



VS Takes Miami

True to its \$1 billion renovation, the dazzling Fontainebleau spares no expense with a lavish opening weekend, climaxing with the star-studded Victoria's Secret Fashion Show

BY LAURE BROOKINS PHOTOGRAPHS BY SETH BROWARNIK



Heidi Klum walks the finale of the Victoria's Secret show.

Amid 48 hours of dizzying activity, among the free-flowing Champagne and the copious sightings of Hollywood glitterati striding across Morris Lapidus's iconic bow-tie floor, my favorite moment of the Fontainebleau's splashy reopening had to be the black booth that occupied one corner of an oceanfront ballroom.

You could call the booth nondescript, but this wouldn't be accurate, given that it was emblazoned with "Bare Bronze" in oversized letters. As it was crafted of three panels of floor-to-ceiling black canvas against one ballroom wall, you might call this makeshift construction inconspicuous, if security hadn't been telling every cameraman and photographer to stay away from it, otherwise they would have their credentials stripped and would be unceremoniously escorted from the property. Ultimately such warnings caused the booth to be precisely what it needed to be: highly curious and yet impenetrable. This was where the Victoria's Secret models were slathered head to toe in the brand's signature bronzer, you see, and while you were never going to witness this pre-show ritual, for many it was enough to know that it was indeed happening right here.

That this was the level of behind-closed-doors activity speaks much to the frenzy that surrounded the Fontainebleau's grand reopening following a much-ballyhooed, \$1-billion renovation. The annual Victoria's Secret Fashion Show was undeniably the pinnacle of the hotel's two-day debut in mid-November, and V.S.

execs were waxing rhapsodic about their latest location. "This is my 13th Victoria's Secret Fashion Show, and we've never had such great partners," said Monica Mitros, the lingerie megabrand's vice president of public relations and an executive producer of the show.



Alessandra Ambrosio and Usher.

Mitros said this on Saturday afternoon in that same oceanfront space—named, appropriately enough, The Glimmer Ballroom—where Heidi Klum, Miranda Kerr, Selita Ebanks, Karolina Kurkova, Alessandra Ambrosio and 30 other supermodels from 17 countries were having their hair and makeup done, all dressed in identical pink-satin robes with "Fontainebleau Miami Beach" embellished in crystals on the back; the signature was flanked by a pair of angel wings, of course. Nearby, Martha Stewart, holding court with a phalanx of international media, was discussing this year's Fantasy Bra, a \$5-million stunner designed by Martin Katz and crafted of black and white diamonds totaling roughly 1,500 carats. V.S. Angel Adriana Lima scored the honor of wearing the status piece in the show, which caused me to ponder the oddity of Stewart offering up quotes on something that was decidedly the polar opposite of homespun.

Then again, the roster of A-listers was so expansive this weekend Stewart could be forgiven for seeking out her own moments in the sun. The night before, roughly 2,000 guests feasted on Fontainebleau details both new and old, from Lapidus' celebrated bow-tie floor, cheese wall and the Staircase to Nowhere to the newly installed Ai Wei Wei chandeliers and Chocolate Indulgence

lounge. Alex Rodriguez, Molly Sims, Chloë Sevigny, Jason Lewis, Serena and Venus Williams and Kyle MacLachlan were among those in attendance, and it's a testament to the curiosity surrounding the hotel's design details that celebs weren't ensconced in a super-secret VIP locale, and instead were eager to tour the environs with the rest of us mere mortals. I was moments through the door when Gwyneth Paltrow, led by director (and Miami Beach native) Brett Ratner, passed by in the lobby; minutes later, in the adjacent Bleau Bar, James Caan and Robert Duvall were seen in rapt conversation, and I couldn't help but wonder about the parallel universe where Sonny Corleone and Tom Hagen would likewise be engaged. Fold in Klum and other V.S. Angels performing the official ribbon cutting with Don and Jeffrey Scffer on the Staircase to Nowhere, and the night capping with a performance by Mariah Carey and Robin Thicke in the Sparkle Ballroom, and it was a starry night, indeed.

