

NO LIMITS TO LODGING IN 2015

The year featured waves of openings, relaunches in Ontario, Quebec, U.S.



ROCHELLE LASH
Checking In

Hotels without borders. Lodging without limits.

The openings and makeovers of 2015 are as limitless as emoji, reflecting a virtually infinite range of moods and styles. Sleep options come in all shapes, sizes and price points, many of them outside the box of traditional establishments.

Here's a look back at some of the most intriguing news of the year:

Québec sait faire: Quebec has expressed its customary esprit, creativity and daring in several new projects.

Le Monastère des Augustines in Quebec City is a superbly crafted, 65-room boutique hotel revolving around wellness. Radiating history and spirituality, Le Monastère is on the grounds of the venerable Hôtel Dieu, where nuns nursed the sick as far back as 1639 (a few years before Montreal's Hôtel Dieu).

Now, 376 years later, Le Monastère's non-profit organization has created a stylish sanctuary with healthy pursuits, organic cuisine, exquisite displays of religious art and appealing decor.

In the Laurentians, retired Olympic and Paralympic coach Tom Silletta and his wife, Line Caissy, have built Vita Bella B&B, a warm, welcoming inn outside of St-Adolphe-d'Howard. Vita Bella, without carpets or obstacles on the floor, is tailored to travellers with physical challenges.

Huttopia Sutton brings savoir faire from France to the Eastern Townships with its ready-to-use camping and cabins. To round out the comfort, Huttopia has just reopened the old Hôtel Horizon in Sutton, with 24 rooms, cottages, a restaurant and an indoor swimming pool.

The lakeside Auberge Quiliams in Knowlton/Lac-Brome has been reimagined and now is

named Auberge Lac Brome (not to be confused with Auberge West Brome, near Sutton). Auberge D&K on Sutton's rue Principale has transitioned to Microbrasserie Auberge Sutton Brouërie, which has eight rooms, a restaurant and a microbrewery.

Where once fancy French cuisine and wine ruled, today craft beer is a major theme. In Val-David, Le Baril Roulant took over the Swiss inn Le Creux du Vent and added a microbrasserie and a pub with live music.

Travellers are trekking to yurts that have popped up in Mégantic, Rawdon and Portneuf, near Quebec City. But hands down, the most unusual new lodging in Quebec is Motelluxe, an ingenious one-bedroom getaway in a shiny, deluxe Airstream RV, in the Gatineau Hills.

Ontario neighbours: The spectacular \$40-million restoration of the venerable Omni King Edward Hotel was Toronto's biggest lodging news of 2015. Old World graciousness and palatial grandeur create a regal backdrop for influential neighbours: the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, the Distillery District, Air Canada Centre and Rogers Centre. The King Edward's afternoon tea has been a tradition since 1903, and the updated dining is all about today.

The Casselodge B&B is on the way to Ottawa, near the Calypso water park. Tradition and innovation meet here: the owners have built a new round-log home encircling a smaller home that dates to 1890.

The lakefront Opinicon Dining & Resort in the Rideau Canal region has reopened, with its historic summer-cottage-inspired experience. Family nostalgia blooms at the ice cream parlour, the revamped 110-year-old dining room and the Kids' Club.

New in New England: The landmark Edson Hill in Stowe, Vt., relaunched with lustrous nature-inspired interiors, fine cuisine and a hot cocktail scene. Romance revolves around deep soaking tubs and wood-stoked fireplaces in each guest room, plus a gorgeous hilltop setting



Le Monastère des Augustines in Quebec City is an architectural tour de force, and a heavenly new concept in wellness getaways. **ANDRÉ-OLIVIER LYRA/LE MONASTÈRE DES AUGUSTINES**



Vita Bella B&B, outside of St-Adolphe-d'Howard, was designed to be completely accessible for travellers with physical challenges. **VITA BELLA B&B**

amid fir and spruce trees, with views of Mount Mansfield.

Also in Stowe, the playful Field Guide opened on the footprint of Ye Olde England Inne, with comfy main lodge rooms, luxe suites and private cottages. Breakfast is a nutritious and delicious basket delivered to your room. Field Guide's restaurant Picnic Social is expected to open in the spring.

The chic and quirky Hotel on North opened in Pittsfield, in the culturally rich Berkshire area of Massachusetts. The buildings, listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places, date to the 1880s and are prized for their aged brick walls and tin ceilings. The eclectic design features handsome decor, a collection of ornate birdcages and artwork by locals.

Florida favourites: Miami Beach has experienced several surges in popularity over the course of its 100 years. The founding of

this iconic destination in 1915 spawned great hotel design — art deco from the 1920s to the 1940s, followed by the marvellous Miami Modern look of the 1950s, when a bold, light-filled style ruled.

There was a lull during the 1960s and 1970s, when the Caribbean and California drew sun-seekers, but South Beach boomed again from the 1980s through the 2000s. Art Basel arrived in 2002, and such celebrities as Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Hudson are adding dazzle. The rest is hotel history — reborn.

The sleek, sophisticated Miami Beach EDITION is the latest from hospitality guru Ian Schrager. The boutique-hotel pioneer expanded his vision to create a five-star urban resort with a nightclub, a bowling alley and Jean-Georges Vongerichten's gourmet take on Latin cuisine.

Also on famed Collins Ave., the stunning establishment 1 Hotel

South Beach is proof that green is beautiful. The swish Carillon Miami Beach is a dazzling new version of a mid-century landmark. And the whopping list of big-name Miami Beach/South Beach openings for 2015-2016 includes Nobu at Eden Roc, Starwood's Aloft, AC by Marriott, Shelburne Wyndham Grand, Hyatt Centric, the opulent Faena and Nautilus, a SIXTY Hotel.

Fort Lauderdale, the No. 1 winter destination for Canadians, is having a heyday as well. Margaritaville Hollywood Beach Resort is the new marquee attraction on funky Hollywood Beach Boulevard. Margaritaville's vibe is as laid-back as Jimmy Buffett's tropical island music, but it's also a big, busy resort and entertainment complex with eight dining concepts, the St. Somewhere Spa and several pools. Cocktails, anyone?

rochelle@rochellelash.com
twitter.com/rochellelash

WHERE TO STAY

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CALL
514-987-2279



NEW YORK



AMERICA'S BEST VALUE INN

www.plattsburghbestvalueinn.com
19 Booth Drive, Plattsburgh, New York
518-563-0222

Toll free 1-800-358-2137

In wonderful Plattsburgh. Only \$140 CDN (tax incl.) per room for 2 Nights. Canadian cash. Up to 2 people, additional pers. add \$10 more per night. Free continental breakfast. Located conveniently off exit 37 on I-87. Some holidays, wknds & spec. events do not apply. Up to 70% occ. daily. Based on availability.



VERMONT



GREEN MOUNTAIN SUITES HOTEL

www.greenmountainsuites.com

401 Dorset Street, South Burlington, Vermont
Toll-free reservations 866-337-1616

Experience all the Charm of a Boutique Vermont Country Inn Escape to beautiful Burlington, Vermont starting at \$119/night weekdays. Luxurious One-Bedroom Suite includes Fireside Breakfast served each morning Includes Fireside Reception with Beer, Wine and Dinner weekdays Heated Indoor Pool/Jacuzzi & Exercise facility Walking distance to University Mall and close to Lake Champlain and the Church Street Marketplace. Promotional rate may not be available during select periods. Contact hotel for more information.



SMART SUITES

www.smartsuitesburlington.com

1700 Shelburne Rd., So. Burlington, Vt.
Toll free 877-862-6800

Winter Rates: Come and enjoy our hospitality in either a studio efficiency at US \$80.00 or a more spacious one bedroom suite at US \$90.00/night including a deluxe continental breakfast and free WIFI. Mention the Gazette special. Not valid with other discounts and always subject to availability. Rates in effect November 1, 2015 through May 1, 2016. Take Exit 13 off I-89, left on Rt 7 (Shelburne Rd) for 1.5 miles. Same entrance as Holiday Inn Express.



TRAVELODGE

1016 Shelburne Road, South Burlington
1-802-862-6421

Close to downtown Burlington shopping malls and outlets. Enjoy a Free Full Hot Breakfast, High speed wireless internet and pets welcome. Special rates for 2 nights \$129.00 USD or 1 night for \$69.99 USD Plus Tax. Additional \$10 USD per person/night. Pet Charge \$10/pet/night. Rates based on availability and not valid on busy weekends. \$129.00 for park & Fly. Call **802-862-6421** for reservations



QUALITY INN

2572 Shelburne Rd, Shelburne
855-547-2524

Special Rate for 2 night hotel stay for \$149.99 USD or 1 night for \$79.99 plus Tax. Park & Fly rate which includes 1 night stay with round trip transportation to BTV airport and up to 21 days parking for \$119.00 plus Tax. Rates based on double occupancy. Additional charge \$10/person/night. Pet charge \$20/pet/night. These rates also include Full Hot Breakfast, Indoor Heated Pool, Hot Tub, Sauna, Fitness center, Free wireless Internet and a Business center. Directions: I-89, Exit-13. Rates based on availability. Not valid on busy weekends. This promotion is available till 4/30/2016. Call **802-985-8037** or Toll Free: **855-547-2524** for reservation.