

# SPLURGE OR SAVE AT WATERSTONE

Enjoy the sun, sea and food at Boca Raton

**ROCHELLE LASH**  
SPECIAL TO THE MONTREAL GAZETTE

A fresh-faced ingenue has arrived in the luxurious Florida Gold Coast community of Boca Raton, at the southern end of Palm Beach County.

Waterstone Resort & Marina — A DoubleTree by Hilton, opened in 2014 overlooking the Intracoastal Waterway, a few blocks from the Atlantic Ocean and easily accessible with the hotel's free shuttle. The Intracoastal is a distinctive cruising thoroughfare for thousands of boats, from putt-putts to jet-skis, fishing craft, sailboats and extravagant multi-million-dollar power yachts. It's kinder and gentler than the rolling whitecapped sea, so the marina at Waterstone also is a haven for mellow sports such as paddle-boarding and kayaking.

If you are familiar with the area, the Waterstone is a remake of the former Boca Bridge Hotel. It has been thoroughly reimagined into a stylish, breezy getaway and it is a combination of a moderately-priced family getaway, an entry point to sophisticated Boca Raton and a hub for water activities.

**WHAT'S HAPPENING IN BOCA RATON**

Boca Raton is a prosperous community with an exceptional cultural calendar. The Centre of the Arts at Mizner Park is staging a musical comedy — When You're in Love, the Whole World is Jewish, directed by Jason Alexander (he played George on Seinfeld). Nearby, the Wick Theatre will present crowd-pleasing musicals in its second season, including Leslie Uggams starring in Mame, The Rat Pack is Back and La Cage Aux Folles.

The new-in-2014 Boca Raton Bowl is the inaugural match of a series among American college football teams. The game, 6 p.m., Dec. 23, at Florida Atlantic University Stadium, will be televised on ESPN.

The Boca Raton Children's Museum is a delightfully different centre for kids 10 and under. Operating in a 101-year-old pioneer house, it has seven rooms hopping with small-scale, engaging activities: tea parties, puppet shows, dress-

up costumes and a busy lawn with a pirate ship, stagecoach and picnic area.

**PICK YOUR ROOM**

Waterstone has choices — rooms with two queen beds that the kids can share or king rooms or larger suites with perks for romantic visits.

The 139 accommodations sport a soothing, seaworthy colour scheme of blues and whites, with dark wood trim, creating a fresh and modern look.

The bathrooms are so contemporary — white with glass tiles. And each room has a balcony, so there is lots of outdoor living, plus indoor conveniences: an iHome radio, a mini-refrigerator, a coffee-maker and a 37-inch flat screen. Ramping up the deluxe factor, premier-floor rooms and executive suites come equipped with larger TVs,

bathrobes, slippers and evening turndown.

Hot tech features are great aspects of new hotels. ALICE is the Waterstone's app that connects you via your laptop or cellphone to hotel functions. You can order room service, make dinner reservations, request bed and bath extras or call for your car. It's free and time-saving.

**FOOD & DRINK**

Executive chef Steven Zobel is doing great casual fare at both Waterstone Bar & Grill and Boca Landing, the more upscale dining room. Both spaces serve indoors and outdoors and the setting is so Florida-pretty that it calls for cocktails — Zobel recommends the Waterstone Plantation, a perky tropical mix of with rum, orange juice and bitters.

Waterstone Bar & Grill serves



The new Waterstone Resort & Marina, the former Boca Bridge Hotel, has been thoroughly reimagined into a stylish, breezy getaway. *BRANTLEY PHOTOGRAPHY/WATERSTONE RESORT & MARINA*

fabulous breakfasts — banana pancakes with whipped cream, spicy chorizo hash and lobster omelette. The poolside lunch menu features crab salad, honey-glazed chicken wings or shrimp ceviche, as well as steaks and fish.

At dinner, Boca Landing's Zobel puts his twist on local seafood such as red snapper and stone crab, plus creative salads such as the black kale Caesar. He also is on trend with yummy small plates: seared

scallops, honey-glazed chicken wings, duck confit and gorgonzola crostini; and super sides: truffled Parmesan fries and parsnip-whipped potatoes.

Watch for these great deals: Happy hour's bargains on sliders, craft beer, wine and cocktails; the Sunset Menu, a three-course prix fixe at \$35; and Wine-Down Mondays, with bottles up to \$200 at half-price.

It's up to you — splurge or save.



Experience the **Difference™**



# Champagne Vacations

up to **40%** off  
on January departures

**MONTREAL DEPARTURES • ONE WEEK • ALL INCLUSIVE**

**EXPERIENCE**

**SUNWING FAMILY COLLECTION™**

**HOLGUIN, CUBA**  
*smile* **Blau Costa Verde Beach Resort** ★★★★★  
Hotel Room • Jan 13, 14, 21 & 28

**CAYO SANTA MARIA, CUBA** ★★★★★PLUS  
**Memories Paraíso Azul Beach Resort**  
Junior Suite Balcony • Jan 07, 14 & 21

**CAYO COCO, CUBA** ★★★★★PLUS  
**Memories Flamenco Beach Resort**  
Junior Suite Terrace Garden View • Jan 07, 13 & 15

**\$825**

**VARADERO, CUBA**  
**Memories Varadero Beach Resort** ★★★★★  
Sunset Garden View Terrace Room • Jan 07, 14 & 21

**\$845**

**RIVIERA NAYARIT, MEXICO** ★★★★★PLUS  
**Grand Palladium Vallarta Resort & Spa**  
Deluxe Room • Jan 10 & 17

**\$855**

**GRAND BAHAMA, THE BAHAMAS**  
**Memories Grand Bahama Beach & Casino Resort** ★★★★★PLUS  
Deluxe Island Room • Jan 11 & 18

**\$895**

**LIBERIA, COSTA RICA**  
*smile* **Villas Sol Hotel & Beach Resort** ★★★★★  
Deluxe Ocean View Room • Jan 26 & Feb 02

**\$1185**

**PANAMA** ★★★★★PLUS  
*smile* **Sheraton Bijao Beach Resort Panama**  
Deluxe Garden View Room • Jan 02, 09 & 16

**\$1295**

**ARUBA** ★★★★★  
*smile* **Holiday Inn Resort Aruba** ★★★★★  
Superior Room • Jan 12 & 26

**EXPERIENCE**

**SUNWING LUXURY COLLECTION™**

**PUNTA CANA, D.R.**  
*smile* **Memories Splash Punta Cana** ★★★★★PLUS  
Deluxe Room • Jan 06, 07, 13, 14 & 15

**\$1395**

**RIVIERA MAYA, MEXICO**  
**Royalton Riviera Cancun Resort & Spa** ★★★★★  
Luxury Junior Suite • Jan 09, 16 & 23

**\$1495**

**EXPERIENCE**

**OTHER POPULAR RESORTS**

**SANTIAGO DE CUBA, CUBA**  
**Costa Morena** ★★  
Garden View Room • Jan 14, 21 & 28

**MANZANILLO DE CUBA, CUBA**  
**Club Amigo Marea Del Portillo** ★★★  
Hotel Room • Jan 14, 21 & 28

**SANTA LUCIA, CUBA**  
**Gran Club Santa Lucia** ★★  
Hotel Room • Jan 15, 22 & 29

**PUERTO PLATA, D.R.** ★★★★★PLUS  
*smile* **Hotel Playa Dorada by Celuisma**  
Hotel Room • Jan 08, 15 & 22

**\$545**

**CAYO LARGO, CUBA**  
**Sol Pelicano** ★★★★★PLUS  
Hotel Room • Jan 17, 24 & 31

**\$595**

**HUATULCO, MEXICO** ★★★★★PLUS  
**Castillo Huatulco Hotel & Beach Club**  
Hotel Room • Jan 06 & 13

**\$615**

**IXTAPA-ZIHUATANEJO, MEXICO** ★★★★★PLUS  
**Tesoro Ixtapa** ★★★★★PLUS  
Deluxe Room • Jan 06 & 13

**\$855**

**LA CEIBA, HONDURAS** ★★★★★  
*smile* **Palma Real Beach Resort & Villas**  
Mountain View Palma Room No Balcony  
Jan 05, 12 & 19

**\$925**

**LOS CABOS, MEXICO**  
**Riu Santa Fe** ★★★★★PLUS  
Hotel Room • Jan 15 & 22

**\$1095**

**PUNTA CANA, D.R.** ★★★★★  
**Caribe Club Princess Beach Resort & Spa**  
Superior Room • Jan 06, 07, 13, 14 & 15

**\$1095**

**ST. LUCIA**  
**Smuggler's Cove Resort & Spa** ★★★★★PLUS  
Island View Room • Jan 11, 18 & 25

**\$1095**

**MONTEGO BAY, JAMAICA** ★★★★★PLUS  
**Sea Garden Beach Resort** ★★★★★PLUS  
Hotel Room • Jan 09, 10, 23, 30, 31 & Feb 06

**ALL FLIGHTS OFFER AWARD-WINNING SUNWING AIRLINES' CHAMPAGNE SERVICE**



For all guests at no extra cost:  
20Kg FREE checked baggage • Bon Voyage glass of champagne • Choice of Hot & Fresh Bistro Meals™ with wine • Soft drinks • Hot towel service • Leather seating • First run movies • Headsets • Kids backpacks with games & toys

UPGRADE to *Elite Plus Service* bookable online for only \$40 each way! All features of Champagne Service PLUS: Extra legroom seats • Advance seat selection • 10kg extra checked baggage • Priority check-in and boarding • Priority baggage handling

**Selloff vacations.com**

**VISIT OR CONTACT A BRANCH NEAR YOU**

- Pointe-Claire: 514-697-5280 940, boulevard Saint-Jean • bureau 22
- Loblaws de Brossard: 450-466-0776 1575, avenue Panama
- Loblaws de Laval: 450-667-0281 1950, boulevard De la Concorde Est
- Maxi de Laval: 450-681-3141 3500, boulevard St-Martin Ouest
- Loblaws de Rivière-des-Prairies: 514-643-0779 7605, boulevard Maurice-Duplessis



Montreal departures. Savings of 40% apply to the brochure rate for Club Amigo Marea de Portillo in Cuba for departures Jan 07, 21 & 28, 2014. All prices are per person based on double occupancy for 7 nights on all inclusive vacations (unless otherwise specified). Rooms are limited and capacity controlled. All transportation fees and taxes are included except local taxes payable in certain destinations (Costa Rica \$29 US, Cuba 25CUC, DR \$30US, La Ceiba \$38US, Panama \$43US). Flights are on Sunwing Airlines or Travel Service. Prices exclude the contribution to the Travel Agent's clients compensation Fund of \$1,00 per \$1,000 of travel services purchased. In-flight service varies by flight time and destination. For full terms and conditions, refer to the Sunwing Vacations 2014/15 brochure. Quebec license holder. | 11222014

## IF YOU GO

**To reach Boca Raton:** Air Canada flies year-round to Fort Lauderdale from Montreal and Toronto, and seasonally from Ottawa and Halifax; also during winter from Montreal and Toronto to West Palm Beach.

Waterstone Resort & Marina — A DoubleTree by Hilton, 561-368-9500, 800-774-1500, www.waterstoneboca.com; 999 E. Camino Real, Boca Raton, Fla., AAA/CAA members get discounts. HiltonHonors members get benefits. Pet-friendly.

**Price:** Rooms, \$200-\$300 U.S., mid-week in December; suites are more; prices are higher on weekends and holidays; rates include five-kilometre shuttle (to beach and town), Wi-Fi, outdoor swimming pool, beach chairs and umbrellas, 24-hour gym.

**Extras:** Self-parking or valet, \$22; room service, water sports, boat and bike rentals. Children's menus and baby gear available. A two-night yoga package includes Thai massage, semi-private yoga.

**Dining:** Boca Landing: bar from 4 p.m. daily; dinner from 5 p.m. daily. Waterstone Bar and Grill: from 10:30 a.m. daily.

**Tourism:** Discover The Palm Beaches: 800-833-5733, 561-233-3000, palmbeachfl.com; Visit Florida: 888-735-2872, visitflorida.com