

First published December 2006
Copyright © China Trend Building Press Limited
trend@building.com.hk

Sands Macau Casino

When the gaming monopoly right owned by STDM was expired in 2001, the Government of Macau SAR in 2002 awarded gaming concessions to two other Macau gaming companies – Wynn Resort Ltd and Galaxy Casino (Venetian).

Venetian broke the ground in September 2002 to build Sands Macau Casino. The development was divided into 3 phases for completion, including Phase 1 — Main

Casino, which was completed and opened in May 2004.

Phase 2 comprises guest suites, restaurants, high limit casino and health SPA was completed and operated in August 2004. Subsequently, Phase 3 comprises VIP guest suites and studio theatre was also opened in November 2005.

The casino project covers approximately 21,056 sq m of site area. The 10,000 sq m main casino hall was constructed by





structural steel frame with a 23-metre clear head room. The gaming area is designed to accommodate 300 gaming tables and 600 slot machines. Other facilities including porte cochere, guest suites, restaurants, studio theatre, lounge and health SPA, etc are provided in the development.

Externally, the building facade is comprised of aluminium curtain wall with gold colour glazing and solid black granite panels. Elaborate roof features distinguish the building from its neighbours. A large screen on the external wall displays events and at night turns into a colourful lightshow.

It is estimated that at the peak of construction around 3,300 people were working at the site. A total of 85,000 cu m of concrete was poured and Phase 1 Main Casino superstructure and fitting-out was completed in 12 months.

Sands Podium and Hotel Tower

Following the grand opening of Sands Macau Casino Building in May 2004, a 7-storey podium casino floors expansion located in the southwest corner of Sands Casino Building was also completed and opened in August 2006. The podium floors were integrated above ground level into the





existing Sands Building to form a seamless expansion of its operations for both customers and staff facilities.

The casino floors match the existing decoration to create one large casino and similarly the back-of-house areas match the existing. The exterior enclosure surface has a curtain-wall facade and granite stone panels applied to match the existing installation. It has then become the largest casino in the world at the time of opening and provided approximately 750 gaming tables and 1,250 slot machines.

The podium structure is a 7-level building from ground and forms the base for the future tower. It consists of casino floors, the future hotel lobby and supporting back-of-house functions. Entry is via the existing casino building at ground level and access to first floor provided by the existing escalators. New escalators provide circulation for the public inside the casino between Level 1 to Level 3. The main back-of-house supporting facilities are provided at mezzanine level, which interfaces with the existing facilities. Building mechanical services is provided on the fifth floor with smaller plant room areas at ground and mezzanine levels. The floor plate of the podium expansion is approximately 2,400 sq m per level. The total height of the podium is approximately 45 metres.

The works are completed in accordance with IBC requirements in respect with all Life Safety aspects including fire compartments, escape stairs, egress widths etc.

Currently under construction is a high rise hotel tower 18-storey built above the podium transfer deck. The project is targeted to complete by late September 2007. The aim





owner
Venetian Macau Limited

construction manager
Hsin Chong Engineering (Macau) Ltd

lead consultant
Aedas (Macau) Limited

design architect
Paul Steelman Design Group Asia Ltd

regulatory consultant
Macau Professional Services Ltd

civil, structural, geotechnical and traffic engineer
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd

building services engineer
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd

cost consultant
H.A. Brechin (Macau) Ltd

registered contractor
Ever Apex Construction (Macau) Ltd



3/F



2/F



1/F



G/F



of the tower project is to provide enhanced guest facilities for high end gamers visiting Macau as part of a junket operation.

The tower will have 17 floors of typical guest suites, 1 floor with guest facilities and swimming pool at the podium roof level and a multi-function top floor. Each typical floor plate will be approximately 1,350 sq m. The floor-to-floor height of the tower will be 3.15 metres for the typical levels, allowing 2.8 metres ceiling height in the typical guest rooms. Floor-to-floor height of 5.075 metres is provided at the top two floors of the tower.

The building appearance remains unchanged with a curtain wall facade to give a modern outlook matching features from the existing building. The interior design maintains a very high standard demanded of the patrons of the casino in keeping with the style of the existing provisions. Two luxury suites are provided per floor plus 12 standard suites. Accessible suites are also provided to

comply with code requirement. The number of suites per floor is 14 providing a totally of 238 rooms. Appropriate MEP plant rooms and Back of House offices are provided for the smooth operation of this luxury hotel. Other facilities include a landscape deck and swimming pool at level 6 of the podium.

The roof feature was designated at 12 metres in height which results in a tower height of approximately 127 metres above sea level.

Fast Facts

Sands Podium and Hotel Tower

Development areas

podium expansion site area	2,600 sq m
covered area	2,395 sq m
GFA	41,009 sq m

Function space

podium casino gaming	5,719 sq m
other podium area	10,990 sq m
hotel rooms and suites	16,490 sq m
other hotel tower area	7,810 sq m