

PS 106: Holidays, Myths, & More Live | U.S. Virgin Islands Slots in 2020

Opening

Hello! Today's episode #106 of the Professor Slots podcast discusses holiday strategy patterns, a popular payout return myth, and more. Plus, in this episode I'll be covering the current state of slot machine casino gambling in the great U.S. territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Thank you for joining me for the Professor Slots podcast show. I'm Jon Friedl and this is the podcast about slot machine casino gambling. It is where I provide knowledge, insights, and tools for helping you improve your slot machine gambling performance.

On Last Week's Episode...

In case you missed it, on my last episode I went over Special Events Advantages from my weekly live stream Q&A session on YouTube.

Further, I reviewed Texas slot machine casino gambling in 2020.

I hope you enjoyed listening to my last episode as much as I enjoyed making it for you.

Call to Action (add sound effect afterward)

Remember to visit professorslots.com/subscribe to get my Free Report Revealing ... The top 7 online resources for improving your gambling performance, including the one I've used as a top-tier slot machine casino gambler.

YouTube Q&A Session from Saturday, August 29, 2020

Here's the audio recording of my latest live stream Q&A session.

OPENING

Hello, slots enthusiasts! How are you? It's great to hang out with you again for another Professor Slots podcast episode and live stream.

Today we'll going to be diving into my fifth winning slots strategy, common myths of payout returns, and more.

That's coming up!

BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hi, my name is Jon Friedl. Welcome to Professor Slots, a channel that's all about mastering casino slots so you can win your way to success.

Thanks for joining us today, whether you are listening on the podcast, watching this video later, or here with us live on Saturdays at Noon Eastern Time. I'm glad you're all here!

If you're with us during the live stream, make sure to say hello in the live chat. Let us know where you play slots. And, as always, be sure to ask your slots-related questions!

Subscribe to my Professor Slots channel on YouTube to become a part of our rapidly growing community of slots enthusiasts!

BODY

We've got a couple of topics to talk about today, but first let's take a moment to remember those people affected by the storms, including Hurricane Laura, that impacted the gulf coast, including our fellow Louisiana slots enthusiasts. Let's all hope everyone is safe.

The other day, I saw a news report that the roof had been torn off the Golden Nugget in Lake Charles. Pretty amazing, and scary, stuff. The debris from the roof was just falling on the reporters. Here's the link to the video. I'll also put it in the description and the podcast show notes.

<https://www.cnn.com/videos/weather/2020/08/27/hurricane-laura-lake-charles-golden-nugget-casinos-vpx.ktrk>

Our first topic today is my Slots Winning Strategy #5: Reliable Holiday Patterns, which I released on my YouTube channel a few days ago as part of my ongoing Thursday series of videos.

my strategy #5 on the winning advantages of holidays is much like my winning slots strategy #4 on casino special events discussed last week, but with some important differences.

As I discussed on last week's live stream, casino special events draw a large crowd because that's what the casino has deliberately set out to do. These events are promotions. And, like I said, visiting the casino the next morning after the large crowd has gone home is a great time to pick up a significant jackpot or two.

But, as I mentioned at the very end of the show last week, casinos haven't been having significant promotions during the pandemic. Yes, there are some, like the Tiffany Necklace Giveaway at the Borgata in Atlantic City today. Good luck, Stephanie! This morning, Stephanie let our New Jersey Slots Enthusiasts community on Facebook know about the giveaway after she joined that Group this morning.

Holidays are special events, but they're more like special, special events. For one thing, they're not scheduled by the casino. Well, not exactly. Sometimes, like the "almost" holiday Valentine's Day, they may or may not have some sort of Valentine's Day themed promotion. But for the major U.S. holidays, they pretty must have something. Can you imagine them not having a New Year's Eve Party?

For the first time ever this year, there's going to be a fewer New Year's Eve parties due to the pandemic. My point here is that slots enthusiasts like to go to casinos on the holidays, whether there's a promotion or not. The casino can cancel regular special events, and have done so, but they can't cancel national holidays. People will just show up anyway.

For this difference, I've divided out casino special events from holidays. How to win is the same, which I talked over for an hour on last week's live stream. And, during my 8-minute video on Strategy #4. And briefly in my 7-minute on Strategy #5, just in case. As usual, links are in the description and show notes. So, while repetition is great, I won't be going over it for a fourth time today.

The last two months of each year brings three major U.S. holidays including Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's. There are also what I call "almost" holidays immediately before and after each, like Black Friday after Thanksgiving Day as well as Eve's for both Christmas and New Year's.

Over one year's quick succession of holiday celebrations at my local casino, I discovered my reliable holiday pattern winning slots strategy.

Certainly, holidays and almost holidays are hectic days at casinos due to their holiday status. Toward the end of each year, casinos usually see large attendance on each of those six days, planned well in advance by the casino's marketing staff. The possible exception will be 2020.

I learned of reliable holiday patterns from these six days spread across less than a month and a half a couple of years ago. But then I applied these patterns to the other holidays of the year. Don't forget almost holidays like May's Derby Day, celebrated at casinos nationwide.

The first time I was at a casino on Derby Day, nearly twenty years ago when I was first learning about slot machine gambling, I remember arriving early at Prairie Meadows

Racetrack and Casino in Altoona, Iowa near Des Moines. As morning became late afternoon, I began noticing how incredibly busy it was becoming.

Plus, what was up with all the fabulous hats?? Great hats are a Derby Day tradition, if you didn't already know. Do you have a fabulous hat? In my video on this strategy, I'll show you mine. I might even wear it on next week's live stream in honor of this year's Derby Day rescheduled to Saturday, September 5th.

When I look back through my financial gambling records, I've won a single taxable jackpot on a major holiday or its associated "Eve" or "After" day.

On the morning of one Thanksgiving Day, I won two taxable jackpots playing slots for \$2,500 and \$2,400 at 3:35 a.m. and 4:00 a.m. This are somewhat small jackpots when playing high-limit slots, but I still liked them. No way was I going to throw them back in the hopes of getting something bigger!

At the time, my gambling records were not as complete as they would eventually become. Then, I wasn't making a note of special events although I did note holidays. With my more recent gambling records, I do both and more.

Keeping good gambling records isn't just about for preparing to file your annual income tax returns. By adding notes, it's also excellent for analyzing just such gambling performances at your favorite casinos.

For example, did you go to the casino last year on New Year's Eve? How did you do and, based on your gambling records, what should you do this next New Year's Eve? If you don't yet keep gambling records, maybe you should for the upcoming holiday season? It's never too late to start.

We'll talk about how you can most easily do that yourself some other time. Soon! Yet, even with the records I kept then, it is an excellent time to attend a casino between these significant holidays.

I won my largest taxable jackpot to date on a Saturday before Christmas Day for \$27,000. This massive jackpot happened at 5:40 a.m., the second taxable jackpot I'd won in 40 minutes.

As was my habit then when winning taxable jackpots, I liked to get the cash. After paying the required state taxes, this \$27,000 amounted to \$25,353. This hand pay was the first time I won a jackpot worth more than \$5,000.

In the days afterward, I traveled to see distant family over the Christmas holiday that year - so I have no gambling records for any lost winning opportunities. Mostly, I was

trying to absorb having won 45 taxable jackpots in 42 days over a period of 18 casino visits.

On the first Saturday after Christmas that year, I won three taxable jackpots within 35 minutes. I got the first jackpot starting 10 minutes after I began playing at 4:45 a.m. The night before had been a busy night at the casino. I didn't win any taxable jackpots the next morning, on Sunday. But, then again, I arrived later at 7:45 a.m. after it was all over.

The pandemic of 2020 has disrupted casino special events, with most canceled, but has had only a minor effect on individuals celebrating national holidays. If your casino is closed for morning cleanings, you'll need to work around that schedule during your early morning visits to implement this winning slots strategy.

INTERLUDE

Let's check in with the Live Chat to briefly say hello...

That was excellent!

Visit [professorslots.com/subscribe](https://www.professorslots.com/) to get my Free Report Revealing ... The top 7 online resources for improving your gambling performance, including the one I've used as a top-tier slot machine casino gambler.

BODY

In this second part of the show, let's switch our attention to payout returns. A while ago, I wrote an article for my ProfessorSlots.com website called Top Financial Benefits of Slot Machine Payout Returns. As you may know, I've only recently started creating YouTube videos about most of my website posts, including my current Thursday series on my winning slot strategies. As a podcast listener, you may remember I went over this payout returns post back in episode #24: Leveraging Payout Returns.

During this last week, I've been working on one of my next YouTube videos. It's based on this Payout Returns post. I hope to have it done in a few more days. Subscribe to my YouTube channel and hit the reminder button to hear about it once it's published.

I definitely wanted to share this topic with you, but when? Next weekend's live stream is another winning strategy plus Derby Day, so that's already a full schedule. But with the Reliable Holiday Patterns being a somewhat short topic, because its how-to part was already described, then this seemed like the perfect time ... even if the video isn't quite finished.

And, finally, there's the American Casino Guide. I love and respect their work, but some of it is becoming just a little dated. Yesterday, they posted (again) the old myth I hear everywhere that higher slot machine denominations have better payout returns.

So, two-and-a-half years ago, I wrote my rebuttal in a post sub-section "Myths of Payout Returns". I feel raising this topic now is a good call, because already this morning I'm "discussing" it with ACG within their Facebook Group post. Apparently, they're looking at their own past data to support the post while I'm looking at the state-provided return statistics.

Hopefully, we'll work this out. But I doubt it. Due to rapid changes in slots technology and quickly evolving casino business practices, even venerable institutions like the American Casino Guide have, in specific areas, fallen behind. ACG is great. I recommend them as part of my Top 7 Online Resources. But all that hard work was mostly before 2012. Was it once true that higher payout returns were always the high limit machines? A decade ago, that was probably true – because ACG was the authority then. But is that true, anymore? Not with slots, and it's starting to show. Change is hard for most companies.

Anyway, I'll update you on my next live stream how the debate goes. Or, should I say, rages on. In any case, let's talk about payout returns!

Lots of slots enthusiasts use the term "loose" and "tight." These popular terms are entirely about slot machine payout returns. Loose means the machine has higher payout returns, while tight slot machines have lower payout returns.

Theoretical payout is an electronic setting for the slot machine. To understand where it comes from, see the description below for the link to my previous video on this topic. Actual return is an accounting record kept of how the machine performed over time.

Theoretical payouts and actual returns are in percentages, either win% or hold%. Payouts are always a player win percentage. Return statistics can be win% or hold%, where who wins and or loses can be from the perspective of the player or the casino.

Win% is the amount won divided by the total amount played. The amount lost divided by the total amount played is hold%, or just subtract the Win% from 100%. Where it can get confusing is, who is winning or losing? From our point of view as a player, we're the winner while the casino holds onto our money.

But from the casino's point of view, it's switched. To them, they're the winner and we're the ones that held onto our money. Keep in mind that, if you're one of the few slots enthusiast's whose state publishes returns, those statistics might be in win% or hold%.

Slot machine manufacturers design the electronics of slot machines to have a range of theoretical payout percentages, from which the casino operators they sell them to can down-select one of those settings as needed.

Slot machine manufacturers and casino operators do not make the win or hold percent of specific slot machines available to the public, naturally enough. And, with technology marching forward, slot manufacturers have added remote access to allow the casinos to adjust the odds electronically.

At any given time, a casino operator selects one specific theoretical payout setting. But a lot of thought goes into which setting to use, where the casino operator evaluates it for both desired financial performance metrics as well as for complying with their gaming jurisdiction requirements, if any.

What I think is interesting about theoretical slot machine payout returns is how they are different from any other game available at a casino. Roulette, craps, and card games are based on fixed rules. These rules very specifically define the odds of winning.

Websites like Michael Shackleford's The Wizard of Odds exist to provide those various odds of winning by calculating them. If you know what you're doing, you can do it yourself. Believe me, it's not rocket science.

My point here is that most games in casinos have known odds of winning, to a high degree of accuracy, and slot machines do not. For slot machines, the odds of winning are never known outside of a very few employees at casinos, and they're not sharing due to serious legal ramifications if they were to do so.

Without theoretical slot machine payout settings being available to slots enthusiasts, what are we to do? Well, we've got several options. I'll go over them in my upcoming video.

MYTHS OF SLOT MACHINE PAYOUT RETURNS

For now, let's skip ahead to myths of slot machine payout returns. Theoretical slot machine payout returns are not known except to a few employees at casinos. This lack of knowledge has, as is often the case, generated quite a few myths. I talk about a few of these myths next, and provide a few reasons why some of them may or may not be true.

One myth often said is that it is a good rule of thumb for players that slots with higher denominations tend to have a higher payout percentage. The best way to analyze this myth is to look at the six state gaming commissions that provide actual payout statistics for slot machines with different denominations.

Colorado: The highest slot machine payout returns appear mostly centered on \$1 slots, with the lowest returns entirely on penny slots.

Connecticut: Slot machine payout returns mostly increase with denomination all the way up to \$100 at Foxwoods, but peak at \$25 before decreasing at higher denominations for Mohegan Sun's slot machines.

Louisiana: The lowest slot machine payout returns across all four of Louisiana's gaming regions are for penny slots. Otherwise, two regions peak at 5-cents and two regions peak at the maximum \$5 denomination.

Mississippi: Two of Mississippi's three gaming regions have slot machine payout returns that peak at the 5-cent denomination, while the third peaks at the maximum \$5 denomination.

Here are the results for ten regions or cities in Nevada. Lake Tahoe, North Shore: Peaks at the maximum \$1 denomination, but penny slots have the second highest. Lake Tahoe, South Shore: Steadily increases to peak at the maximum \$1 denomination. Las Vegas, Boulder Strip: The highest return is for the 25-cent denomination. Las Vegas, Downtown: The highest return is for the \$1 denomination non-Megabucks slot machines, with the lowest being the \$1 denomination Megabucks slot machines. Las Vegas, North Las Vegas: The highest return is for the 25-cent denomination. Las Vegas, The Strip: The highest return is for the \$1 denomination, with the second highest for the 5-cent denomination. Laughlin: The highest return is for the 25-cent denomination. Reno: The highest return is for the 5-cent denomination. Sparks: The highest return is for the maximum \$5 denomination, and Wendover: The highest return is for the maximum \$5 denomination.

South Dakota: The highest return is for the 5-cent denomination.

Almost exactly half of the locations that provide denomination-specific slot machine payout returns show maximum denomination machines have the highest return. However, the other half do not show this trend. However this is interpreted, it is safe to say that maximum denominations having the best payout return is not a very good rule of thumb.

The payout returns I have just mentioned were from early 2018. One reason why I am updating this article is to pull more recent payout returns. I did so this morning, and the trend continues. The highest returns are low-limit denominations in Colorado, Nevada, and North Dakota. Mississippi has a mix, with two regions having highest returns for low-limit and its third region having the highest returns for high-limit denominations. And Louisiana is its two highest returns for high-limit machines. Still, it's still mostly a 50-50 split. It certainly breaks the myth (busts the myth?) that high-limit machines usually have highest returns. At best, being generous, it might be true half the time.

Another myth also considered to be a good rule of thumb is that the more active a bank of slot machines are, the higher the payouts tend to be. I know of no way to prove or disprove this rule of thumb with state-provided statistical data. However, I will point out that the actual saying doesn't make logical sense or, more specifically, doesn't provide a lot of value.

Why? Because of the two slot machine odds of winning, which again are: 1) if you win, and 2) how much you win. Based on this understanding of the odds of winning, a bank of slot machines that is actively providing wins is separate from how much is being won.

As is starting to become apparent to me, this myth is a slight misunderstanding of what is occurring. Whoever created the myth is on the right track but hasn't quite clarified it well enough. The winning strategy this relates to, detailed above, is to try to continue to play slot machines which cycle bankrolls in the hopes of letting the slot machine run long enough to more likely generate a higher amount jackpot.

Players should keep in mind that these "good rules of thumb" are general trends, at best, and may not have much grounding in actual practices. In other words, be careful if planning to make extensive use of them. Alternatively, send me your slot machines rules of thumb, and I'll evaluate them for you.

Let's switch over to the Live Chat again and see what questions they might have...

CLOSING

Watch more of my videos to improve your slots gambling performance.

Have fun, be safe, and make good choices! Bye!

Call to Action (add sound effect afterward)

Remember to visit professorslots.com/subscribe to get my Free Report Revealing ... The top 7 online resources for improving your gambling performance, including the one I've used as a top-tier slot machine casino gambler.

Introduction

This is the next segment of the show on slot machine casino gambling. Here, I provide a brief overview of the current state of gambling in a U.S. state, territory, or the federal district emphasizing, by far, anything of interest to slot machine casino gamblers.

Up next is U.S. Virgin Islands slot machine casino gambling in 2020. Here goes!

U.S. Virgin Islands slot machine casino gambling consists of seven casinos on three out of USVI's four islands including St. Croix, St. Thomas, and St. John. No theoretical payout limits have been set nor are return statistics publicly available.

Relevant Legal Statutes on Gambling in the U.S. Virgin Islands

The minimum legal gambling age in the U.S. Virgin Islands depends upon the gambling activity:

- Land-Based Casinos: 21
- Poker Rooms: 21
- Bingo: Not available
- Lottery: 18
- Pari-Mutuel Wagering: Not available

In November 1994, voters on the island of St. Croix approved legalized casino gambling. The next year, it became law by the territorial legislature. During the same vote, residents on the islands of St. Thomas and St. John rejected the gaming proposal.

The Virgin Islands Casino and Resort Act of 1995 allowed the issuance of six casino licenses to stimulate the tourism economy on the island of St. Croix. In part, this Act states that only a major hotel and convention facility can have a casino.

After this initial referendum result, although it is not clear when this occurred, casino gambling became legalized on the islands of St. Thomas and St. John. This conclusion is based on St. Thomas and St. John facilities showing online that they have slot machines available. Use caution before assuming these are legal gaming options.

Online casino games and poker are available in the U.S. Virgin Islands, yet licenses haven't been issued. Players are unprosecuted for playing in offshore casinos. The U.S. Virgin Islands does not block access to online casino websites.

Slot Machine Private Ownership in the U.S. Virgin Islands

Next up is a usually short statement about slot machine private ownership, which I have included in case you live in this U.S. territory and are considering owning a slot machine. Here it is:

In the U.S. Virgin Islands, unfortunately, it is unknown whether it is legal to own a slot machine privately.

Gaming Control Board in the U.S. Virgin Islands

The Virgin Islands Casino and Resort Control Act of 1995 established the U.S. Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission. The Commission does not have a website, but its main phone number is (340) 718-3138.

The Casino Control Commission issued its first two casino licenses in 1998. After a delay caused by the passing of Hurricane Lenny in November 1999, the first St. Croix casino opened in March 2001.

The Commission issues licenses to prospective casino investors and employees. Its inspectors and agents maintain a physical presence during the operation of the casino.

The Commission's investigation and enforcement arm is the USVI Division of Gaming Enforcement (DGE) within the USVI Department of Justice.

The Division's primary function is to investigate the qualifications of each applicant before the Commission issues any license, permit, or certification. Further, the DGE requires their Division verify any jackpot of \$25,000 or more.

Casinos in the U.S. Virgin Islands

In this section, I'll discuss U.S. Virgin Islands gambling establishments.

There are seven commercial casinos on the islands of St. Croix, St. Thomas, and St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Furthermore, many cruise ships visiting the U.S. Virgin Islands have onboard casinos available to passengers when traveling in international waters.

If traveling to the U.S. Virgin Islands, be sure to check the status beforehand of any casinos you plan to visit on these islands.

The largest casino in the U.S. Virgin Islands is Divi Carina Bay Beach Resort & Casino on the island of St. Croix. The second largest casino, once it opens, would be the Golden Resort on the island of St. Croix.

Non-Tribal Casinos in the U.S. Virgin Islands

There are four closed or proposed casinos on the island of St. Croix in the town of Christiansted, one casino on the island of St. John, and two casinos on the island of St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

As usual when there are too many casinos to mention here, a complete list is on my webpage for this territory at professorslots.com/VI.

American Indian Casinos in the U.S. Virgin Islands

There are no American Indian tribes on the U.S. Virgin Islands and, therefore, no tribal casinos.

Other Gambling Establishments

As an alternative to enjoying U.S. Virgin Islands slot machine casino gambling, consider exploring casino options in a nearby state. Bordering the U.S. Virgin Islands is:

- North: Florida
- East: The Atlantic Ocean
- South: The Caribbean Sea
- West: Puerto Rico

To visit any of my articles on these U.S. states, simply visit ProfessorSlots.com followed by its two-letter postal designation. For example, my Florida slots article is available at ProfessorSlots.com/FL.

Our U.S. Virgin Islands Slots Community Facebook Group

Are you interested in sharing and learning with other slots enthusiasts in the U.S. Virgin Islands? If so, join our U.S. Virgin Islands slots community on Facebook at [professorslots.com/FBVI](https://www.facebook.com/professorslots.com/FBVI). All you'll need is a Facebook profile to join this private Facebook Group freely.

There, you'll be able to privately share your slots experiences as well as chat with players about slots gambling on or near the U.S. Virgin Islands. Again, use this convenient link I've created to go directly to our Group on Facebook: [professorslots.com/FBVI](https://www.facebook.com/professorslots.com/FBVI). Join us!

Payout Returns in the U.S. Virgin Islands

No theoretical payout limits or return statistics are available from the U.S. Virgin Islands Gaming Control Commission.

Summary of U.S. Virgin Islands in 2020

In summary, U.S. Virgin Islands slot machine casino gambling consists of seven casinos at resorts and golf courses. These casinos are on the islands of St. Croix, St. John, and St. Thomas. The St. Croix casinos are closed for various reasons.

Annual Progress in U.S. Virgin Islands Slot Machine Casino Gambling

Over the last year, there have been little to no changes in the gaming industry of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Call to Action (add sound effect afterward)

Remember to visit professorslots.com/subscribe to get my Free Report Revealing ... The top 7 online resources for improving your gambling performance, including the one I've used as a top-tier slot machine casino gambler.

On the Next Episode of Professor Slots

Part I of the next episode of the Professor Slots podcast will include a live stream Q&A session on YouTube. Remember, my weekly Q&A session on YouTube is on Saturdays from Noon until 1 p.m. Eastern Time. Bring whatever slots questions you have, and I'll do my best to answer them. An easy-to-remember link to my YouTube channel is YouTube.com/ProfessorSlots.

Part II of the next episode of the Professor Slots podcast is another brief overview of the current state of gambling in a U.S. state, territory, or the federal district. Next time, I'll be talking to you about the great U.S. state of Utah.

Closing (closing music)

That's the end of another great episode of the Professor Slots podcast. Thanks so much for listening!

Show notes for this episode are on my website at professorslots.com/episode106.

I plan to have the next episode come out very soon for you, where I'll have more amazing content for the show.

Until the next episode: Have fun, be safe, and make good choices! Bye.