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**CHARLEY PRIDE RETURNS TO GRAND CASINO MILLE LACS  
FOR TWO MEMORABLE SHOWS**

ONAMIA, Minn. – For the past quarter century, Charley Pride, country music’s first African-American superstar, has been one of the top 15 best-selling artists of all time. And now he’s returning to the Grand Casino Mille Lacs Events & Convention Center on Friday, July 24, and Saturday, July 25, at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$28 and \$36 and go on sale Thursday, May 21, at 10 a.m. To purchase tickets, visit the Grand Casino Mille Lacs or Grand Casino Hinckley box offices, call Ticketmaster at 651/989-5151, contact any Ticketmaster outlet, or visit [www.grandcasinomn.com](http://www.grandcasinomn.com).

**About Charley Pride**

When Charley Pride was born in Sledge, Miss., the son of poor sharecroppers, the possibility of becoming one of the nation’s most successful country singers probably seemed remote. But after playing semi-professional baseball in Memphis, Tenn., and working construction in Montana, fame came his way. After hearing his easy-listening style, country guitar legend Chet Atkins signed Pride to a record contract that quickly began turning out hits.

Pride’s first hit, “Snakes Crawl at Night,” began moving up the charts in 1966, but promotional materials were distributed without a photo of Pride for fear that radio stations would be reluctant to air a country record made by an African-American singer. The fears were unfounded because listeners loved Pride’s mellow baritone voice and easy style. In the late ’60s and early ’70s, Pride had five chart-toppers in a row including “All I Have to Offer is Me” and “San Antone.” When he recorded his signature song, “Kiss An Angel Good Morning,” Pride was on his way to becoming one of country music’s top stars.

Pride was named American Music Male Artist of the Year in 1974 and 1977. He was the Country Music Association Vocalist of the Year in 1972, and won a Grammy for Best Country Male Vocalist that same year, one of three Grammy awards he has received over the years. In 2000, he was elected to the Country Music Hall of Fame, and in 2008, Pride received the Mississippi Arts Commission’s lifetime achievement award.

**About Grand Casino Mille Lacs**

Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley, which are owned by the Corporate Commission of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians, are two of Minnesota’s premier

entertainment facilities, offering gaming, accommodations, dining, conference and banquet facilities, and live entertainment.

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