

# Auberge Le Louis-Philippe II

BY ROCHELLE LASH, SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE SEPTEMBER 8, 2010



With a hot tub and mini-suites, the Auberge Le Louis-Philippe II has lots going for it.

*Scroll down for Rochelle's column.*

*Editor's note: Some of the details might have changed since the original publication date. Please check with the establishment before heading out!*

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*Auberge Le Louis-Philippe II, 450-753-5019, 866-753-5019, [www.lelouisphilippe2.com](http://www.lelouisphilippe2.com), 5650 rue Principale, Notre Dame de Lourdes.*

*Price: Rooms and junior suites, on weekends, \$80-\$135 for two, including breakfast, access to the pond, walking trail and hot tub; weekdays it's \$70-\$120. Massages start at \$60. Exfoliation, algae body wraps, hot stone massages, pregnancy massages and facials are available.*

*L'October Blues: 450-753-7405, [www.octoberblues.com](http://www.octoberblues.com). Nearly 40 shows at 6 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10 p.m., through Saturday. The shows are held in restaurants and bars in Joliette, without cover charge. Free workshops Saturday at 2 and 4 p.m. at Royaume de la Musique, 404 St. Viateur St., Joliette.*

NOTRE DAME DE LOURDES - Auberge Le Louis-Philippe II is an appealing blend of quaint 19th-century lines with the modern-day spaciousness and brightness of a house built after the millennium.

It's as if Queen Victoria said: Let the sun shine in.

A 10-minute drive from Joliette, Le Louis-Philippe looks like a small castle on the banks of the Assomption River. It's not quite a castle, but rather an impressive Victorian-style bed-and-breakfast built in 2000.

The large, bustling establishment has a definite division of labour, and it's all in the Delisle family and their spouses. "It's teamwork," said Danielle Delisle, who takes care of administration. Her husband, Marcel Ratelle, does the food shopping. Her sister Guylaine Delisle is responsible for decor. Guylaine's husband, Yves Cormier, and her father, Denis Delisle, handle maintenance and repairs.

With so many helping hands, Le Louis-Philippe has evolved into a small estate with a lot going for it inside and out.

Surrounded by woods and rolling hills, its setting is picture-pretty. Look out any window, or settle into any chair on the wide veranda, and you'll see a picturesque man-made scene that complements nature. From the living room, the view is of a pond with a tiny sand beach. Some of the guest rooms overlook a rock garden with a waterfall and a pond with Japanese carp.

Louis-Philippe's interiors also are elaborately decorated and have a formal air - not quite Victorian, but definitely fancy. Guylaine Delisle chose tones of beige and pastels for the living room's curtains and damask furniture. Intricately carved walnut cabinets, all from the Delisles' great-grandmother, protect good china and fine cut crystal.

Louis-Philippe's guest rooms are mini-suites with double bathtubs, sitting areas and queen-sized beds. Here, Guylaine Delisle let loose with her passion for colour and accessories. Each room has its own vibrant colour scheme for wallpaper and fabrics - a regal burgundy and gold, pastoral forest green, feminine pink and white or the yellow and blue of Provence. The rooms all equipped with hairdryers, bathrobes and towels for trips to the outdoor hot tub, and handcrafted soaps made of olive oil and perfumed with herbs from the nearby company, Savonnerie Mère et Fille ([www.savonneriemereetfille.com](http://www.savonneriemereetfille.com)), which specializes in environmentally sensitive products.

With not one, but two, women on the job, guests here are well-fed. A fulsome breakfast starts with fresh fruit smoothies, followed by baked beans and main courses like French toast with ham, pancakes with sausages or eggs and bacon. Save room for dessert - crêpes Suzette with oranges and liqueur.

Le Louis-Philippe has lots of land, and the owners have created a one-kilometre walking trail through the woods. On the shore of the small lake, a pedal boat and a rowboat are parked side by side, ready for a lazy ripple through the water.

In winter, Louis-Philippe's owners organize snowmobiling and dogsledding, cross-country skiing at St. Jean Matha and downhill at Val St. Côme.

Joliette's cultural calendar is best known for the summer-time Lanaudière Music Festival, with its

classical concerts held outdoors and in local churches. Striking a different musical note, the fifth annual l'October Blues event will feature nearly 40 shows at 16 venues throughout downtown Joliette. Continuing through Saturday night, it's a great way to sample some of the dining and drinking spots with, in most cases, no extra charge for the entertainment.

Tomorrow night's five shows include Lise Hanick, a guitarist and singer from France who will perform at 8 p.m. at Aux Saisons Gourmandes, a bistro serving casual fare; and rock-inspired electrical guitarist Steve Rowe, backed by a group of musicians, is playing at 10 p.m. at Le

St-Bernard, a show bar. Joliette native Lewis Dave, a pianist who won an award as the top musician at this summer's Tremblant Blues Festival, will relive the '50s with his retro style, on Friday at 9:30 p.m at Café-Bar l'Azile.

L'October Blues also features two free workshops Saturday afternoon. Pat Loiselle will give a guitar seminar at 2 p.m., and Bharath Ragakumar will teach the intricacies of the harmonica at 4 p.m.

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