REACH FOR THE STARS

Nova Scotia wilderness lodge Trout Point has an astronomer on staff and recently added a stargazing platform and new telescopes.

ROCHELLE LASH MONTREAL GAZETTE

Guests who visit the superb wilderness resort Trout Point Lodge in Nova Scotia will be seeing stars even more clearly this season.

Trout Point is the world's first lodging establishment to be certified as a Starlight Hotel by the Starlight Foundation, which is headquartered at the Canaries Astrophysics Institute in Spain. This means that the hotel has exceptional vantage points and facilities for astronomy, including an astronomer on staff and new telescopes for the 2015 season.

Trout Point is an intimate, secluded resort with delectable, locally-inspired cuisine and a roster of nature-oriented activities. A wilderness camp with eastern spruce log structures, the hotel embraces 15 deluxe accommodations, all with views of rivers and woods and upscale rustic decor built around handmade branch and twig furniture, reminiscent of the Adirondack Great Camps.

It is remote and compact by resort standards, but Trout Point also is sociable. Guests gather in the Great Room, where there is music nightly. Then it's on to dinner at one of two restaurants, Chez la Forêt for fine dining, and Bois et Charbon, which has rugged decor of slate floors, a beamed ceiling and fireplaces. The hotel is known for its Atlantic Acadian culinary style and its daily cooking classes. Menus feature fresh seafood and meat with vegetables, flowers and herbs from Trout Point's own gardens.

Stargazing is a major draw. The lodge is located in a particularly IF YOU GO

Trout Point Lodge: 902-482-8360, troutpoint.com; operates May 15-Oct. 20. East Kemptville, Nova Scotia. Rental cars are available at Halifax airport for the 285-kilometre drive.

Rates: ■ \$189-\$439, including nonguided activities. Some guided activities have a fee.

■ Breakfast-and-dinner plan, \$99 p.p.

■ Romance in the Wilderness Package, \$799 p.p., double occ., for three nights in a junior suite with a fireplace, Champagne, breakfast and dinner each day and a one-hour guided hiking excursion.

■ Cooking classes, \$35 p.p.

dark, nighttime zone of southwest Nova Scotia where there is little light pollution. Adjacent to the Tobeatic Wilderness area about a 30-minute drive from Yarmouth or three hours southwest of Halifax, the region has been designated a Starlight Tourist Destination and Starlight Reserve, two designations backed by UNESCO.

The owners of Trout Point, Vaughan Perret and Charles Leary, are recognized as pioneers in astrotourism. Trout Point has a permanent astronomer on staff and it recently added a stargazing platform and new telescopes, including a solar telescope for daytime use.

Guests also enjoy canoeing, kayaking, hiking, geo-tours, swimming in the rivers, spa life in a barrelshaped sauna and a wood-fired hot tub and a Japanese-style outdoor aromatherapy experience.



Trout Point Lodge is a deluxe wilderness resort in **Nova Scotia that** was certified for 2015 as a special astronomy centre because of the dark nighttime skies in the region. TROUT POINT LODGE

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