

## DESERT PATROL



# DANIELLE DEMSKI

## Poker Face

**I**f you had told Danielle Demski as a child that she would grow up to enter (and win) major beauty pageants, become the face of a televised poker competition and host a segment on the latest must-do's in Las Vegas, she probably wouldn't have believed you. "I really didn't plan for this," says Demski, 25, who grew up in Chandler, Arizona and now resides in Henderson. "But I must say it's working out just fine."

For starters, Demski entered the Miss Teen Arizona pageant at the age of 17 on a whim and won (it was her first pageant) and a few years later decided to make a run at Miss Arizona after finishing her broadcast-journalism degree at Arizona State in 2003. "I'd already seen what the [Miss USA] organization could do for me, and I knew that it could be a great stepping stone and that I would meet so many people," says Demski. She won—and went on to become a finalist in the big-daddy Miss USA pageant.

Today, Demski, a self-confessed sports nut and fledgling actress, is the host of VEGAS.com's "The Vegas Minute," a nationally syndicated entertainment-style news segment detailing what's in and what's going down in Sin City. "It showcases the great things and places here, and it's a really fun show to do." In addition, Demski is launching her second season as host of *Three-Card Poker National Championship Tournament* on the Game Show Network. "I split my time between here and Los Angeles, or else I'm traveling for work," says Demski of her lifestyle. "But I love it here, and I love living in Green Valley. My friends who visit are always surprised that there's such 'normal' life outside of the Strip, that there are these great neighborhoods and real people. I have been so lucky with the opportunities I've found here in Vegas."

—Kate Bennett

### JUST THE FACTS

**Signature cocktail:** "I love a good peach martini. I had a great one the other night at Wynn. I went to see Spamalot with some friends and stopped by the main bar in the casino for a drink, and it was the best one I've ever had."

**Favorite hangout:** "I'm busy most of the time, but I do love to go out, and lately the Playboy Club at the Palms has been a favorite. It's very lounge-y and laid back."

**Fashion musts:** "I love Betsy Johnson, I love the colors of her clothes and how fun the styles are. But I'm definitely a jeans girl. I'm pretty much in jeans all the time."

**Pageant beauty tips:** "When I went to Miss USA, I was there for almost three weeks, going to appearances and rehearsals all day long, and when I came back to my room to change outfits, I would put a little bit of baby powder in my hair to perk it back up and absorb some of the grease and hair spray. That's actually a tip I use quite a bit to this day."

**Something we wouldn't guess about you:** "I'm just starting to learn to play golf. I wouldn't say I'm good at it yet, but I'm loving it."