

LA CHAUMIÈRE DE L'ANSE: BETTER THAN HOME



ROCHELLE LASH
Checking In

I popped in to meet the new owners of La Chaumière de L'Anse on a recent short hop to Tremblant and found the B&B still is at the top of its game.

Martin Ménard and Man Li have made the leap to innkeepers as second careers and have lucked into a darling inn with a great location.

La Chaumière is nestled into a forest less than two kilometres from the Tremblant resort, adjacent to the Tremblant cycling path and at a stop for the local shuttle bus. Deer gambol through the woods and big blue jays feed on the patio. The tableau of a peaceful country getaway is complete.

I felt at home at La Chaumière de L'Anse in five minutes. The fireplace was blazing in the living room. Li served Oolong tea and cookies. And Zoé, the couple's big, sweet German shepherd, sat at my feet, hoping for a rub.

(Doggie note: Zoé schmoozes with guests only if she's invited to do so, and after one pat, she is your loyal BFF. She is so gentle she once saved an injured bird, carrying it to the house, just as retrievers do. Still, we have to admit there are fewer deer in the neighbourhood than before she arrived).

Ménard and Li are a dynamic couple. They met a few years ago on a Vancouver-to-Montreal flight when she was returning from a family visit in her native city of Wuhan in China, which has a population of 14 million. He was a sales rep who boarded more than 100 flights a year.

They started out in Montreal, but Ménard is a country boy at heart, so he's happy to be stoking the fire, removing snow, landscaping, doing maintenance and even housekeeping.

Bed and Breakfast: La Chaumière has five guest rooms, all with a classic Alpine look — hand-painted armoires, antique-style dressers and petit-point rugs over beautiful knotty floors. The colours, different in every room, are soothing tones like saffron, sky blue, sage, antique blue and rose. Botanical prints and vintage landscapes brighten the walls.

Ménard and Li share the cooking and present their morning



La Chaumière de L'Anse is a charming four-season B&B close to the Tremblant resort and the cycling path.
PHOTOS: LA CHAUMIÈRE DE L'ANSE



Warm interiors and generous breakfast portions give La Chaumière de L'Anse in Tremblant a homey feeling.

menu on a small blackboard. She prepares freshly baked croissants and copious fruit salads with big bowls of yogurt.

He is an enthusiastic cook whose specialties include: scram-

bled eggs with smoked salmon, bacon or sausage; thin French crêpes or French toast with maple butter and maple syrup. The omelette Chaumière — his pièce de résistance — is filled

with ham, cheese and onions.

And Ménard makes his own blueberry, strawberry and raspberry jam.

“You have to try the jam — the recipes are from my mother and grandmother!”

He is proud of his family's production of maple syrup and maple butter at La Cabane du Bois à Sucre Verchères on the South Shore, which is a consistent winner at professional tastings.

It's a welcoming place, with a coffee corner on the landing and a mini-fridge in each room with soft drinks, at no charge. The breakfast portions are generous and Li will wrap up a snack for the road of anything you could not finish, like croissants or fruit.

Tremblant in summer: The ski lifts will operate April 9 and 10, and again April 16 and 17. Golfers can tee up at the scenic Le Géant as of May 20 and Le Diable courses, from May 13.

At Lac Tremblant, there will be beach life, swimming and rentals

IF YOU GO

La Chaumière de L'Anse:
819-681-0770,
lachaumieredelanse-quebec.com; 107 chemin de l'Anse, Mont-Tremblant.
Price: \$118-\$138, Sun.-Fri., or on Sat. \$138-\$158, for two, including breakfast, Wi-Fi, beverages.
Tremblant Resort (events):
tremblant.ca, 888-738-1777.
Tourism Tremblant area:
877-425-2434,
mont-tremblant.ca.

of canoes, kayaks, paddleboards, pontoon boats and motorized craft.

The picturesque paved Tremblant cycling path runs up and down through the woods, for eight kilometres from the mountain resort to the village, passing La Chaumière de L'Anse. That trail links with the Linear Parc of the P'tit Train du Nord at Place de la Gare, the old train station, now an art gallery and farmers' market.

Taking cycling up a notch, two major cycling happenings dominate the Tremblant calendar for May. VéloMotion presents the 22nd Québec / Canada Cup Mountain Bike Series (May 20-23), races that draw top athletes for downhill and cross-country, as well as fun for everyone, like yoga for cyclists and guided tours. The Gran Fondo Mont-Tremblant (May 27-29) is a series of road-biking races from 45 to 160 kilometres, which includes a sunset ride and socializing.

It will be a remarkable summer of pop culture and sporting events, with almost all events free, at least for spectators.

Here are the majors: Subaru Ironman 5150 Mont-Tremblant on June 25; Subaru Ironman 70.3 Mont-Tremblant on June 26; Tremblant International Blues Festival from July 8-17; Rythmes Tremblant from July 22-31; Wanderlust Festival (fees apply) from Aug. 11-14; Mont-Tremblant Half-Marathon on Aug. 14; Subaru Ironman Mont-Tremblant from Aug. 19-21; Fête de la Musique from Sept. 2-5; Tremblant Gourmand (fees apply) from Sept. 10-18.

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