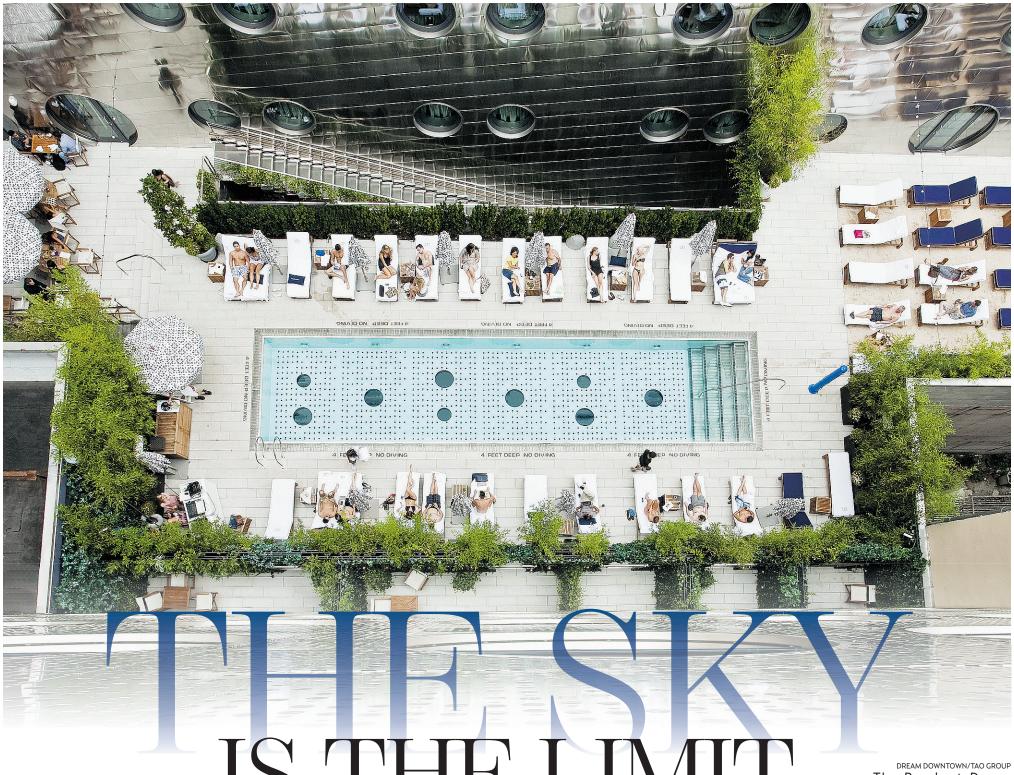
Boutique hotel a chic new oasis in South Beach. Page h7



The fun has moved up to higher floors and the roof in the hippest hotels

The Beach at Dream Downtown is a refreshing resort-style getaway in Manhattan with a pool, a bar and a grill.

ROCHELLE LASH SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

ooftop lounges and pool-deck plazas at urban hotels are so hot, they are sizzling. The universe is trending outdoors through virtual walls, and upwards to doubleglam aeries. Imagine a night of dining and dancing under the stars at a high-altitude bar, or sipping creative cocktails at a private pool cabana at the heart of a crowded metropolis.

There is bacchanalian buzz at Harrah's in Atlantic City and a chic 5-à-7 scene at Hotel Nelligan in Old Montreal. If you spin 360 degrees atop Dream Downtown in New York City, you'll be dazzled by a panorama of Manhattan. And the Queen City's horizon as seen from the Thompson Toronto embraces sparkling Lake Ontario and the CN



MICHAEL WEBER/THOMPSON TORONTO The Rooftop Lounge at the Thompson Toronto is a celebrity magnet.

A fabulous rooftop requires spicy new Mexican restauan iconic skyline, and there is none more worshipped than that of New York, immortal-

ized in the legendary films of Woody Allen, Robert De Niro and so many other artists.

PH-D, the cool penthouse lounge at Dream Downtown in Manhattan's Meatpacking District, captures the city that never sleeps, including the Empire State Building and the skyscape stretching west to the Hudson River. PH-D attracts an after-work crowd for cocktails and bites such as lobster rolls and beef sliders until 9 p.m., and later it draws nighthawks who come for DJs and dancing until 2 a.m.

In summer, the Beach at Dream Downtown, a welcome escape from street heat, is a fun fusion of an outdoor pool, a bar and a grill.

A stylish haven, Dream Downtown offers a 24/7 fitness room, room service and dining at Bodega Negra, a



TOM BRIGLIA/HARRAH'S ATLANTIC CITY RESORT AND CASINO
Please see ROOFTOP, Page H2 The Pool After Dark at Harrah's Atlantic City Resort has celebrity DJs such as Paris Hilton.



h2 TRAVEL



Looking north from Terrasse Nelligan in Old Montreal, guests are eye level with the spires of Notre-Dame Basilica. The Terrasse Nelligan is a seventh-floor heaven of drinks and dining.

ROOFTOP Sky-high hotel parties boast upscale ambience

CONTINUED FROM HI

The in-house Safira Boutique markets on-trend threads. And if you want an eco-friendly ride, Dream supplies bicycles for cruising along New York's flourishing cycling network.

Dream has more than 300 rooms with deluxe fittings, Etro toiletries, Egyptian cotton sheets and a tech platform that integrates TVs, laptops and iPods.

Yes, that could be you posting Instagram pix of Brad Pitt, Lupita Nyong'o and Jake Gyllenhaal and their entourages at a Thompson Toronto bash. This Hollywood North site is one of the celebrity magnets during the annual Toronto International Film Festival, and a voguish destination just by King St. W. throughout the year.

The Thompson's superlative summit embraces a stunning infinity pool that is a daytime resort escape. At night, the Rooftop Lounge is an upscale scene where bottles of Belvedere and Bacardi flow like water, and a DJ spins pop, jazz and funk. Who's downing shots of single malt? The Thompson's dynamic clientele includes iPad-toting leaders from the worlds of fashion, law, advertising, finance, technology and showbiz.

The lobby's graffiti-style sculptural mural is an evocative introduction to the ho- hot-tubbing and lounging. tel's progressive contemporary design. The Thompson has 102 rooms and suites, all with lots of space, pristine white decor, colourful Swedish-style accessories and sharp bathrooms with glasstiled walls. Movie stars book the ravishing Penthouse Suite, an exclusive A-list hideaway with a bar, a pool table, a 60-inch TV and striking minimalist decor.

The Thompson has a 24-hour comfort food diner, plus the Japanese fusion restaurant Wabora and Colette, banas and danced the night a chi-chi French bistro opening in June.

BFFs converge at Harrah's Atlantic City Resort and Ca-

Harrah's Pool is an entertainment complex enveloped in a weatherproof dome, heated year-round to a sultry 25C — perfect for swimming,

When night falls, the Pool After Dark is an extreme party place — a superlative club with attitude, high-voltage music and indoor and outdoor scenarios. Celebrity DJs such as Paris Hilton yes, that Paris Hilton — and MTV's Jersey Shore cast members Pauly D and Michael (the Situation) Sorrentino spin hip hop, pop, house and rock. The likes of Kim Kardashian, Lindsay Lohan and P. Diddy have swilled Champagne in private ca-

There's nothing boutique about Harrah's. It has 2,590 The Twitterati and their rooms, a posh Elizabeth Arden Red Door Spa, a shopping promenade and a pulsing casino with 450 gaming tables and 3,800 slot machines. Ten restaurants offer signature dishes, such as luscious prime rib at the Steakhouse and cotton-candy cake

can check into an indulgent suite with a pool table, a surround-sound entertainment system and blackout drapes, for those who play all night.

at Sammy D's. High rollers

Closer to home, Hotel Nelligan, the quintessential boutique establishment in Old Montreal, has one of the city's most intoxicating rooftops.

The Terrasse Nelligan is a seventh-floor heaven of drinks and dining with exceptional vistas of ocean liners in the Port of Montreal and Habitat 67, the cubist housing complex. And it's thrilling to have a perch at the same lofty level as the spires of Notre-

Dame Basilica. An outing here is a soignée soirée with smoothies, served spiked or virgin, and the house drink, effervescent white sangria. The doubledecker cheeseburger, topped with sharp Charlevoix cheddar and served smoking off

the open grill, is irresistible. The Nelligan is a deluxe getaway with 105 rooms and suites that radiate warmth. Natural brick and stone walls are centuries-old backdrops to the hotel's loft-chic design of studded leather furniture, dark wooden floors and white beds. La Petite Suite is the choice cocoon for a romantic weekend, with its fireplace and whirlpool tub. The linens are so fine and pillows so plump that they're available for purchase.



Chilled white sangria is the summer house drink at Terrasse Nelligan in Old Montreal. The PH-D rooftop at Dream Downtown in New York, below, has views of the iconic Manhattan skyline.

■IF YOU GO

Terrasse Nelligan / Hotel Nelligan: hotelnelligan.com, 514-788-2040.

PH-D / Dream Downtown, New York City: dreamhotels. com, PHDLounge.com, 646-

625-4847, 212-229-2559.

Rooftop Lounge / Thompson Toronto: thompsonhotels. com, 888-550-8368, 416-640-7778.

The Pool After Dark / Harrah's Atlantic City Resort and Casino: thepoolafterdark. com / harrahsresort.com, 800-645-6774, 609-441-5000.



DREAM DOWNTOWN/TAO GROUP