

The Immortality of **Greg Maddux** and **William Shatner** (Pages 16 and 17)

VEGAS

sever

Can Light Rail Work in the Sprawling Southwest?

The early returns from Phoenix say yes. Could Las Vegas be next?



FREE
January 16-22, 2014

DINING

"When you're enjoying snacks this good, calories are the furthest thing from your mind." **SCENE (PAGE 55)**

Dishing With Grace and going with the grain—rye, that is



The bright and airy Crush is in

Crushing It

Michael Morton's new MGM Grand spot delivers on both atmosphere and taste

By **AL MANCINI**

► **WHEN YOU'RE LOOKING** for a place to eat, are you more concerned with food or atmosphere? I'd rather eat amazing cuisine in a dump than have a mediocre dinner at the coolest spot in town. But the restaurants of Michael Morton (partner with his wife, Jenna, in the Morton Group's La Comida Downtown and La Cave in Wynn) have always appealed to me more for their vibe than their cuisine.

That's not to say the food at either has ever been bad. It's just played a supporting role.

The same can be said for the Moroccan shared-plates restaurant in MGM's Crush (tagline: "Eat, drink, love.") rooms are gorgeous. There's a great sphere throughout. And the food, from good to very good, with a few fictional dishes.

Crush is in the space that House Tavern—the most underappreciated restaurant of Michael Mina's local empire, which have been expanded