

Dream Coat

The casinos of yesteryear keep popping up in the most unlikely of places. Most recently, we found them on the chest of jacket designer Robert Schiloni, Vice President of Checks Play Casino Fashions. Creators of custom leather jackets, the company has a penchant for all things Vegas (as evidenced by the jacket above). The jacket features reproductions of chips from 15 defunct casinos, including the Sands, the Silver Slipper, the Hacienda and the Dunes. Schiloni contacted a chip expert in California to ensure the accuracy of the embroidery and leather reproductions, and after a year of research and design, he had his first jacket. The pieces are available at five stores in Vegas, including Bernini at Caesars Palace, which currently has 10 available at \$2,500 a pop.

The company has also made custom jackets for Jay Leno, Las Vegas mayor Oscar Goodman and to commemorate this year's World Series of Poker. Soon they'll be rolling out 50 new Vegas designs available with 24 karat gold zippers. Ya gotta love the Vegas flair. For more information, call 888-779-7781, or visit the website at www.checksplay.com.



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Goodbye, D.I.

The Desert Inn, a dinosaur in comparison to the new wave of glitzy, monster-sized resorts that now rule the Strip, is on its way to extinction. After celebrating its 50th anniversary in April, The Desert Inn closed its doors for the last time in the fall. As the fifth property ever to open on the Strip, the D.I. lived well into its old age, compared to many casinos that arrived on the scene in Las Vegas after the D.I. and were demolished long before. Steve Wynn, the new owner of this historic property, has plans to create a new megaresort in its place. Judging from his record, which includes such successes as the Mirage, Treasure Island and Bellagio, we can only imagine what this new venture will be. In case your imagination needs a hint, Wynn has already mentioned that the new resort will include a 59-story hotel tower, lush gardens, an art museum and a selection of fine restaurants. You may also see a water-themed theater, in addition to a standard showroom. What won't be there? The only 18-hole golf course on the Strip, the original 15-story Augusta tower, where Howard Hughes lived in near-seclusion and near-darkness in the 1960s, and all the history that the legendary Desert Inn has accumulated over the years.