

Written by Administrator  
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A century-old riverboat that's been a shimmering fixture along St. Louis' Mississippi River banks couldn't survive as an

aging casino in the region's fast-growing, glitzier gambling market. But the vessel's sellers are wagering they can find someone willing to give the behemoth a go as something else.

The S.S. Admiral — home until last summer to The President Casino — is on the market on eBay and several other online auction sites as a nostalgic relic in search of a buyer willing to convert the 365-foot-long, 95-foot-wide vessel into anything from a monster houseboat to convention digs, upscale dining or more.

"There's just a ton of ways to do it," Virgil Straeter, the owner of an Illinois auction company overseeing the potential sale, said Monday before joking, "You could make a house of it, invite every relative you want and never bump into each other."

Straeter won't discuss what the boat being pitched as the world's biggest inland entertainment vessel could fetch, saying the \$1.5 million price listed on eBay for the boat owned until recently by Las Vegas-based Pinnacle Entertainment was only a "suggestion." He identified the current owner only as a private marine company in the region.

"The standard answer is that we'll get all we can," said Straeter, of Auction Associates in Highland, Ill. "It's unique to itself, that's for sure."

Online offers will be accepted until noon Nov. 10; if the bids don't enthruse the sellers enough to part with the vessel, a live auction is to be staged later that day.

The boat that's been permanently moored along the river has been stripped of all the gambling vestiges but comes with a considerable cache — crystal chandeliers, steam tables, office furniture, generators and their backups, large stoves and walk-in coolers. Even garments from its one-time staff, not to mention elevators.

## Century-Old Former Casino Riverboat on the Market - ABC News

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There's a grand ballroom on one of its several decks and enclosed observation decks offering panoramic views elsewhere on the boat, which towers more than six stories above the river's surface. There are tens of thousands of square feet to roam, including a penthouse.

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