

June 12, 2016



## Watching buildings fall on the Strip another excuse to party

This time around, in an atypical twist, the Barrymore, right across the street and inside the Royal Resort, 99 Convention Center Drive, has scheduled a viewing party Tuesday from midnight to 3 a.m. Kirk Perry, the Barrymore's general manager, is amazed at how quickly reservations for the event disappeared

"Our cap on this was about 100 people and we sold out in probably the first eight hours," Perry says. "It's unbelievable. I think if I had 500 to 600 seats available, they'd go."

Among the Barrymore's guests will be a tourist from the United Kingdom and a group of visitors from Brazil who, Perry says, "actually will stay at the Royal Resort specifically to watch."

Perry — who, himself, has witnessed a few Strip casino implosions — suspects the events are so popular because here, in Las Vegas, "we have the ability to change our landscape, the look and feel of the city."

Watching an iconic casino fall to the ground in a cloud of dust offers, perhaps, a tangible reminder of the city's continual evolution, he says.

More to the point, a casino implosion is "like an Irish wake," Perry says. "How can you not celebrate the life and glory (of the Riviera), especially here in Las Vegas? We like to party and we like to celebrate, so, again, even with the passing of something, it's celebrating history but also, at the same time, of the future to come."