

BEL AIR CREATES BOREAL BLISS NEAR TREMBLANT

Resort and residence fuses indoor luxury with outdoor beauty and adventure



ROCHELLE LASH
Hotel Intel

The newish Bel Air Tremblant Resort & Residences is an irresistible fusion of indoor comfort and outdoor beauty. Its features range from a mini-farm for children to spa services for grown-ups, with modern country lodging and unusual extras like tiny work cabins built into the woods.

Bel Air is the largest combination vacation-and-residential domain in the region, except for the slopeside condo-and-ski village at the mountain itself. It is spread over a gorgeous swath of a Laurentian landscape, 11 kilometres from the ski lifts.

Bel Air consists of two zones built on a mountainside overlooking snow-covered valleys and surrounded by boreal forests. The rental section has creative, contemporary lodging for up to 200 guests; and the for-sale real estate embraces nearly 140 private lots with upscale, modern country houses being built.

The lodging is almost all tucked into the woods, with barely a glimpse of neighbouring chalets, so guests have a rare sense of tranquility when they're "at home."

Country pursuits: Communal life radiates from The Clubhouse, an airy central pavilion with a family-sized movie theatre, a children's playroom, a teen area with table games and Xbox, a yoga studio, a fitness room, and an outdoor hot tub and firepit. The Ono Japanese Spa has a sauna and five treatment rooms. There also is a bistro for sandwiches and soup, and a continental breakfast served daily (\$10.50 on Monday-Friday; free on Saturday-Sunday).

In winter, Bel Air offers a skating rink and adventure sports such as electric fat-biking. Zip-lining and the walking-snowshoe trails are year-round. In summer, facilities include a heated pool with a sun deck, a soccer field and courts for volleyball, basketball and tennis. To fill out family fun, Bel Air also has a mini-farm. About 10 alpacas,

IF YOU GO

Bel Air Tremblant Resort & Residences: 819-774-0203, belairtremblant.com; 80 des Sept Sommets St., La Conception. Two- to five-night minimum during some periods. Sales office: 819-219-1293.

Price: Domes start at \$300 for two (all have hot tubs; some have saunas); Mezzanine Dome for two adults/two children, starts at \$370; mini-loft chalets from \$200 for a two-bedroom, for up to six people, (three- and four-bedrooms available); including continental breakfast Sat.-Sun., Wi-Fi, Netflix, clubhouse facilities, in-room Nespresso, washer-dryers in some mini-lofts. Housekeeping included for domes and available for a fee in mini-lofts.

Action Tremblant: 819-341-4577, actiontremblant.com. Fees apply for some activities, equipment rentals, guided tours. Age restrictions apply.

Ono Spa à Bel Air: 819-808-7583, onospatremblant.com; reservations required. Sample prices: 60-minute massages \$90-\$130; manicure-pedicure \$125; with facial \$230. Moment for Me package \$200, includes massage, facial, manicure.

goats and ponies have checked into their new barn so far, and rabbits and chickens are expected in spring 2020.

The development also plans a gourmet shop and a fine-dining restaurant, possibly Asian, with a clientele from the burgeoning area around Tremblant and La Conception. This dining spot will be surrounded by nature, overlooking fields and farm.

Bel Air understands that today's tech-driven jobs can often be 24/7, so it has created single-person office pods — little glass and wood cabins with com-



The Love Nest Domes are adorable, romantic hideaways that are similar to yurts, but with luxuries usually found in deluxe hotel rooms or condos. PHOTOS: FRANCE LAROSE/CASA MÉDIA



Bel Air also has a woodsy village of about 15 mini-lofts, which are contemporary mountain chalets with cubist architectural flair, high ceilings for a feeling of space and oversized windows for light.

puters and printers where guests can work in silence and privacy.

Love nest lodging: Bel Air delivers warmth and convenience. Almost all of its lodgings — both the mini-loft chalets and the domes — have remote-controlled gas fireplaces and TVs with Netflix (no extra charge), as well as air-conditioning, Wi-Fi and heated concrete floors. To enjoy life outdoors, most of the lodgings also have private decks with hot tubs, BBQs and patio furniture.

The Love Nest Domes are adorable, romantic hideaways that are similar to yurts, but with luxuries usually found in deluxe

hotel rooms or condos.

Each Love Nest Dome has a king-sized bed, bathrobes, two Eames-inspired leather lounge chairs, and a small designer kitchen (fully equipped except for an oven). To show off the spectacular views, Love Nest Domes also have one transparent "wall."

Country chalets: On the more traditional side of vacation rentals, Bel Air also has a woodsy village of about 15 mini-lofts, which are contemporary mountain chalets with cubist architectural flair, high ceilings for a feeling of space and oversized windows for light.

The mini-loft chalets are outfitted with designer kitchens, bathrooms with marble mosaics and soaking tubs, gas fireplaces, and modern furnishings such as leather sofas and avant-garde light fixtures.

Adventure: Outdoor guide Stéphane Nault operates Action Tremblant. He has installed zip-lining routes (for speeds up to 70 km/h); organizes dog-sledding and electric fat biking; and rents equipment for snowshoeing on Bel Air's trails and cross-country skiing on the P'tit Train du Nord, adjacent to the resort.

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