



Twin Clubs in the Twin Cities:

Martin Supplies Spin and Valentino's in Minneapolis/St. Paul

The Minneapolis/St. Paul area has gotten two new clubs, each featuring lighting/effects packages from Martin Professional.

Spin (photo, right) opened its doors last September in downtown Minneapolis' historic Lumber Exchange Building. The split-level dance club boasts a trendy décor and large dance area, with Martin lighting coming from a 40' ceiling.

The lighting-and-sound system designer is Doug Suiter, of Metro Sound and Lighting, whose eclectic approach makes for a visually appealing venue.

Suiter incorporated a large amount of Martin gear in his design, specifically above the central dance floor. Here, overlooked by a surrounding balcony, Martin units are mounted on a powder-coated white ITT truss, a giant oval with two 20' curved truss arcs surrounding a 4' mirror ball.

Providing the color decoration are 16 CX-10 color changers, with eight MAC 250 Krypton profile spots and eight RoboScan 918 scanners providing gobo and logo sweeps. Four Atomic Colors strobes add color punch, while a four-head Martin Magnum Club Smoke system keeps the room adequately hazed for mid-air projection.

Other gear includes eight Elation Powerspot 250s and a four-head nitrogen-blast system to keep things cool. All lighting and sound gear, including the Martin equipment, was supplied by Metro Sound and Lighting.

Three bars, awash in computer-controlled color, including LED walls, surround the dance floor. A total of 700' of color-changing LEDs are located both behind and in front of the bars, and are spread around the room. LEDs can also be found in the VIP section, including the VIP/bottle-service Red Room. Every area has the ability to color-change throughout the evening and the entire main room is capable of snapping colors. Color variations are many, with the option of running one system or the other. The dance floor can be blacked out, with only the LED units providing illumination, or the LEDs can be blacked out, with only the dance-floor lighting in use. Either way, the effect is



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striking. All lighting control comes from a PC-based Martin LightJockey with touch screen. Audio, both foreground and background, is from a high powered EV system.

Spin is equipped with multiple VIP areas, including the secluded Red Room, a crimson hideaway dressed in red velvet and soft LED lighting. Other amenities at the club include plasma TVs and a fiber-optic star field with Advanced Lighting illuminators.

Meanwhile, South St. Paul is trying to shed its stockyards-and-meat-packing-industry reputation and what better way to do it than by bringing in classy nightspots



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like Valentino's (photo, bottom), a European-style nightclub with accompanying upscale Italian restaurant on the lower level.

Valentino's makes its home in a refurbished castle hotel, the original Stockyard Exchange Building. Historic on the outside, Valentino's is chic on the inside, with a spacious series of rooms spread across two levels.

Valentino's is Renaissance-themed and features upscale décor complete with dark wood; Renaissance-style furniture; ornamental European balcony railings; cracked walls; etched stained concrete floors; and a decorative ceiling. Candlelight and decorative chandelier lights in intimate corners make for an exclusive feel.

The refurbishment included knocking out a floor between the two levels to make an open bi-level central dance area. The lighting and sound system designer is (again) by Doug Suiter, who incorporated a large amount of Martin gear in his design. He explains, "Originally, we had planned an elaborate light show for the space, but, because of the aesthetics of the club, the client went with a more scaled-down lighting install." His design accentuates the stylish details of the space while providing enough kick to power the central dance-floor area.

The install was completed last fall and includes 15 Martin MiniMACs in the main room, both Profile and Wash versions. The MiniMacs project patterns onto the dance floor while adding texture and accentuating color to surrounding walls. A pair of Ego 04 flower effects and a pair of Atomic 3000 strobes are also part of the dance floor rig.

Located on the upper level, firing gobo designs down onto the dance floor, are four Mac Krypton 250 profile spots. A Jem ZR 24/7 Hazer provides the mid-air projection canopy and all lights are run off a PC-based LightJockey with touch screen.

Upstairs is a Martini Room, an exclusive lounge with a secondary DJ and light show featuring more MiniMacs, as well as an area with glass door and balcony that overlooks the dance floor, for private parties. Audio comes courtesy of a high-powered EV system. 