

# The House That Lefty Built



# It's a part of the foundation from which Las Vegas grew

By Bobbie Katz / Photography by Jeff Green Photography

From the outside, the house in the exclusive Las Vegas Country Club appears to be par for the course—just another home on the green built during the 1970s that possesses an Old Vegas charm all of its own.

But once inside, the details or “bullet” points emerge. Things like hidden compartments in the tops of closets, bulletproof glass windows, 150-pound doors made of metal and triple-thickness wood, a steel staircase, remnants of a state-of-the-art monitoring system and more denote that this was once the home of Frank “Lefty” Rosenthal, the organized crime figure who secretly ran the Stardust and other casinos when they were controlled by the Chicago Outfit. Currently up for sale with an asking price of \$725,000, it is concrete proof of the real inside story in Las Vegas history not depicted in the movie *Casino*, of which Rosenthal, played by Robert DeNiro, was the subject.



“This historical property is more than a home. It’s a lifestyle,” says Celebrity Real Estate agent Aaron Auxier, who has the exclusive private listing. “It’s an opportunity you can’t refuse.”

Although Rosenthal, who died in Miami at age 79 on October 14, 2008, was forced out of Las Vegas in 1988 after being placed in the persona non grata “Black Book”—and surviving the infamous car bombing assassination attempt in 1982—the house he left behind still resonates with the spirit of the era.

“Rosenthal bought the house brand new in 1970,” says photographer Jeff Green, the house’s current owner. “In 1976, the house next door caught fire and it spread to this house. So Frank had the Stardust redo it the way he wanted it. He spent \$500,000 back then. It had sophisticated equipment with which he could monitor his office at the Stardust and the front and back doors of the house. There were also pressure plates so that he could hear someone coming up the stairs.”

The 3,266-square-foot house retains the original entryway, bar, mirrored ceilings, wood ceilings, built-in, upstairs catwalk, sunken rectangular bathtub, door handles, faucets, key box, pool, art pieces by Bill Barnes, some wallpaper and other things. It was designed by famed designer Steven Chase of Palm Springs. Rosenthal, who made \$250,000 a year at the Stardust, but made millions as a renowned sports bettor and handicapper, spared no expense.

“He had an outside box to hook up a telephone, which is still there,” Green notes. “He also had the balcony outside his bedroom removed for safety reasons. At one point, in the early ‘80s, it was said that he had guards on the golf course. The curved 2-story window in the back of the house is cut into the brick and there is a mark on it that they say is from a gun during an assassination attempt.”

Phone aside, when this house “talks,” people listen. It’s a chapter of Las Vegas’ unique past you won’t find anywhere else—a true mob scene in its finest sense. **VID**