

Tremblant lodging can be enjoyed three ways



ROCHELLE LASH
Checking In

Tremblant offers just about everything for just about everyone who wants to enjoy the magic of winter in the snowy Laurentian Mountains.

And this renowned vacation getaway, voted No. 1 in eastern North America for 18 of the past 20 years by readers of Ski magazine, constantly creates entertaining new experiences. It's working. The slopeside Tremblant resort welcomes an average of one million visitors during winter for snow sports and a world of other activities.

Food-wise, you probably have enjoyed Beaver Tails, steaks at La Forge, burgers at Le Shack and pasta at Coco Pazzo, but for 2015-2016 Tremblant has cooked up new on-mountain dining at Samurai Sushi and Laurent Louis, a wine bar and French restaurant. Plus, Fairmont Tremblant has launched an Italian buffet on Friday nights to complement its Saturday surf 'n' turf spread.

Have downhill skiing and snowboarding become ho-hum? Try uphill. Tremblant's Alpine touring involves climbing to the summit – or partway – with special skis sporting underside "skins."

If you still count on gondolas and chairlifts, the lifts will roll on Nov. 20. The 15th edition of the 24-hour Tremblant, an all-night ski-a-thon to benefit children's causes, will rock Dec. 4-6, with free shows and parties, and a marquee performance by the Canadian music sensation Simple Plan.

I always think of Tremblant as a ski and snowboard destination with exceptional après-ski for families such as tubing and skating for free if you are a guest at a participating hotel, as well as outdoor concerts for everyone in the village.

But, there will be haute mountain glamour, too.

Recalling the Euro-charm of posh Saint-Moritz, Switz., Tremblant will present Snow Polo, Feb. 25-27, a thrilling three-day showcase of skilled riders and nimble horses galloping on Lac Tremblant in front of Hôtel Quintessence. There will be free sections for spectators, as well as paid tickets for grandstands, VIP



Tremblant will welcome up to one million visitors this winter for on- and off-slope leisure. The ski lifts will roll on Nov. 20. **TREMBLANT**



The lobby lounge at Fairmont Tremblant is ideal for a romantic rendezvous. **FAIRMONT HOTELS AND RESORTS**

tables and corporate boxes.

That wide range of attractions is geared to a wide swath of clients, and so is Tremblant's slopeside lodging. Here is a look at sleep options, three ways: **FOR FAMILIES:** Kids rule at Le Sommet des Neiges, a condo complex with an unbeatable location adjacent to the gondola, the snow school, the rental shop and the baby hill, with its Magic Carpet lift.

Indoors, the Kids' Room is a bright playroom that was overhauled this year with a pirate theme and a wall for freestyle drawing. Parents can watch the action through a glass wall that

connects with the fitness room. The Teen Room has table games like hockey, Baby Foot and pool.

If you call ahead, Le Sommet's concierge, Nathalie Juster, can organize babysitting, cribs, groceries, activities and birthday parties.

FOR COUPLES: With its handsome interiors of rugged Canadiana, superb pool system and fine dining, Fairmont Tremblant is grand and sophisticated.

"As a romantic getaway, we have Quebec-inspired cuisine, private suites and an Amerispa for couples' massages," said Matthew Blackmore, the Fairmont's new general manager, who

helped launch the Tremblant hotel almost 20 years ago, but since then has worked at landmark Fairmonts in San Francisco and Maui.

"The Tremblant Fairmont is a major hotel, but it is intimate enough to offer personal service, to make a connection," said Blackmore.

"We remember guests' preferences, so you if you have food likes and dislikes or if you want to enjoy red wine in your room or a couples' massage, we will be ready on your return visit."

Taking its guests' love life to the ultimate, the Fairmont's new wedding specialist, Isabelle Gilbert, organizes creative ceremonies. Even in winter, the wedding party can consummate a whirlwind "I do" on the heated outdoor terrace that overlooks the picturesque village. To warm up, the ice bar serves zingy Tremblant Spritzers, with Ungava gin, rosemary, citrus, Campari and soda.

The wedding dinner might have a theme such as the rustic Chic Shack, featuring a gas firepit and woody Adirondack chairs, or the Winter Wonderland, a banquet room decked out with snowy trees and white table settings.

FOR FRIENDS: Le Lodge de la Montagne is a few-frills condo-hotel that is an affordable getaway, ideal for groups of friends. How much it costs depends on

IF YOU GO

Tremblant: tremblant.ca, 888-738-1777; Tremblant Resort hotels include snow tubing, skate rentals and rink, First Tracks. Extra: Alpine touring trails (\$5.99) and gear, babysitting, Kids' Club, Activity Centre (dog sledding, ice-climbing, helicopter rides, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, sleigh rides and more.)

Le Sommet des Neiges: 888-738-1777, 819-681-3000; a one-bedroom apartment starts at \$151 per person, per night, for double occ. (two nights minimum), incl. lift tickets; or for quadruple occupancy, \$95 p.p., per night, (two adults and two children, 6-12), incl. lifts, Wi-Fi, fitness room, outdoor whirlpool, Kids' Room, Teen Room.

Lodge de la Montagne: 888-738-1777; a two-bedroom apartment for up to six people starts at \$920 for two nights, minimum two-night stays (that's \$115 p.p., per night, quadruple occ. or about \$77 p.p., in a group of six), incl. two-day lift ticket per adult, Wi-Fi, whirlpool, fitness studio, ski locker.

Fairmont Tremblant: 819-681-7000; 866-540-4415; fairmont.com/tremblant; The new Flex Ski Package starts at \$377 per night, including lodging, indoor-outdoor pools and a \$200 ski credit toward rentals, lessons or lifts. With this deal, President's Club members receive an additional \$50 credit per room, per stay, for food and beverage. Pet-friendly. Amerispa: 866-263-7477, 819-681-7680, amerispa.ca.

how many snow-lovers share the one-, two- or three-bedroom units.

They're basic and comfortable, with TVs in every bedroom and the living room, plus fireplaces, balconies and kitchens.

A two-bedroom unit for six people, using the living room sofa-bed, starts at \$77 p.p., including lifts, and with Tremblant's lift ticket at about \$84 per day (full retail), that makes the lodging almost free!

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