



The reimaged Adelphi Hotel is a luxury landmark of Saratoga Springs, N.Y., featuring sharp service and inviting energy. PHOTOS: GREG CEO STUDIO

CHECKING IN

# GILDED AGE GEM SPARKLES AGAIN

Saratoga Springs' elegant Adelphi Hotel reopens after US\$40-million overhaul



ROCHELLE LASH

The divine Adelphi Hotel is once again the thrilling crown jewel of Saratoga Springs in mid-state New York.

This luxurious boutique hotel was a high-society hub during the Gilded Age of the late 1800s, when Saratoga was famous for its restorative hot springs and glamorous thoroughbred racing.

Now, after a five-year, down-to-the-studs overhaul, the Adelphi has reopened at a cost of more than US\$40 million.

In its new incarnation, the Adelphi is resplendent with sumptuous antique-chic decor against a backdrop of exquisite heritage features such as 11-foot ceilings and a graceful ballroom. Its three superlative restaurants, plus a front patio, a courtyard and a wine cellar for

private dining, are at the centre of Saratoga's social life and special occasions.

Adelphi general manager Helen Watson brings 20 years of experience from posh Four Seasons hotels in Beverly Hills and environs, so the hotel is humming with sharp service, exceptional food and an irresistible energy.

"We have street-front appeal and a price point for everyone to eat and drink," said Watson. "And during race season, the who's who meet and mingle."

"We also have a more relaxed, residential and friendly air than large corporate hotels."

Interior designer Glen Coben has created a vision of elegance with pale greys and whites, clean contemporary-classic lines and a few touches of Victoriana, such as loveseats in velvet jewel tones. The floors are intricate and artistic black-and-white marble mosaics.

**Guest rooms:** The 32 guest rooms and suites are spacious, supremely comfortable and beautifully appointed with the

best fabrics and fittings.

You'll be thoroughly spoiled with the dreamy Adelphi Perfect Night Bed, topped with cashmere throws and fine Italian linens. And you'll get a kick out of the push-button drapes and remote-controlled bidets.

The deluxe white marble bathrooms are equipped with the works: top-of-the-line rain showers, double vanities and comforting heat all around — floors, mirrors, toilet seats and towel racks. Deluxe bathrobes and aromatic Red Flower toiletries complete the scene.

**Dining:** All of Saratoga is flocking to the Adelphi's restaurants — each with its own personality, and each sizzling with delectable American cuisine in gorgeous surroundings. Culinary director David Burke has crafted truly unique dishes and desserts.

The Blue Hen is an ode to upscale dining in a spectacular atrium of mirrors and glass. Dinner features salmon carpaccio, lobster ravioli, bison short ribs, veal or lamb chops. The entertaining presentations include octopus-chorizo kebabs on skewers of rosemary, and maple-glazed bacon strips dangling from clothespins.

Salt & Char, Saratoga's new culinary-cocktail hangout, takes steaks and seafood to a new level of quality and creativity. That matches the outstanding decor by Christopher Michael Smith, who came up with a crazy, playful mélange of barnwood, subway tiles, leather straps, striped canopies and glass.

Delectable starters include bone marrow, crab fritters, oysters, shrimp and lobster

bisque, and main courses range from roast chicken to tuna with bok choy to 10 luscious cuts of steak.

Salt & Char's showstoppers like Wagyu beef and the seafood tower are priced for high rollers, but watch for \$2 oysters at happy hour from Tuesdays to Saturdays; burger and beer/wine nights at \$20/\$25 on Tuesdays; and date nights at \$100 for two with dinner and wine on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Morrissey's lounge is wildly popular for cocktails like the Saratoga Smash with whisky and fruit, and a rich choice of \$12-\$16 dishes such as avocado toast, flatbread, burgers, ahi tuna cups, calamari and oyster-shrimp sliders, and an eye-popping club sandwich that towers on tall toothpicks.

Morrissey's social hour (Mondays to Fridays at 4 p.m.) features sliders, pizza, octopus, oysters, crab and shrimp from \$2 to \$10, plus \$5 draft beers and \$10 wine and cocktails.

**Lots to do:** Saratoga Springs has an extensive cultural and sporting calendar, and is renowned for its mineral spas, 15 nearby golf courses, the Saratoga Performing Arts Center, horse racing and polo.

You can visit a retreat for retired racehorses, shop for antiques, bet on harness racing, attend Skidmore College Theater or groove on folk music at Caff  Lena, a historic coffee house where Emmylou Harris, Arlo Guthrie, Pete Seeger, Bob Dylan and Montreal's Diana Marcovitz have played.

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IF YOU GO

Saratoga Springs is 300 kilometres from Montreal.

**The Adelphi Hotel:** 518-678-6000, theadelphihotel.com; 365 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, N.Y. Pet-friendly, \$75 per visit, including toys, gift.

**Price:** Sept.-June, rooms start at US\$199; suites cost more. July-early Sept., rooms start at US\$329, including in-room Nespresso, Wi-Fi, newspapers in lobby, evening turndown chocolates, in-room snacks/soft beverages (first night free).

**Dining:** The Blue Hen: 518-678-6000, bluehenrestaurant.com; breakfast Mon.-Sun./dinner Wed.-Sun. Salt & Char: 518-450-7500, saltandchar.com; happy hour and dinner Tues.-Sat. Morrissey's: lunch/dinner Mon.-Sun.; social hour Mon.-Fri.

**Saratoga Springs:** 518-584-3255, ilovesaratoga.us or discoversaratoga.org. Polo: 518-584-8108, saratogapolo.com, Fri. and Sun., July 6 to Sept. 2. Saratoga harness racing: 800-727-2990, saratogacasino.com, February to December. Saratoga Race Course: 518-584-6200; nyra.com/Saratoga, July 20 to Sept. 3, closed Tuesdays. Saratoga Performing Arts Center, 518-584-9330, spac.org

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