

TREMBLANT WELCOMES SUMMER

Blues fest unleashes music marathon in the mountains as condo-hotels roll out the discounts

ROCHELLE LASH
MONTREAL GAZETTE

The snow season is over and it's the green light for the 22nd annual summertime Tremblant International Blues Festival as well as the annual warm-weather specials on lodgings that run until October.

Bobby Bazini, the soulful Quebec singer-songwriter who is just back from Los Angeles, and Les Porn Flakes, who are known for their Rolling Stones tribute, will be among the marquee attractions during the rocking 10-day music happening at the slopeside village July 3 to 12.

The music marathon in the mountains also will feature bluesy rocker Brian Tyler, who made a splash on TV's *La Voix* with his rendition of *I Heard It Through the Grapevine*; sexy, torchy France D'Amour; the soul, funk and groove quartet Pimps of Joytime; Steve Hill, who was awarded best blues album at the 2015 Junos; guitarist Steve Strongman, winner in 2013; bassist Daniele Nicole; and the electric bluesy Bros. Landreth from the Canadian Prairies.

What's extraordinary about the Tremblant International Blues Festival, besides the remarkable talent, are the numbers. More than 60 bands will perform roughly 11 shows daily on various outdoor stages and also at several bistros and bars, including Casino Mont-Tremblant, Bullseye, Casey's, Le Shack, La Forge, Fat Mardis and Le Grain de Café, and it's almost all free except for a few bars such as Le P'tit Caribou and Café d'Époque

IF YOU GO

Tremblant: www.tremblant.ca, 888-738-1777. Tremblant slopeside condo-hotel lodging starts at \$119.25 per night for a hotel room for up to four people, or \$186.75 per night for a two-bedroom condo for up to six (both prices are based on a Sun.-Thurs., two-night visit, and include the discount). On Fri.-Sat., that same two-night deal would be \$179.25 for four, per night, in a hotel room, or \$374.25 for up to six in a two-bedroom condo. Visits to participating hotels include unlimited access to the panoramic gondola and the Parc Plage (past the Beach & Tennis Club). Tremblant International Blues Festival: July 3-12, 888-738-1777, www.tremblant.ca/blues. All outdoor and many indoor concerts are free.

that will levy a cover charge for indoor shows.

Special perks for visitors staying at participating slopeside hotels include unlimited rides on the scenic



The 22nd annual summertime Tremblant International Blues Festival will take place in July on various outdoor stages throughout the mountain village as well as in bars and bistros. TREMBLANT

gondola to Tremblant's summit, as well as access to Parc Plage, a beach on Lac Tremblant.

The festival also features surprise performances in unusual places, plus blues karaoke and some new music-centric activities for families.

If you plan a summer or fall getaway at one of Tremblant's condo-

hotels and, if you book by June 22, there are progressive discounts: 25 per cent for two-night stays, 30 per cent for three-night stays and 35 per cent for four-night stays or more. These deals are valid seven days a week, for stays up to Oct. 31, 2015.

A good choice for the upcoming season is the Tour des Voyageurs,

which is being renovated with new carpets, furniture, curtains, beds and linens, as well as updates on the bathrooms and kitchens. The convenient condo-hotel is in the middle of Tremblant's pedestrian village near the free Cabriolet lift that floats over the village from the base parking lot to the Gondola that rides to the summit.

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