

Casino CORNER

A Personal View of Casinos
by Lori Beth Susman



There are a lot of wheels out there, including one at RAINBOW CASINO. At the Vicksburg casino, every Saturday night in January features the \$2,500 Wheel of Cash giveaway. Two winners are selected every hour from 7 p.m. until midnight for a chance to spin the Wheel of Cash. Up to \$2,500 in eCash can be won. Players can earn entries from Thursdays to Saturdays with slot points earned — so be sure to use your players club card when playing your favorite games.

There is also the Wheel of Fortune Dollar progressive slot machine, which has its MegaJackpot at more than \$14 million. In this issue of Jackpot!, we took a look at some of last year's major winners. They won big, for sure, but nothing like what waits for someone any day now. Makes you want to go play, doesn't it?

Entertainment options are becoming bigger and better than ever on the Gulf Coast. Take a date like Jan. 23: there is Gallagher at HOLLYWOOD CASINO BAY ST. LOUIS, 38 Special at HARD ROCK, Anthony Cools at BEAU RIVAGE and Kenny Rogers at IP CASINO, RESORT & SPA — and that is just one night.

The IP's new \$9 million theatre, known as Studio A, is quite nice and something to see. The luxury seats, the spacious VIP balcony area and the incredible sight and sound systems all make it easy to forget the resort ever had a showroom. Country music's Toby Keith was the opening performer in the room and he rocked the house. There were some major fans in the showroom counting on Keith to bring his best and he did not disappoint.

I talked with Patrick Bergé, president of Scéno Plus, the Canadian firm responsible for designing the theatre, and he said the showroom was designed to be used for a number of types of events including production shows. In addition to performers like Keith and Rogers, IP has on tap singers like Jessica Simpson, Brian McKnight and Trace Adkins as well as comedians Frank Caliendo, Rickey Smiley and Mike Epps.

By now you have probably heard that GOLDEN MOON at PEARL RIVER RESORT is open only on weekends. Golden Moon is the second of the two casinos that make up Pearl River Resort, owned by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. The first property is SILVER STAR, which is running on its regular schedule — open 24/7. There is still plenty to see and do at Pearl River Resort, including play a round at the Dancing Rabbit Golf Club, which just received another accolade. Golfweek placed both The Azaleas and The Oaks courses among the "best casino golf courses," ranking them 13th and 25th, respectively. While at Silver Star, if you haven't dined at MIKO's now is the time to do so.

They are playing a lot of poker at BEAU RIVAGE as the Southern Poker Championship, part of the World Poker Tour, continues. Through the course of the 16-day event, 15 tournaments will be played with winners taking home thousands and thousands of dollars. I've written of my poker exploits in the past, but until I learn to maintain a solid poker face, I stand little chance against some of the major players. Congratulations to all those who have won their events, though.

In Tunica, HARRAH'S CASINO is getting ready for the WSOP Circuit, to be played Jan. 20 through Feb. 4. As they say, "May the best hand win."

I visited WIND CREEK CASINO & HOTEL right before it opened and was duly impressed with the property. The casino is spacious, and although there are no table games, there is a wide variety of slot machines, ranging in denoms from penny games to \$25. The restaurants are also impressive, and they should be, as