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**BEHIND THE SCENES AT
SOUTH BY SOUTHWEST** P.47

**EVENT APPS:
WHERE PLANNERS
GO WRONG** P.41

**UNDERCOVER
WITH AMWAY'S
INCENTIVE
WINNERS** P.37

**POLL: ETHICS
AND THE GSA
FIASCO** P.18

**HOW
COMPANIES
MANAGE
MEETINGS
TODAY** P.27

- > Strategies
- > Spending
- > Policies
- > Tech tools
- > Trends
and more...

BOSTON P.59 PHOENIX/SCOTTSDALE P.54 RENO/TAHOE P.51



Hip hangout: The new Wet lounge at the Grand Sierra Resort

Continued from page 51

U.S. that's heated entirely by geothermal energy produced on-site.

The new owners at Reno's 1,993-room **Grand Sierra Resort** have initiated a renovation to the tune of approximately \$20 million. The main lobby already has undergone a chic upgrade, and now it's the guest rooms' turn. A new lounge, Wet, and a small-plate Mexican restaurant, Cantina, have both recently debuted. The resort has more than 200,000 square feet of meeting space, which soon will be renovated as well.

The long-discussed **Boulder Bay** project in North Lake Tahoe has been approved by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. Plans call for a four-story, 275-room hotel with a 10,000-square-foot casino, to be built over three years. On the site of the former Tahoe Biltmore, Boulder Bay will be designed as a "cultural village" in an environmentally sustainable manner. Construction could begin this year.

MEETING HOTELS

Properties in Reno include the 1,993-room Grand Sierra Resort & Casino, 1,710-room Silver Legacy Resort Casino, 1,635-room Peppermill Resort Spa

Casino, 1,572-room Circus Circus Reno, 928-room Harrah's Reno, 833-room Sands Regency Casino Hotel, 820-room Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, 817-room Eldorado Hotel Casino Reno, 318-room Boomtown Hotel & Casino and 214-room Siena Reno Hotel Spa Casino.

Hotels in nearby Sparks include the 1,600-room John Ascuaga's Nugget Casino Resort and 220-room Holiday Inn Reno-Sparks.

Among properties in the Lake Tahoe area are the 742-room Harveys Lake Tahoe Casino & Resort; 539-room Horizon Casino Resort; 525-room Harrah's Lake Tahoe; 437-room MontBleu Resort Casino & Spa; 422-room Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe Resort, Casino and Spa; 405-room Resort at Squaw Creek; 396-room Embassy Suites Lake Tahoe Hotel & Ski Resort and 302-room Ridge Tahoe.

CONVENTION CENTER

Reno-Sparks Convention Center; exhibit space, approximately 381,000 square feet; number of meeting rooms, 53; (775) 827-7260; bit.ly/jjAGTT

TAXES

Reno, Sparks, northeast side of Lake Tahoe: room tax, 13% to 13.5%; sales tax, 7.725%; total tax on hotel rooms, 13% to 13.5% (a \$2 room tax is added to downtown Reno hotels with unrestricted gaming licenses)

Southeast side of Lake Tahoe (Douglas County, Nev.): room tax, 13%; sales tax, 7.1%; total tax on hotel rooms, 13%

California side of South Lake Tahoe: city room tax (non-redevelopment area), 10%; city room tax (redevelopment areas only), 12.02%; city tourism assessment, \$3 per occupied hotel room, \$4.50 per occupied condo/timeshare unit; sales tax, 7.75%

GROUP VENUE

Campo, which means "gathering spot" or "meeting place" in Italian, is a downtown Reno restaurant that debuted last November. The place revels in the use of organic, local and seasonal ingredients in an ever-changing menu. Specialties of the house include handmade pasta, Neapolitan pizzas and house-cured salumi. The airy interior affords views of the kitchen, the curing case and a wood-burning pizza oven imported from Naples. The room opens onto a large riverside patio. A semi-private room seats 30; buyouts can accommodate up to 120 diners, or 220 with the patio open. (775) 737-9555; campo.reno.com



OUTSIDE IN. Reno's new "urban adventure" venue, CommRow, sports a climbing wall, indoor bouldering and two entertainment venues available for even. Shown is Cargo, a concert venue that can hold 706 standing or 300 seated.

CONTACT

Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority, (775) 827-7600 or (800) 367-7366, rscva.com

North Lake Tahoe Visitors & Convention Bureau, (530) 581-8703, (530) 581-8701 or (800) 462-5196, gotahoenorth.com 