

HOTEL INTEL

TREMBLANT MAKES TRACKS ON AND OFF THE MOUNTAIN

A renovation and an opening for 2018-19 season provide lodging options for visitors



ROCHELLE LASH

With about 3.5 million visitors passing through greater Tremblant each year, the Laurentian vacationland is arguably the largest resort area in eastern North America, and is home to lodging of all shapes, sizes and comfort levels.

Here is a look at two well-priced, practical options — one slopeside, the other off the mountain. Both have news for the 2018-19 winter season.

On-mountain news: Good prices and practicality are trademarks at Tour des Voyageurs. This 151-unit condo/hotel has added a pivotal location at the base of Tremblant's South Side resort village, under the Clock Tower and beside the Cabriolet lift, which runs to the Gondola.

Tour des Voyageurs has undergone a \$3.7-million renovation, and has a new lobby, furniture, beds and linens, carpets and curtains, as well as updates to bathrooms and kitchens.

Guests can have coffee and a bite at Starbucks on the main floor of the Tour, or can "cook in." The hotel rooms are equipped with kitchenettes, and the studios and one- and two-bedroom suites have full kitchens.

For dining out, the Fairmont Tremblant reinvented its cuisine scene last season.

The Choux Gras, a gourmet French brasserie, prepares dishes such as foie gras, grilled octopus, salmon tiradito, rack of lamb, tomahawk steak, duck magret, filet mignon, short ribs and walleye.

The Fairmont also has a new canine ambassador — Lucky, a Labrador retriever — for pats and hugs. He's a busy guy, so walks are by appointment.

Aquaclub La Source blends spa life with kids' fun. It has a wading pool for toddlers, a main pool with a Tarzan-style rope, a waterfall, steam baths and adult-only indoor and outdoor hot tubs, plus a fitness centre

and exercise classes.

Off-mountain news: The Microtel Inn & Suites by Wyndham Mont Tremblant is scheduled to open in December at Rendez-Vous Ryan, a development of franchises at Montée Ryan and Route 117.

Microtel will have a soupçon of country charm and loads of conveniences, including a full buffet breakfast for all guests. Microtel's big attraction will be an indoor pool and hot tub, and kids will love the water slide, a five-metre thrill.

"Our design reflects a resort environment," said general manager Michel Joncas. "Microtel will have a dark wood exterior, an inviting lobby with a fireplace and an après-ski bar.

"The contemporary guest rooms will feature artwork, earthy colours and elements that reflect the countryside."

Microtel has appeal for families, tour groups and business travellers, with fast food right outside the door. It's a rapidly growing brand, based in Calgary, with more than 10 establishments across Canada and as many as 20 more planned for the next few years. In a poll by J.D. Power, Microtel rated highest in guest satisfaction in the budget hotel category for its rooms, prices, facilities and check-in. There is a possibility of a shuttle to the mountain sometime after the hotel's opening.

Rendez-Vous Ryan features a Petro-Canada, Tim Hortons and McDonald's. New options this winter will include Ben & Florentine, Steak-Frites, Sushi Shop, Valentine, Amir, Pizza Hut and Subway.

TREMBLANT

BY THE NUMBERS Mountain resort (tremblant.ca, 888-738-1777): The Tremblant resort includes 30 eateries and après-ski bars; more than 35 shops; a convention centre and two full spas, Moment Spa (in Fairmont) and Amerispa (in Le Westin). Aquaclub La Source is an entertaining water facility (\$16 for adults, with discounts for seniors, juniors and multiple day visits).

Guests have 1,900 units of slopeside lodging in luxurious chalets, condos and hotels. Many



Tremblant has slopeside lodging of all styles, sizes and comfort levels. TREMBLANT



The Microtel Inn & Suites by Wyndham Mont Tremblant is expected to open in December. MICROTEL INN & SUITES BY WYNDHAM

include first ski tracks (before lifts open formally), free skate loan and sliding/tubing evenings.

Tour des Voyageurs: Starts at approximately \$135 per night

(Sun.-Thurs., based on a two-night visit) for a hotel room for up to four people, including Wi-Fi, outdoor hot tub, sauna, fitness room, ski lockers, outdoor pool

(summer). Rates start at about \$238 per night for a two-bedroom condo for up to six. Rates fluctuate, and are higher Fri.-Sat. and starting Dec. 5.

Extra: Indoor parking, ski lifts. **The slopes:** Four mountain faces have 14 lifts (including a new North Side quad), plus 102 trails and glades (including a few that are new for 2018-19), two learning areas and three terrain parks at different levels.

Tremblant region (877-425-2434, 819-425-2434, 819-425-3300, mont-tremblant.ca): Greater Tremblant incorporates downtown (formerly St-Jovite); the Village (a.k.a. Old Tremblant, beside Lac Mercier), Domaine St-Bernard, Mont-Tremblant National Park and Tremblant North/Lac Supérieur. Off-mountain, there are approximately 26 lodging establishments, 95 boutiques and 48 restaurants.

Microtel Inn & Suites by Wyndham Mont Tremblant: 800-337-0050, microtelmonttremblant.com, rendezvousryan.com; 235 Montée Ryan at Route 117, Mont-Tremblant. Rooms start at \$149 for one queen bed; suites start at \$219 for up to six; Wi-Fi, buffet breakfast, indoor pool/hot tub/water slide, fitness, parking, ski lockers, electric car chargers. Wyndham loyalty points apply.

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