

# Auberge Sous l'Édredon

BY ROCHELLE LASH, THE GAZETTE    SEPTEMBER 7, 2010



Auberge Sous l'Édredon, Saint-Sauveur, is being transformed by two professional hoteliers.

**Photograph by:** Auberge Sous l'Édredon

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**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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Innkeepers Stéphane Jasmin and Nick D'Amico are starting to scale down their outside operations, but they are still thinking big.

The professional hoteliers have worked as managers in major establishments in big cities. Jasmin has worked at the Ritz-Carlton in Montreal and at the first Aloft Hotel, a W enterprise at Pierre E. Trudeau Airport. D'Amico works as room operations manager at the Marriott hotel opening soon at the airport.

Six months ago, the two bought Auberge Sous l'Édredon, a charming B&B with a Tyrolean exterior on the outskirts of St. Sauveur.

"Here I can live at my own pace," Jasmin said. "Not to mention ski across the street at Mont Habitant. And we both cycle and jog on the country roads."

The house, more than 120 years old, is warm, welcoming and is gradually being modernized. With a

large modern sofa in front of a stone fireplace and a flat-screen television, Auberge Sous l'Édredon is more like Martha Stewart's country style than your grandmother's chalet.

D'Amico and Jasmin have tackled such seasonal outdoor maintenance and improvements as large-scale tree landscaping, gardening and painting. Getting ready for high season, they have opened the outdoor heated pool and spruced up the hot tub that overlooks the Laurentians.

Jasmin is responsible for breakfast: his favourite dishes are omelettes, quiche and especially eggs Benedict - "because people don't do them at home," he said.

The phrase "sous l'édredon" translates as "under the covers," and Jasmin makes sure his guests can tuck into beds that are both pretty and comfortable. The beds are equipped with high-quality white cotton sheets and white eyelet duvet covers. Gorgeous, but who irons, I wondered?

"I do," Jasmin said. "I do most of the housework and decor.

"We're still working on adding a subtle contemporary look, but we also want to keep the traditional chalet feel. One thing is we have too much wallpaper ... we just have to tone it down a little. "

What speaks to the past is a collection of black and white photographs of St. Sauveur when rue Principale had wooden sidewalks and horse-drawn sleighs picked up city folk arriving on the P'tit Train du Nord.

B&Bs usually are run with a personal touch and tend to have interesting histories and intimate stories to tell. The white stucco country chalet originally belonged to the Stein family of Montreal, the founders of Mont Habitant ski area, which they still own. Another chapter will be added to the family saga this summer with the wedding of one member of the family. The festivities will be held at the foot of Mont Habitant, and the clan has booked Auberge Sous l'Édredon for the occasion. Members of the family will stay in rooms they had as children. The decor has been updated, but memories are still there.

Auberge Sous l'Édredon is on the outskirts of St. Sauveur, the busy centre of the Lower Laurentians. The city has a permanent population of 9,000 and a weekend count that can hit 30,000. Most of the B&B's guests head for town for non-stop shopping, dining and entertainment. l'Édredon has created packages with the Beautharium Day Spa, summer theatres in Ste. Adèle and

St. Sauveur and many of the shows coming to the Chapiteau (Big Top) St. Sauveur, including the equestrian circus Saka and the Festival des Arts de St. Sauveur.

The festival will unfold at the height of summer, July 30 to Aug. 8. A new managing director, Bernard Lagacé , joins artistic director Anik Bissonnette, former prima ballerina of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens. They will oversee 30 shows, nine of them performances of music and dance by international troupes under the Chapiteau, located near rue Principale. As well, the festival features free performances on an outdoor stage. Aug. 2 will be renamed Tohu Bohu, a crazy, quirky family day featuring dance workshops and storytelling for children.

For dinner, Jasmin recommends Lezvos, a recently opened branch of the Mediterranean fish restaurant in Montreal. Papa Luigi on rue Principale, which serves Italian food and has a well-chosen wine list, is marking its 30th year. It was named the top restaurant in the Laurentians for 2009 by Quebec Tourism.

The Café de la Gare, arguably the town's most popular breakfast and lunch spot, has created a trendy supper club and lounge called Cabaret Cocos, where such performers as Dan Bigras, Natalie Choquette, Alpha Rococo and The Respectables will perform on Saturday nights.

This weekend will be an extravaganza for shoppers. Most of St. Sauveur's 200 boutiques and factory outlets are holding a huge sidewalk sale with pop music and animation. The day winds up with a free outdoor concert at 7:30 p.m. at Parc Georges Filion next to the church on the town's main street.

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#### If You Go

St. Sauveur des Monts is a 45-minute drive from Montreal. Take Highway 15 north to Exit 60.

Auberge Sous l'Edredon: 777 rue Principale, St. Sauveur; 450-227-3131, [www.aubergesousledredon.com](http://www.aubergesousledredon.com). Price for two, including breakfast: \$100-\$150 weekdays, \$110-\$180 weekends. Two-room Cristal Suite, \$150-\$220. Extra adult, \$20. Children 13 and younger stay for free.

Festival des Arts de St. Sauveur: Runs July 30-Aug. 8; ticket prices \$10-55 for shows in the Big Top. Info: [www.fass.ca](http://www.fass.ca), 866-908-9090, 450-227-0427.

Local tourism information: 450-227-2564 or [www.valleesaintsauveur.com](http://www.valleesaintsauveur.com).