



2026 EDITORIAL CALENDAR

MONTHLY COLUMNS & DEPARTMENTS

Editor's Letter

Strictly Slots' editors tackle some of this month's gaming topics and address some of the latest news in the gaming industry.

Readers Talk Back

Readers from across the U.S. submit their questions for the *Strictly Slots* experts to answer.

Upfront

Our coast-to-coast roundup of the hottest news in the gaming industry.

Scoble's Slant

Frank Scoblete, America's #1 best-selling gaming author, provides his humorous take on the gaming experience—while giving expert analysis of the games we love to play, and the best strategies for winning and having fun along the way.

Video Poker Insider

Our veteran gaming writers address video poker strategy including the correct way to play your favorite machines, and the odds and mathematics that smart players want to know about. Thanks to the pros, our readers gain a clear picture of which games they should wager on—and how to maximize their trips to the casino.

Top 25: The Most Slots

Looking for great games and casinos with a HUGE variety? In every issue of 2026, we detail the hottest casinos with the best selection of slots.

Game Designer Spotlight

We shine a spotlight on the masterminds behind the slot machines that captivate us. In this department, we introduce you to the visionary game designers who bring our favorite slots to life. Discover their creative processes, innovation and the sheer genius that goes into crafting the games we adore. Get ready to meet the minds responsible for the thrilling spins and big wins that keep us entertained at the casino and how they surpass their local rivals.

Executive Decisions

Slot makers know what gets players excited. Top executives from some of the most innovative gaming companies share their expertise, offering an insider's look at what it takes to bring a hot new game to life.

Players Club Spotlight

Each month, we profile a casino players club that is going the extra mile to attract new players and reward loyal customers. This promises to be one of our most popular departments in 2026, as casinos across the country are implementing bold new ideas—and technologies—to make their clubs and promotions more exciting and imaginative than ever. This is information players always want to know about.

Slot Spotlight

A showcase of the hottest slot games that are new on casino floors (or due to arrive soon). This information is useful to slot enthusiasts, as well as slot operations managers who are interested in acquiring the latest, hottest titles.

Player's Edge

Gaming columnist John Grochowski provides expert commentary on casino games ranging from popular favorites to new arrivals.

Promotion Picks

Our selections for the best promotions or special events for the month.

Industry Insights

Q&A with leaders in casino marketing and loyalty programs.

Spinning Reels

Slot specialist and gaming expert Sean Chaffin takes us on a tour of the latest news and trends in the sometimes quirky, always exciting world of slot machines and slot players.

Reader's Corner

Readers share their trip reports at their favorite casinos.

Winners

Lucky players who have won jackpots in casinos nationwide.

Slot Payout Percentages

Tracking the casinos with the highest paybacks.

Perfectly Frank

Frank Legato's highly popular, long-running op-ed column in which he muses on his life as a slot player, and shares observations and anecdotes about the games—and the industry—that our readers find hilarious, as well as informative.

JANUARY

The Year Ahead in Slots

New game releases and innovations set to transform gaming.

Slot Resolutions

Tips for setting gambling-related resolutions.

Best Progressive Jackpots for the New Year

Royal Flushes & Deuces Wild

A brief history of video poker.

FEBRUARY

Best of Racino Awards Ballot Issue

2026 Slot Preview

New machines & trends to watch.

Racing to the Top

Our roundup of some of the leading racinos in the country.

Date Night Jackpot

Casino lovers roll the dice for romance at these top casino resorts.

Destination: Florida

MARCH

Bonus Distribution: Indian Gaming & Tradeshow Convention

Best of Racinos Awards Ballot Issue

VIP Lounges & High Limit Roms

What's New for 2026

Spinning Forward

New slots and innovations on tap at the Indian Gaming Expo and Convention.

The Titans of Slots

IGT, Aristocrat, Light & Wonder, Eclipse, AGS and more.

Meet The Makers

The creative minds behind your favorite slots.

APRIL

Cover Feature:

Loosest Slots in America

Our annual Loosest Slots Awards issue. Think you know where the loosest slots are? Think again!

Industry Trends

Mobile gaming and online casinos.

Top Casinos for Record Slot Wins

Life-changing jackpots and where to find them.

Destination: Oklahoma

MAY

Immersive Play

The rise of themed slot lounges and zones.

Tribal Gaming: Midwest

A look at the top tribal properties in the region.

Slot Lounges

Slot lounges that double as entertainment hubs.

Summer of Slots

The hottest slot releases of the summer, plus seasonal promotions & summer slot tournaments.

Destination: Pacific Northwest

JUNE

Cover Feature:

Best of Racino Awards

Our annual awards issue, open only to racinos. Check out which properties scored big with their players for 2026!

Coastal Resort Casinos with Sizzling Slot Scenes

Summer casino adventures and jackpot hunts.

Mobile Slots: Gaming on the go.

Destination: Pennsylvania

JULY

Best of Slots Awards Ballot

VIP & Player Development

Behind the velvet rope with casino hosts.

Cruising for Slots

The best cruise lines for slot players.

Comps, Rewards & Maximizing Tier Credits

Luxury Stays and VIP Perks for Slot Players

Which casinos are rolling out the red carpet for players.

Destination: Colorado

AUGUST

Best of Slots Awards Ballot

Next Gen Slots

AI, personalization & cashless gaming.

Gaming Innovators

Which casinos are leading the tech revolution.

Fan Favorites

A look at some of the most popular casinos for slots, and the games we all love to play.

Destination: Midwest Gaming

SEPTEMBER

Best Bets: East Coast Gaming

Travel up and down the East in search of the region's hottest—and hidden—casino destinations.

Great Slot Hangouts

Check out these hidden gems and slot hangouts hiding in plain sight.

Sizing Up Your Bankroll

How much cash should you bring to the casino?

Destination: Pacific Northwest

OCTOBER

Cover Feature:

G2E 2026 Show issue

A sneak peek at what's in store on the slot floor in 2026. Get ready to be thrilled!

Player Evolution

Skill-based games on the rise.

Tribal Leaders

Our annual review of the best tribal casinos from across the country.

Power Players

Tribal casinos leading the way.

Las Vegas in the Fall

Entertainment, dining & beyond the slots.

Destination: California

NOVEMBER

Cover Feature:

The Best of Slots Awards

Our annual review of the favorite casinos to play slots.

The Future of Slot Machines: What's Next in Technology and Gameplay?

A look ahead at the future of slots, exploring trends such as augmented reality, skill-based elements and new gaming experiences.

King of Jackpots

Progressive play in 2026.

DECEMBER

Players Choice Awards 2026

Revealing the top Best of Slots award-winning casinos in every state, from coast to coast.

Year in Review

A look back at the gaming industry's biggest moments.

Cruise Control

Escape the winter blues on one of these incredible cruises.