

► Take to the blackjack table to win your fortune – or at least contribute to it. Just don't cheat too often or all hell breaks loose!



# This Is Vegas

GTA ... in a Casino?

► Las Vegas, the City of Sin and a gamblers paradise just got family friendly in this new title from the folks at Midway. Vegas? Family friendly? That's just not right, is it? Well certain folks in town are very unhappy. As a business empire run by Preston Boyer threatens the very foundations of Las Vegas and its sinful status it's up to you, a penniless nobody, to fight back.

The game begins with your arrival with only the clothes on your back and fifty bucks in your pocket. The City of Sin is changing, becoming cleaner, more family-centric with themed restaurants, theme parks and other safe attractions. The seedier side of the Strip slowly banished into a murky underworld with strip joints closing left, right and centre – that's just not right. Cue an expansive game world with a definite sandbox feel and the holy trinity of driving, fights and criminal activities.

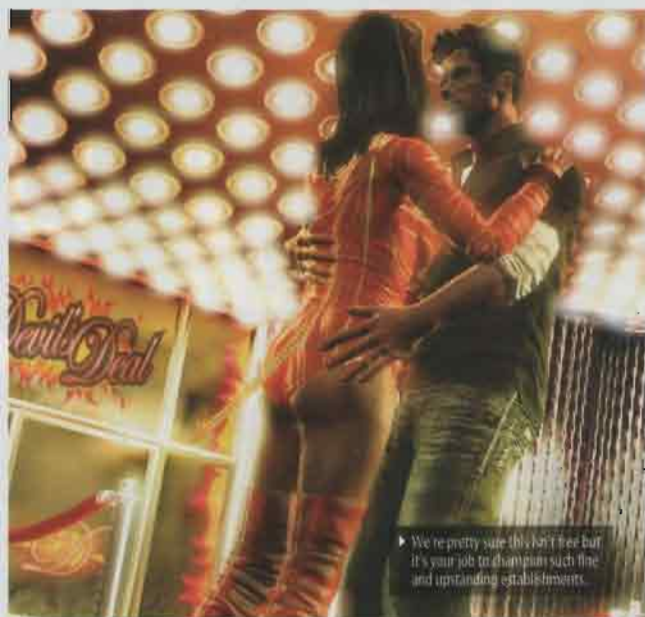
Yes, it's very *GTA* but with casinos, although the premise is fascinating. The world you inhabit is indeed Vegas, bar the major casinos which have been altered just enough to avoid lawsuits. Gambling is of course an integral part of the game and it's up to you to win big at the craps tables in order to finance a conglomeration of such epic proportions that it could turn this family friendly city bad, one slot machine

at a time. Try your hand at blackjack or cheat at poker –but watch out, just as in the real world if you get caught you'll get more than just your wrists slapped.

But you don't have to meekly go into the night as you're hustled outside. There's option B involving fisticuffs and the chance of getting some serious jail time. We don't recommend trying this on the casino bouncers but there's no harm beating up lowlife and scum blocking rungs on the ladder to greatness, is there?

Scattered across the city are the staple side-quests that allow you to try your hand at something different. Midway is being quite secretive about what exactly we'll be able to do although cavorting with ladies of the night, gambling and ripping up the streets seem to be high on the agenda.

Playing the various games involves beating the A.I. – count cards if you want but winning means more moolah. For *This is Vegas*, money really does make the world go round and can lead to power, prestige and some very fast cards. Just in case the *GTA* comparison has escaped your attention, the other important component

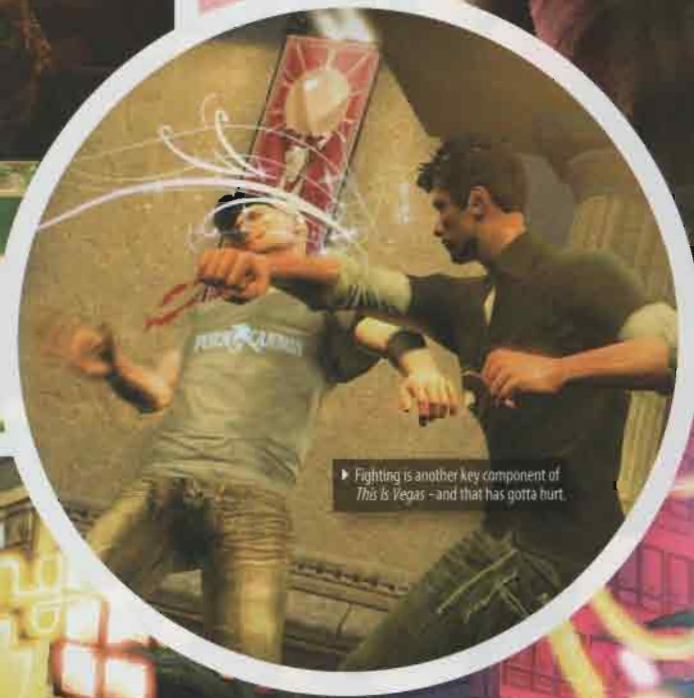


► We're pretty sure this isn't free but it's your job to champion such fine and upstanding establishments.

of the game is the ability to drive around Las Vegas like a speeding demon. Like many things though, better wheels come to those who wait and nicer vehicles will be unlocked as you progress.

The visuals do look impressive though, whether it's the neon lights of the Strip or the light reflecting off a young lady's skimpy pink skirt (we know you're looking). The play area is impressive and, as sandbox games go, this is looking to be a hot contender to be one of the most interesting additions to the 360.

▶ Neon lights and dance floors filled with eligible young ladies never looked this pretty.



▶ Fighting is another key component of *This Is Vegas*—and that has gotta hurt.



▶ Markers will let you know when something should be taking your attention; here you get to try your hand at racing.

▶ Floating hearts in a rosette— we have no idea what this signifies but we're certainly intrigued.



Publisher: Midway  
Developer: Surreal Software  
Estimated Release: Winter 2008