



At Carmine's Las Vegas, Everything Is Sooo Big

Where: 3500 South Las Vegas Blvd [\[map\]](#), 89109



When the the goal is to open the largest restaurant in Las Vegas (that's not also a nightclub), everything about it (naturally) has to be big. And, for the newly opened **Carmine's**, the legendary Italian import from New York City (and now DC, Atlantic City and the Bahamas), everything is ginormous. Located inside the **Forum Shops at Caesars Palace**, even the **construction wall** that covered up the former Planet Hollywood restaurant space was a small mountain.

How big is big? How about **28,000 square feet and 800 seats** spanning two levels, multiple dining rooms and eight large group areas? The menu is so large it needed to be mounted on the wall. A bar so tall it stretched the limits of our camera lens. Even the lease is oversized at 25 years.



Some poor decorator had to find thousands of pictures to cover all that wall space. A daunting task considering we didn't see any duplicates. Bed, Bath and Beyond doesn't even have a photo selection this large.



Dishes at Carmine's are served **family style** and we urge you not to take that lightly. This is a restaurant for large groups of hungry diners. It's not for date night or a solo trip to eat at the bar. Our table of ten during a media taste test only cleaned up half of each plate at most. This is the restaurant where hunger goes to die and food comas run rampant. You've been warned.



Keep the ridiculous portions in mind when looking at the menu's prices. Since entrees are meant to be split among four to six, the cost is as well. Not knowing this detail is going to give many passersby sticker shock.



That snapshot? It's an appetizer, folks. A thin sliced **Fried Zucchini** starter priced at \$19.95. Split that between a couple and it comes down under ten dollars per app, but if two people manage to finish this whatever follows will go into a doggie bag. Serve it up over four plates and suddenly that's a \$5 appetizer. Starting to catch on? Apologies for the repetitive portion warnings, but we went in informed and still found ourselves getting carried away. And, we don't want you to wave that white napkin prematurely.



Try as we might our camera still couldn't capture the full length of the **Cold Antipasto** (\$36.95). That **well-dressed breadstick** could double as a shower curtain in a pinch.



This beefy dish is the **Porterhouse Contadina** (\$85.95), a 45 oz. sliced porterhouse steak, sweet Italian fennel sausage, onions, peppers and potatoes. There may have even been a couple **Fiats** buried in there somewhere. And, no the price isn't typo. Spilt four ways that's a \$21.48 entree, six ways \$14.32. Of course, those 4-6 diners better all like meat.



Of course, it wouldn't be Italian without a pasta shot. Choose from angel hair, linguine, penne, spaghetti, or rigatoni paired with marina, sausage, meatballs, clam sauce, bolognese etc, etc. etc. The **Spaghetti and Meatball** combo goes for \$32.95.

Feel free to take the waiter up on any offer to serve these dishes. We did for fear of being buried under layers of zucchini and meatballs.



Planning for dessert is an exercise in self control. You're likely full just from taking this story in -- we understand. But, if you can make it to the end, awake and functional, the **Tiramisu** (\$23.95) comes served resembling a whole chocolate cream pie. The other looming structure is the **Titanic** (\$29.95): two scoops of chocolate and vanilla ice cream, chocolate sauce, bananas, strawberries, pineapples and a boatload (heh) of whipped cream piled on a flourless chocolate cake-brownie. Aaaaand... why not? Four to six people digging into that ship brings the per person cost to between \$5 and \$7.50.

Now that multiple disclaimers have been given, we can provide a peek at the full menu offering pasta, seafood, beef, chicken, veal, daily house specials and more. Vegan options are also available upon request.



Carmine's Las Vegas is open daily 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. ('til midnight Fridays and Saturdays). Give 'em a call at 702.473.9700. Takeout orders are even available. Although, we pity the fool that has to carry those bags to their destination.