



The Josie is an impressive new lodge adjacent to Red Mountain Resort in Rossland. *THE JOSIE*

IF YOU GO

The Josie: 250-362-5155, thejosie.com; Rossland; hotel rooms, rates start at \$179 for two in a hotel room (studio suites and one-bedroom suites also available). Rates include ski concierge, Wi-Fi, fitness room. A 30-minute drive from Trail Airport in Trail, B.C., or three hours from Kelowna, B.C.

Red Mountain Resort: 800-663-0105, redresort.com.

Pangea Pod Hotel: 844-726-4329 (844-pangeaw), pangeapod.com; 4333 Sunrise Alley, Whistler; winter, \$99-\$199 p.p., spring/fall, \$49-\$99 p.p.; summer, \$69-\$129, including Wi-Fi, bedding, ski storage. For 18 and over. An approximately two-hour drive from Vancouver.

Whistler tourism: 800-944-7853, whistler.com. Ski mountain: 800-766-0449, whistlerblackcomb.com.

NEW B.C. MOUNTAIN LODGES READY FOR SPRING SKIING

Great, but different, getaways: The Pangea Pod Hotel in Whistler, The Josie in Rossland



ROCHELLE LASH

British Columbia's snow country is booming with new hotels in several iconic locations. And with a banner year for powder, there's lots of time for spring skiing.

Here's a peek at two terrific new getaways.

The Pangea Pod Hotel, unique in Canada, recently opened in Whistler, the iconic Winter Olympics venue. The Josie, a contemporary mountain lodge, is the new centrepiece of the outdoor paradise of Rossland.

The Josie: Named after one of Rossland's notable gold mines, the new Josie is a spectacular ski-in, ski-out lodge at the base of Red Mountain Resort. Now, there is a new upscale option for hikers, backcountry adventurers, cyclists, fishermen and downhillers in southwestern B.C.'s Kootenay Mountains.

The Josie has 106 rooms and

suites, a spa with two treatment rooms, and après-ski cocktails and gourmet comfort cuisine at the Velvet Restaurant and Lounge.

Executive chef Marc-André Choquette, originally from Montreal, is an Iron Chef and an alumnus of top Vancouver spots, plus Le Mitoyen in Laval and a two-Michelin-star restaurant in Normandy, France.

One tasty feature of the dining room is the view of Red Mountain right outside the window, but the cuisine at Velvet will sweep you away, too.

Choquette calls his cuisine craft cooking. Starters include charred octopus with chorizo, beef tartare or a rich salad of caramelized squash, faro, goat cheese and pear. Hearty mains include pappardelle with confit rabbit, roast chicken, and the Josie Burger — a hefty stack of beef, cheddar and tomato jam.

The Josie's attractive lodging — guest rooms, one-bedroom suites and studio suites — have deluxe bedding, spacious bathrooms with soaking tubs and large windows with mountain scenery. The décor brings the outdoors in, with natural colours and recycled wood panelling.

The outdoor swimming pool and spa are not yet open. But the spa will offer treatments such as the Red Flower Lavender & Amethyst Pedicure and the aromatherapy Apothecary Massage Ritual.

Rosland is a key stop on Canada's Powder Highway, a snow-laden route through the Kootenay Rockies that links several hot springs, backcountry lodges, vintage towns, heli- and cat-ski operations and eight landmark downhill areas, including Revelstoke Mountain Resort, Fernie Alpine Resort and Red Mountain Resort.

The Pangea: The new Pangea Pod Hotel in the exciting Olympic town of Whistler is an affordable, convenient getaway with individual berths designed for solo travellers.

If you're willing to share space, Pangea has several strong points: good prices, a sociable ambience, progressive food and drink and an enviable location almost adjacent to the Whistler Blackcomb Gondola.

Skiers and snowboarders, hikers and sightseers can meet, mingle and share in two common areas: The Rooftop Patio, a bar which overlooks Whistler's Village Square, and The Living Room, which serves craft beer, cocktails and well-chosen wines with artisan flatbread.

Pangea has eight shared large rooms that each contain between

six and 18 sleeping pods. Each guest has an individual pod enclosed by blackout curtains, which afford a bit more privacy than most hostels or dormitories. At least one female-only suite is available at all times.

The layout, compact and clever, incorporates charging outlets, lights, a mirror, artwork, a locked cabinet for valuables, hangers and hooks for backpacks and parkas, and a storage area for luggage. Each pod has a double memory-foam mattress.

The unusual design element is that the bathrooms are deconstructed: each suite has sinks, showers, loos and vanities, all placed separated, so one guest can't monopolize a traditional closed bathroom.

Mountain tech: Whistler Black-

comb now is owned by Vail Resorts and it is one of nine areas to offer Emma, likely the world's first digital mountain assistant. Emma, an artificial intelligence source, perhaps a little like Siri or Alexa, is a fountain of ski and snowboard knowledge.

Patrons of Whistler Blackcomb can text 77477 for updates on weather, lift status, terrain, Epic-Mix stats, parking, traffic, shuttles, rentals, lessons, lift tickets and resort activities. If Emma cannot answer a question, skiers can connect to a live agent.

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The new Pangea Pod Hotel offers affordable, convenient lodging in Whistler with individual berths designed for solo travellers. *PANGEA POD HOTEL*

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