

**BY SAM HOLMES**

**AND PATRICK BARTA**

SINGAPORE—A gamble by Singaporean leaders to bring casinos to this famously strict city-state appears to be paying off as tourist arrivals soar, fueling hopes that the resorts will help diversify an export-reliant economy.

Singaporeans wrestled for years with whether to green-light its first

two casinos, which opened with fanfare earlier this year. Many residents and government officials feared they would destroy Singapore's reputation for crime-free, family-friendly living.

So far, the resorts appear to be a huge success. The \$5.5 billion Marina Bay Sands, developed by Las Vegas Sands Corp., has drawn five million visits since late April, when its phased ...

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