



CHARLES M. SCHULZ - SONOMA COUNTY AIRPORT

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Jon Stout, Airport Manager (707) 565-7243

Subject: Sonoma County Airport's Santa Rosa - Las Vegas Service
Elvis was seen at the Airport and left on the Inaugural Flight

SANTA ROSA - The Charles M. Schulz - Sonoma County Airport (STS) and Horizon Air began new, daily nonstop flights to Las Vegas from Santa Rosa on April 24. This is the first time that Horizon Air has offered air service to Las Vegas. The airline initiated the service in response to public demand; Las Vegas is a popular destination with North Bay travelers.

First-flight festivities included live music and refreshments, a toast on the ramp hosted by the Sonoma County Tourism Bureau, and a special appearance by talented Las Vegas Elvis impersonator Harry Shahoian. Elvis posed for photos, chatted with the crowd, and, much to everyone's delight, sang a song with the band (Sunday at Ed's). Sky Lounge Restaurant hosted the band, and with its patio seating adjacent to the airfield, first-flight revelers had a clear view of the aircraft upon its arrival from Los Angeles. Those not on the inaugural flight watched the plane depart on its first flight to Las Vegas by the light of the setting sun.

Supervisor Paul Kelley, whose district includes the Airport, said, "I am very pleased that air service from STS is doing so well, and that our partnership with Horizon has continued with this exciting new service to Las Vegas."

While passengers were boarding, officials from Sonoma County, the Airport, Sonoma County Tourism, Las Vegas Tourism, Horizon Air, other guests, and Elvis, enjoyed a celebratory toast on the ramp by the plane. Percy Brandon, Sonoma County Tourism Board Chairman, provided wine from Ferrari-Carano Vineyards and Winery for a departure and an onboard toast. The Airport, Sonoma County Tourism, Horizon Air, and Security staff worked together to coordinate the event and toasts, and the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority generously provided Elvis.

The sold-out flight taxied to the runway under a sweeping arc of water from an Airport fire truck before heading to Las Vegas. The fun didn't end with the departure; there was more to come. The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, represented by Brig Lawson, provided each passenger on board with a goodie-filled gift bag, and to everyone's surprise, he also distributed complimentary tickets to a Blue Man Group show.

The new flight to Las Vegas McCarran International Airport (LAS) departs Santa Rosa at 7:35 p.m. The return flight to Santa Rosa departs at 10:15 p.m. The flight takes two hours and five minutes.

Reservations are available online at horizonair.com and by calling Horizon Air at 1-800-547-9308.

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Las Vegas, with its non-stop entertainment, is a top destination for travelers from the region served by the Sonoma County Airport, which includes parts of Marin, Napa, Lake, Mendocino, and Sonoma Counties. Sonoma County is also a prime destination, and now travelers from Las Vegas and beyond will be able to fly directly to the Wine Country for business and pleasure.

The new STS-LAS route connects conveniently with 30 cities including Atlanta, Austin, Baltimore, Boston, Charlotte, Chicago O’Hare, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Colorado Springs, Columbus, Detroit, Fort Lauderdale, Los Angeles, Mexico City, Miami, Minneapolis, New York Kennedy, Newark, Ontario, Orlando, Palm Springs, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Pittsburgh, Salt Lake City, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Tampa, Tucson, and Washington Dulles.

The LAS-STS route can be connected from 25 cities including Atlanta, Austin, Boise, Charlotte, Chicago O’Hare, Calgary, Columbus, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Edmonton, Houston, Memphis, New York, Kennedy, Newark, Orange County, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Reno, San Antonio, St. Louis, Salt Lake City, Tucson, and Washington Dulles.

Horizon Air began serving Sonoma County on March 20, 2007, with flights to Los Angeles and Seattle. On Oct. 28, the airline added a daily nonstop flight to Portland. On April 6, Horizon Air added a second seasonal flight to Seattle that will run through October 25. These flights, as well as the new Las Vegas flight, are operated with the airline’s quiet and comfortable 76-seat Q400 aircraft.

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