

VEGAS MUSIC NOTES: THE BATTLE FOR LIB, VELVET CHAINS' ROSY OUTLOOK AND MORE

MAKING THE CUT



Photo: Fred Morledge / Courtesy of Velvet Chains

Change is in the air for **Velvet Chains**. As the rock band gears up for a six-month residency at the Barbershop speakeasy at the Cosmopolitan, new music and a fresh vision have come into focus.

Velvet Chains founder and bassist Nils Goldschmidt says the band is gravitating away from its '90s grunge-rock influences toward “more modern, heavier, hard rock. The next releases are going to be more like [our new single] ‘Last Drop,’” he says.

“Last Drop” is Velvet Chains’ first new music since last year’s full-length debut, *Icarus*, which featured Guns N’ Roses guitarist Richard Fortus. And Goldschmidt sounds determined to make an upcoming sophomore LP even better, explaining that he has added a rhythm guitarist to the band and replaced its singer and drummer with new members.

Band diversity is especially important to the bassist, who fell in love with rock music in his home country of Chile. “South America is rock ‘n’ roll country, or up until very recently it was,” he says, adding that the emergence of reggaeton in recent years has caused a cultural shift. “The first band I ever remember listening to was Guns N’ Roses ... so they were like superheroes for me growing up.”

The new album is slated for an October release, with the band’s Velvet Revolver-esque single “Back on the Train” set to drop on August 12. *Instagram @velvetchainsband*