

Grand



Opening



RESORT CASINO & SPA

by Allan **Anderson**

On May 24 2006, The Montbleu Resort Casino and Spa opened its doors at the former location of Caesars Tahoe, located on the South Shore of Lake Tahoe. The official grand opening ceremonies included a ribbon cutting ceremony with Howie Mandel, MontBleu executives and local dignitaries followed by a fireworks show. Howie Mandel, comedian and host of the game show “*Deal or No Deal*” performed at the MontBleu Theatre with a one night engagement.

With seven distinct restaurants and four chic nightlife venues, MontBleu will surely redefine Lake Tahoe by creating a casino-resort experience that has never before been available in the area.

The 17 story hotel has 440-rooms and suites ranging in size from 424 square feet to 1,250 square feet overlooking Lake Tahoe and the Sierra Nevada mountains. True to its name, MontBleu brings the outdoors indoors, drawing inspiration from the neighboring mountains and lake, throughout all elements of its design. Straying from traditional casino motifs, MontBleu utilizes vibrant colors (mostly blues) and natural materials throughout its design and interior architecture.

Amidst the cool atmosphere of MontBleu, guests are enticed by the hot action on the casino floor, with 40,000 square-feet of the most popular table games and slot



Howie Mandel cuts the ribbon for the grand opening

machines. Or guests may find themselves lured into “The Zone,” which includes MontBleu’s brand new eight-table poker room and its newly remodeled race and sports book.

MontBleu features several new contemporary culinary experiences, each with its own flair and flavors including: Ciera Steak + Chophouse, Opal Eurasian Cuisine & Ultra Lounge, del soul Mexican Grill, 20 Four Continuous Cuisine and the unbuffet. Each offers its own twist on traditional favorites as well as a vast assortment of unique dishes.

When the sun goes down, MontBleu heats up with a selection of exciting nightlife options. Opal will make a seamless transition from sushi to sultry, as the first and only true ultra lounge in South Lake Tahoe. Blu Nightclub will create a pulsating atmosphere until the wee hours of the morning, featuring the country’s top DJs, live percussionists and go-go dancers.

Understanding that Lake Tahoe is the ideal outdoor destination for exploring with your pet, MontBleu has developed a series of amenities for pets.

For \$35 per night (per pet), guests can treat their pets to a fun, resort experience.

Upon check-in, all pets will receive a personalized MontBleu name tag, including the name of the pet and the owner.

Pets and owners will also receive a welcome packet that will include a special pet treat, doorknob signage for housekeeping, property map outlining pet friendly areas and a comprehensive list of local veterinarians, pet sitters, pet supply stores, dog walking services, kennels and parks. Pet beds are provided for each pet along with food and water dishes.



MontBleu has created an outdoor pet-friendly area including the Bleu Pet Park, featuring a pet walk, waste receptacle and a relaxing area for pets.

MontBleu also offers special room service items including cat and doggie treats, dry and wet cat and dog food, litter boxes, bottled water and serving dishes.

For other entertainment venues, the MontBleu offers a 1,500 seat theatre that will play host to today’s top acts. An outdoor sports arena will showcase some of the hottest events including the AVP Volleyball Tour in September. The Bleu Wave yacht, a luxury 70 foot long 1966 Burger is available for private charters and events. 16,000 square feet of meeting and convention space is also available.

Property timeline

1978
Park Tahoe opens for the first time under the management of Park Cattle Co., owners of the land.

1980
Park Tahoe becomes Caesars Tahoe, while Park Cattle Co. continues to own the land beneath the property.

June 2005:

Prior to the merger with Harrah’s Entertainment, Caesars Entertainment sells Caesars Tahoe to Columbia Sussex.

October 2005

Columbia Sussex announces it will rename the property MontBleu Resort Casino & Spa.

December 2005

Caesars Tahoe opens the HQ Center Bar, offering a sneak peek into the sophisticated new venues to follow at the new MontBleu.

March 2006

Caesars Tahoe/MontBleu opens two new restaurants (20 Four Continuous Cuisine and del soul Mexican Grill) setting the stage for an impressive new resort. MontBleu also opens a brand new poker room and unveils The Zone, its newly remodeled race and sports book, just in time for the NCAA basketball tournament.

April 2006:

Caesars Tahoe closes the doors to Club Nero after 16 years as one of the hottest clubs in the area. The highly-anticipated blu Nightclub will soon take its place.

May 24, 2006

MontBleu Resort Casino & Spa makes its official debut in Lake Tahoe.

MontBleu is owned and operated by the Fort Mitchell, Kentucky-based Columbia Sussex Corporation.

Columbia Sussex purchased Caesars Tahoe (MontBleu) in June 2005 for \$45 million, prior to Harrah's Entertainment's buyout of Caesars Entertainment.

Columbia Sussex and its affiliates are one of the largest privately held hotel owners in the country, and one of Marriott Corporation's top licensees.

Columbia Sussex and its affiliates operate 80 hotels, resorts and casinos in 28 states and overseas, including the Lighthouse Point Casino in Greenville, Miss., the Horizon Casino Resort in Vicksburg, Miss., the Horizon Casino Resort in South Lake Tahoe, the Belle of Orleans in New Orleans, La., the Belle of Baton Rouge in Louisiana, the Westin Casuarina property on Grand Cayman Island, the Westin Casuarina Hotel Casino in Las Vegas and the River Palms Casino in Laughlin, Nev.

In addition, Columbia Sussex will own and manage the Westin Dawn Beach Resort and Residences in St. Maarten, which are slated to open in late-2006. Most recently, Columbia Sussex purchased the Marriott Hilton Head in South Carolina and renovations to the property are currently underway.

William J. Yung III is the president of Columbia Sussex.



Throwing the switch that turned on the Montbleu lights

