

Hollywood Casino and Hotel

by Scott Robb

Unexpected..... That is the one word that completely describes my first impression of the new Hollywood Hotel and Casino. Now for most of us we've spent some time in numerous casinos over the years and for most of us we've considered Argosy our home casino.

All that is about to change, after touring the new facility on Friday a number of words come to mind; Impressive, unbelievable, phenomenal and massive



are among a few of them. The first thing you will notice on your way in is the large hallways leading to the gaming area, passing along the way The Producers Lounge the new VIP area with free food and beverage service and the the players club desk to get your new Club Hollywood Card.

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the facility is striking, 150,000 square feet of gaming area with the table games right down the center aisle.

The hallways are plush and elegant with comfy couches lining the walls along the way.

Once you get into the gaming area the huge open layout of

You will also notice that as you walk down the any of the main corridors you are always on the "Red Carpet".



The main bar area known as "Hollywood on the Roof" features a large projection screen on the facing wall and ceiling.

Expect a variety of new slot machines and table games as well. Not to mention Celebrity impersonators dealing you Black Jack and other table games with a performance or two tossed in for your entertainment.

The high limit table games area is also unique, the main area is typical of any high limit area you may venture into, beyond that expect to be prepared to be on the A-List to get into the next two areas, they jump from the \$25 minimum to \$500 in the next area and we don't have any estimate yet what it takes to get into the "private" gaming area beyond that.

Downstairs.... My new home, The World Poker Tour Poker Room.



Breathtaking and as beautiful as any Poker Room you have ever been in.

Robert McGovern did a wonderful job of opening up the room for Argosy. With all due

respect to all the previous poker room managers, Thomas (TK) Krauss has definitely taken it to the ultimate level.

With 41 WPT branded tables bound with ostrich leather rails players will square up to cup holders built into the rails and comfortable chairs for those long hours of play to go along side.

The higher level features 9 tables for higher limit games with higher back chairs and food service. At this point that will be 2/5 and above and depending upon the room's success the 2/5 game



may be relegated to the main floor. The area also features a tournament registration podium where players may go directly to register for daily tournaments. The main podium will be for registration of cash games. Upon being seated at your

table the dealer will be able to swipe your player's card, request; a waitress, chip runner or floor person.

The calendar is set for 4 WPT sanctioned events annually the first is set for August 3rd through the 19th and is labeled the Indiana State Poker Championship featuring 16 events over 14 days, this is a non-televised event. What you won't see for now is the cavernous tournament hall attached to the poker room, when it is finished it will hold 60 tournament tables for the WPT events.

The players are definitely the focus of this room and TK being a player's manager has seen to that with a 24 hour free coffee and beverage station. "The



Poker Bar" and a Nathans Hot Dog Cart (on the way) right outside the doors of the room. The smoking area is well beyond the doors of the room but close

enough for players to slip outside briefly and the ventilation is better so there won't be any clouds drifting into the room. As the commercials say BUT WAIT!!!! That's not all... The cashier's cage has a window just for poker players and 120 private safety deposit boxes to stash your cash.

You must meet certain requirements to receive a



safety deposit box inquire at the podium when you come in.

Feeling lucky?.....
Why don't you find out for yourself and

stop in and check out the action in the new World Poker Tour Poker Room.

Scott Robb is a player and webmaster of www.tristatepokerevents.com covering all the poker action in the Ohio Valley region since 2004.