

Keeping warm in Vegas

By Jeannie Borbe
Vegas.com

Believe it or not, Las Vegas gets its fair share of cold weather. While the summer temperatures reach more than 100 degrees, in the wintertime, it can get as chilly as the upper 20s.

Luckily, there are plenty of ways to stay toasty during the city's brisk winter months, from spa treatments to a variety of hot drinks.

Spa Therapy

At the Mirage, spa goers can enjoy treatments such as the Volcano Lava Mud Mask and Hot and Fire Wrap. Both of these services are sure to ignite the senses.

"These are very new treatments," Stephanie Doud, spa director at the Mirage explained. "We introduced them with the unveiling of The Volcano the beginning of December. We redid the volcano and wanted to add some spa treatments with that."

Not only is the Volcano Lava Mud Mask a great way to escape the cold temperatures, it also has many benefits.

"The Volcano Lava Mud Mask definitely helps brighten dull skin, [giving] a healthier, younger glow," Doud said. "It draws out a lot of unwanted impurities and definitely promotes skin circulation, which seems to be a common problem during the winter season."

If the thought of slathering mud all over your body sounds a bit much, Mirage also offers the Hot and Fire Wrap.

"The Hot and Fire wrap gives you that tingly feeling when you put it on," Doud said. "It also refreshes and helps detoxify and add antioxidants. It's definitely a waker-upper!"

The Venetian and Palazzo's Canyon Ranch SpaClub also offers a variety of pampering treatments that help visitors forget all about the cold. One of the popular services during the colder months is the 100-minute Ultra Nourishing Cocoon Wrap.

"During the winter it's really cold and dry," said Blake Feeney, spa director at Canyon Ranch Spa. "[This] service uses Pure Fiji... it's really healing and gives an ultra-moisturizing type of feel."

The service begins with a Pure Fiji honey sugar scrub, followed by an application of Pure Fiji's milk bath. After rinsing off,



Hot Buttered Rum

1 oz. Gosling's Bermuda Gold Rum

2 heaping bar spoons homemade batter (butter, brown sugar, vanilla, nutmeg, cinnamon, allspice)

Hot water

Mix in a coffee mug.

Courtesy of Ray Srp, master mixologist at Bellagio

the guest receives an application of Pure Fiji's honey body mask. Once the body mask is applied, the guest is placed within a "cocoon," a soft pack system filled with warm water.

"It's almost like a water bed feel," Feeney explained. "It's extremely relaxing, and also very warm."

The service ends with a 50-minute massage with Pure Fiji's honey body butter used with a honey body spray. Guests can enjoy refreshing Zico Passion Fruit Coconut Water after the treatment.

The spa's Mango Sugar Glow is another way to warm up this winter. It includes an exfoliation and a 20-minute bath soak in the hydrotherapy tub. Guests have the option of adding a moisturizing massage at the end of the service.

One of the most unique features at Canyon Ranch Spa Club is the co-ed relaxation lounges.

One of the relaxation suites offers aromatherapy, one of which includes a scent of the mountains. Spa patrons can relax and enjoy the smell of the great outdoors without

experiencing the cold. In addition, every relaxation room offers heated seating.

Drinks sure to warm up your spirits

Spa treatments are a great way to warm the outside of your body, but how about warming up the inside? In a town where the party never ends, drinking warm spirits is sure to warm up your spirits.

Ray Srp, master mixologist at the Bellagio, recommends the Hot Buttered Rum.

"The Hot Buttered Rum to me is Christmas in a glass," said Srp. "The combination of cinnamon, nutmeg and allspice bring out an aroma that if you close your eyes, you would imagine sitting in front of a roaring fire on a snowy winter night. That's about as close to a snowy winter night that you will find in Las Vegas."

The Hot Buttered Rum is definitely a favorite during the winter season. In fact, Srp prepares 150 pounds world of Hot Buttered Rum batter before the holidays. This drink is available at any bar outlet at the Bellagio, including the Buffet and Café Bellagio.

"We have kept up the tradition each year by making the recipe in our kitchen for the past ten years," he said. "Nothing beats hand-made."

Hot Buttered Rum isn't the only fun drink visitors can enjoy this season.

"Hot chocolate can be mixed with Navan vanilla-infused cognac, Nocello walnut liqueur or Amaretto," Srp suggested. "Any bar worth visiting should be able to make you a Hot Toddy with hot water, honey, lemon and brandy."

The Hot Toddy is actually a very traditional recipe, according to Mark Thomas, director of beverage at the Mirage.

"It's a pretty versatile drink," said Thomas, "even in its own simplicity."

The Hot Apple Pie is another popular favorite.

"We developed the Hot Apple Pie in-house by our bartending staff," Thomas noted. "We like to come up with new drinks around each point of the season."

Whatever the creative concoction may be, hot libations are always sure to hit the spot.

"The industry itself is driven on people's tastes. People are always looking for something new," said Thomas. "Hot mixed drinks are fun! I would suggest don't ever be afraid to ask the bartender if they have



KEEP THE FLAME BURNING

The Griffin

Location: 531 Fremont St. (Downtown)

Phone: (702) 382-0577

Features: In this den-like setting, guests can enjoy a drink and sit by one of the two fireplaces.

Peppermill Lounge (pictured above)

Location: 2985 S. Las Vegas Blvd.

Phone: (702) 382-0577

Features: This lounge features intimate, romantic seating where couples can relax and cozy up by a fire pit.

The Volcano

Location: The Mirage

Phone: (702) 791-7111

Features: Visitors can enjoy the warmth of the volcano as well as tribal music and fireballs shooting 12 feet into the air.

SPAS SURE TO WARM THE SOUL

The Spa at the Mirage

Location: The Mirage

a favorite or a house specialty."

Guests visiting the Mirage can enjoy these drinks at the high-roller lounge or the Onda Lounge. "[They're] great places to kind of get off the beaten path fun and curl up and warm up to," he said.

For those who don't drink alcohol, visitors can still enjoy a tasty cup of hot chocolate. At Bellagio's Jean Philippe Pâtisserie, guests

Phone: (702) 791-7472

Features: The Volcano Lava Mud Mask and the Hot and Fire Wrap.

Canyon Ranch SpaClub

Location: The Venetian & Palazzo

Phone: (702) 414-3610

Features: Ultra Nourishing Cocoon Wrap, Mango Sugar Glow.

Get your (hot) drink on

Onda Lounge

Location: The Mirage

Phone: (702) 791-7223

Features: In addition to a fine selection of meats, cheese and bread, this Italian-inspired lounge features a fully-stocked bar.

Café Bellagio

Location: The Bellagio

Phone: (702) 791-7223

Features: Located next to the conservatory, guests can enjoy hot drinks and café favorites. Open 24 hours.

can purchase a cup of hot cocoa and take a stroll through the beautifully-designed conservatory next door.

In addition, Ethel M at the Fashion Show Mall also offers a wide range of warm drinks in a colorful, relaxing setting.

Whether it's a lavish spa treatment or a hot, savory drink, these are ways to keep the Vegas heat in your system all year round.