

# HOME FOR HOLIDAYS AT GERMAIN, ESCAD

*Boutique-chic properties have developed fashionable, elegant staycations for guests*



**ROCHELLE LASH**  
Hotel Intel

A staycation is the cure for corona cabin fever. Germain Hotels has adapted with in-room gourmet meals and strict pandemic practices, including contactless check-in and details such as wrapping your car keys in plastic at the valet service.

Crafted in Quebec and flourishing across Canada, the 18 establishments of Germain Hotels are innovative, fashionable, young in spirit and always in the moment.

To that end, Germain has developed staycations at some of its boutique-chic properties, including the sophisticated Hôtel Le Germain Montréal, near McGill University, and Hôtel Escad in Quartier DIX30, the mammoth shopping centre in Brossard.

Even when relegated to their rooms or suites, guests drink, dine by candlelight, practise yoga, binge-watch TV or relish a romantic rendezvous. Germain hotels are pet-friendly, so your canine BFF is invited as well (\$30 per stay).

Included across all Germain hotels are late-day check-out when available, in-room Nespresso, Wi-Fi, exercise mats and Nama-Stay videos.

For a slice of spa life, the concierges also organize massages. Laptops, cellphones and tablets sync to Chromecast, so guests can stream The Crown on Netflix or PewDiePie on YouTube.

**Le Germain:** The In-Room Gastronomy Staycation starts with an attractive, sparkling clean guest room with a commanding view of Montreal from the upper levels of the 21-storey building.

The package is built around dinner. After lighting candles, pouring wine and tucking into excellent Quebec cuisine, you will have a new outlook on in-room dining.

It's a delightful, private adventure à deux with no compromise on quality.

It's all elegantly presented on top-drawer tableware and delivered in one, two or three services, as you wish.

Tristan Lambert, the talented young chef of Le Germain's Le Boulevardier restaurant, has designed a four-course menu with options: potage, followed by duck arancini with grapes or a Camembert-hazelnut salad; and a choice of mains such as delicate cod with oyster sauce, caviar and pistachios; creamy lobster penne; juicy bavette; or beef tartare.

It's all topped off with a frothy dessert. An appetizer of plump, chilled oysters is extra, and a well-chosen bottle of wine and breakfast are included.

From Dec. 9 to early January, Lambert will celebrate the holidays, adding a truffle-dusted soup, poultry with foie gras sauce, and festive cakes with chestnuts or cherries.

For the morning after, Le Germain delivers breakfast-in-a-box, and you can snuggle in bed, wrapped in the hotel's 100-per-cent-cotton terry bathrobes.

Entirely reimagined in 2019, Le Germain's decor is pure and minimalist, warmed by natural colours and materials, with retro-inspired colour pops. It's decked out with



Romantic and responsible, the In-Room Gastronomy Staycation at Hôtel Le Germain Montréal includes a room with a view, dinner served privately with wine, and valet parking. **GERMAIN HOTELS**

the best modern accoutrements — large-screen smart TVs, cushy bedding, good lighting and luxurious bathrooms with first-rate fixtures and glass tiling.

"Locals are loving the new package — it's truly a charming downtown getaway," said Le Germain general manager Jacques-Alexandre Paquet. "People shop, explore, walk on Mount Royal and then 'come home' to relax and be spoiled."

**Escad:** Germain's newest brand was launched in March, and the first Escad hotel took over the Alt+ in DIX30. It's ultra-contemporary, hip and practical to the max, ideal for business travellers or leisure lovers seeking a suburban escape loaded with power shopping at about 200 stores, plus creative cocktails, a world of food and even spa life (currently limited to massages).

Escad's decor is pleasing and uncomplicated, with black and white panels softened by accents of wood and grasscloth.

Some rooms face the colourful Christmas lights of DIX30 and some have views of Montreal's skyline.

The In-Room Gastronomy Package from Brasserie

T! includes dinner from the accessible baby sister of the Toqué! group, co-owned by the great chef Normand Laprise and business manager Christine Lamarche. Brasserie T's menu is casual but polished, and based on fine regional ingredients.

Everything is homemade, starting with sautéed mushrooms or a potato/goat-cheese gratin, followed by a choice of salmon confit with fennel, pork ribs with barbecue sauce, or bavette with Toqué! butter and fries.

The holiday menu by Brasserie T! will kick in from Dec. 18 to 30.

Escad's Bar Les Cousins — now serving only in-room — brings cocktails and mocktails to an exciting new level, specializing in Quebec gin, as well as pisco and whisky, with intriguing whippers of hibiscus bitters, citrus, tarragon, Chartreuse, maple, ginger or pecan.

Escad's rooms all have kitchenettes, which is convenient for children's snacks or for takeout or delivery from an astounding array of 65 food outlets at DIX30.

The choice includes Fromagerie des Nations, Juliette et Chocolat, Mitsuki Sushi and Pizzeria Sofia.

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## IF YOU GO

**Hôtel Le Germain Montréal**  
877-333-2050, 514-849-2050; legermainhotels.com; 2050 Mansfield St.

**Price:** king/queen rooms, \$245-\$310. Suites cost more. In-Room Gastronomy Staycation, \$395 for two, including wine, four-course dinner, continental breakfast box, valet parking, service. For now, same-day cancellations at no charge.

**Hôtel Escad (formerly Alt+):**  
833-743-9156, 450-500-9156; germainhotels.com/en/escad-hotel; Quartier DIX30, 9156 Leduc Blvd., Brossard.

**Price:** king/queen rooms for two or four, \$159-\$199. In-Room Gastronomy Package from Brasserie T!, \$277-\$317 for two, with three-course dinner (until 7 p.m., Tues.-Sat.), indoor self-parking, service. Wine/drinks are extra. In-room breakfast, \$9-\$19. Massages at SkySpa (skyspa.ca).

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