



The Four Seasons' Social Square features a seductive Night Bar and chic seafood-themed restaurant MARCUS. ATELIER ZÉBULON PERRON/FOUR SEASONS HOTEL MONTREAL

HOTEL INTEL

BATHED IN GLAMOUR AND GOLD

Four Seasons Montreal aims to reflect city's energy, diversity and creativity



ROCHELLE LASH

We're back in the big time, hospitality-wise.

The Four Seasons Montreal opened this month at the heart of downtown, arguably the most important hotel launch in Quebec in decades.

It brings a renewed lustre to de la Montagne St., featuring 169 elegant accommodations, a resplendent ballroom, massage oils infused with 24-carat gold and, coming soon, a sky-lit indoor pool.

The reception and restaurant are on the third floor, creating an upper sanctum of voguish living. This is the Social Square, with delectable dining and convivial drinking at MARCUS, as well as pearly gates to the retail rapture of Holt Renfrew Ogilvy.

"Montrealers are among the most sexy and sensual people in the world," said Andrew Lutfy, CEO of Carbonleo Inc., the Four Seasons' owner and developer, at the opening-day party. "And we want to deliver a experiences that reflect that."

Lutfy just might have his way

with us. The new hotel is downright aphrodisiacal.

The scene: Four Seasons is a global touchstone of elite travel known for silky service and a clientele of CEOs, celebrities and socialites. So, what distinguishes the Montreal establishment?

"It's our connection to the city's energy and creativity," said general manager Gonçalo Monteiro. "And we want to complement Montreal's diversity."

So, a quintessentially classy Four Seasons also is a hip, engaged and avant-garde lifestyle hub.

Like Montreal, the cuisine has local and international roots — fresh Quebec ingredients seasoned with a soupçon of Asia, Scandinavia and Africa. On select nights, MARCUS will buzz with local DJs and live performers.

The art is eclectic. Vintage photographs display 20th-century icons, including Leonard Cohen, Oscar Peterson and Margaret Trudeau in full Studio 54 party mode. And, an amazing, nine-storey installation — a mobile of aluminum flowers by Montrealer Pascale Girardin — cascades down an atrium.

Accommodations: Graceful and subtly luxurious, the guest rooms have a classic contemporary look, bathed in a soothing colour cocoon of cloud white and dove grey. There is glamour in

IF YOU GO

Four Seasons Hotel Montreal

Contact: 800-819-5053, 514-843-2500, fourseasons.com/montreal

Address: 1440 de la Montagne St.

Price and Amenities: Rates fluctuate. Deluxe rooms start at approximately \$545 (suites cost more). Third night free, Nov. 1-March 31. Advance purchase gets 15 per cent off. Including indoor pool/sauna/steam (all opening soon), fitness centre, twice-daily housekeeping, Press Reader App (print newspapers on request), in-room Nespresso, Wi-Fi, shoeshine, hypoallergenic bedding.

MARCUS: 514-843-2525; daily breakfast, lunch, dinner, bar; brunch on Sat.-Sun.

Spa: Kneipp hydrotherapy included with treatments.

the gold accents, rose velvet furniture and a circular bar étagère for make-your-own cocktails. The amenities are discreet-



The rooms were designed by Gilles & Boissier with Montreal architect Philip Hazan. FOUR SEASONS HOTEL MONTREAL/GILLES & BOISSIER

ly cached in closets: luggage space, yoga mats, a mini-bar and Nespresso machines. Bedside touch panels control the drapes, lighting and privacy alert.

Guests enjoy marvellous beds, fragrant Byredo toiletries, lavish marble bathrooms and 65-inch TVs (a 75-inch in the sweeping Presidential Suite).

SOCIAL SQUARE

Different spaces match different moods. You can choose from a see-and-be-seen lounge; a seductive Night Bar with absinthe fountains or a lovers' booth for two. MARCUS flows from banquettes to hi-tops at an open kitchen, and on to the year-round terrace and an insiders' corner bar.

MARCUS is a chic, next-generation brasserie named for celebrity chef Marcus Samuelsson, who lionized comfort food at Red Rooster in New York and London. Dining is more sophisticated at Four Seasons Montreal, with its gourmet fare, monogrammed bone china, dazzling black and white décor and attentive servers.

The theme is seafood — such delicacies as a raw bar of oysters, scallops and tartares; or shrimp,

clams and salmon belly warmed on a Japanese grill. Samuelsson's fave is halibut with succotash and eggplant. The meat menu tempts with lamb, duck and steak (\$27-\$48). Lunch choices include a Waygu burger (\$24) and a three-course special at \$29.

"MARCUS is refined, but we're also accessible," said French-born Philippe Piel, the executive chef. "Some casual choices are the chili crab pasta or 'ocean charcuterie,' such as tuna bresaola or sturgeon with Quebec caviar."

SPA LIFE

The plush spa plays on the location near Montreal's Golden Square Mile. The anti-aging Golden Glow body treatment uses oils infused with gold particles.

Also exceptional are the couple's massage suite and the Kneipp Water Therapy of hot and cold footbaths that stimulate blood circulation.

Rich lotions for face and body include Omorovicza from Hungary, 111SKIN from England and PEONI by JB Skin Guru, aka Jennifer Brodeur of Montreal. rochelle@rochellelash.com

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