

Tremblant Elysium

BY ROCHELLE LASH, THE GAZETTE DECEMBER 16, 2010



The Tremblant Elysium experience is available at the deluxe, slope-side townhouses at both Mont Tremblant's new Versant Soleil and the South Side.

Photograph by: Tremblant Elysium

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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The first chairlift in Canada opened at Mont Tremblant during the winter of 1938-39, kicking off the evolution of Eastern Canada's largest downhill-skiing area.

The area's founder, Joe Ryan, a U.S. adventurer and socialite, first visited the Laurentians on a mining trip and climbed Mont Tremblant on a whim. He struck gold with his idea of a ski area and built the Flying Mile chairlift, named after his favourite racehorse. Then he created a slopeside village of quaint chalets and the posh Mont Tremblant Lodge - the place to be from the 1940s to the '70s for the swell set. Tremblant attracted royalty from different worlds, including Jackie Kennedy, Jean-Claude Killy, Truman Capote and kings and queens from Europe.

"Skiing started out as an elite pursuit, with very few people skiing very few trails," said Peter Duncan, a two-time Olympian and Tremblant native. "But now the sport has wide, multi-generational appeal. ... Modern grooming, efficient lifts and snow-making make skiing so accessible and virtually guarantee a good surface. And snowboarding adds a major new dimension."

