:00 am - 10:00 pm
Reservations Required
702-407-0045

Center Court Café

Monday - Saturday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Pickleball Courts

Open Daily, Sunrise - Sunset
Reservations Required
702-407-0045

The Spa at DragonRidge

By Appointment 702-407-0045

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook

@DragonRidgeCC
@DragonRidge Country Club
Weddings

Instagram

@DragonRidgeCountryClub
@DragonRidgeEvents
@DragonRidgeGolfShop

WEB

DragonRidge.com
MacDonaldHighlands.com

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Emergency
911

St. Rose Medical
702-564-2622

Henderson Police Department
702-267-5000

Henderson Utilities
702-267-5900

Cox Cable
702-966-2290

City of Henderson
702-267-2323

Animal Control
702-267-4970

Chamber of Commerce
702-565-8951



DRAGONRIDGE
COUNTRY CLUB

DISCREET

TRANSPORTATION

PROVIDING LUXURY TRANSPORTATION RENTALS IN NEVADA

OUR FLEET'S UPGRADED FEATURES INCLUDE

- CAPACITY RANGING FROM 12 TO 42 PASSENGER
- DANCE POLES
- FULL SURROUND SOUND
- TV AND LIGHTING PACKAGE
- BARTOP AND STANDING BARS
- LUGGAGE STORAGE



SERVICES WE OFFER

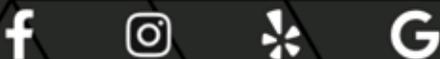
- HOURLY RENTALS
- AIRPORT PICK UP/DROP OFF
- CORPORATE OUTINGS
- LAS VEGAS TOURS
- BIRTHDAY PARTIES
- BACHELOR/ BACHELORETTE



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CONTACT US

(702) 342-0188
Contact@discreetlv.com



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MacDonald Highlands Luxury Country Club Community

1549 FOOTHILLS VILLAGE DRIVE

5 Bed | 6 Bath | Pool | 5,514 SF | 4 Car Garage | Golf Course Frontage Views



MacDonald Highlands Realty LLC

Nicole MacDonald, Broker NVDRE B.0146229
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(702) 963-2911





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