

Las Vegas Sun
the strip:

The wait ends: CityCenter's Aria set for public debut

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The countdown is nearly over.

For months, MGM Mirage, the managing partner of the \$8.5 billion CityCenter, has tantalized the public with a reminder of how many days it would be before Aria, the centerpiece of the development, would be “revealed to the world.”

Today, the wait winds down, 3½ years after the implosion of the Boardwalk hotel that once occupied a portion of the Strip frontage.

Aria was busy Tuesday with last-minute touch-up work throughout the building while journalists and VIPs took guided tours showcasing room technology, CityCenter's public art and water features and its signature entertainment offering, Cirque du Soleil's “Viva Elvis.”

Elvis Presley's former wife, Priscilla, [was among the speakers at a press conference](#) that included a sampling of the show.

A pre-opening press conference is scheduled today and invited guests will gather at 8 p.m. to celebrate the opening.

At about 11 p.m. after fireworks light up the sky over the 67-acre site between Bellagio and Monte Carlo, the public will get to see what MGM Mirage and its joint-venture partner, Infinity World Development Corp., a subsidiary of Dubai World, has been talking about.

After teasing the public with the phased opening of the largest private development in the world – the non-gaming Vdara hotel on Dec. 1, the Crystals retail and entertainment district on Dec. 3 and the debut of Las Vegas' first Mandarin Oriental hotel franchise on Dec. 4 – tonight is the big one.

When the 61-story, 4,004-room crystalline hotel designed by Pelli Clarke Pelli opens its doors, the public will see what 300 credentialed news media representatives came to Las Vegas to write, photograph and blog about.

Aria's hotel includes 568 suites with floor-to-ceiling windows and the most technologically advanced rooms ever built. Guests are greeted with curtains opening and lights going on with a menu of room preferences displayed on television screens. One button turns everything off – the lights, the TV and the music – and a privacy notification goes on.

Nightly room rates range from \$149 to \$799 with suites running \$425 to \$7,500.