

2021 CHOCK FULL OF CREATIVE HOTEL OPENINGS, REBOOTS

Two Hiltons in one? New properties include a dual-branded hotel in midtown Montreal



ROCHELLE LASH
Hotel Intel

To go or not to go? Many of these establishments are scheduled to open in 2021, when restrictions on non-essential travel are likely to ease. Visitors are asked to respect government guidelines.

There's no stopping the hospitality industry across Canada. Hotels of all shapes, styles and price points are opening and upgrading. The guest rooms will likely launch first, and facilities such as restaurants, pools and spas will open gradually.

Here's the scoop on recent and future properties, including several that will grace Montreal in 2021.

QUEBEC

Humaniti Hotel Montreal, Autograph Collection, a crystalline tower of guest rooms and condos facing the Palais des congrès, is scheduled to operate by April. The first property in the design-centric Autograph Collection by Marriott in Quebec, Humaniti Hotel Montreal will have an outdoor rooftop pool and terrace, a lounge, a restaurant and 193 rooms and suites, topped by a presidential suite.

Westbury Montréal, across Décarie Blvd. from the Orange Julep, will create an entirely

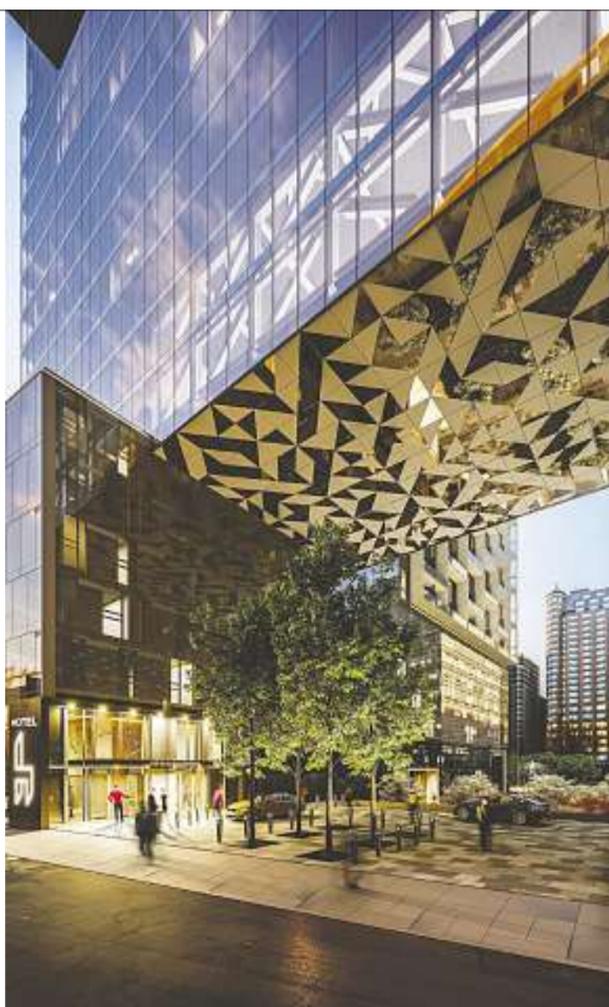
new neighbourhood with a park, shops, seven towers of condos and offices, and one building housing Quebec's first dual-branded Hilton, which will open in 2021.

Two Hiltons in one? Hilton Garden Inn Montreal Midtown will have the works: guest rooms, a 24-hour grab-and-go corner, a coffee bar, a 24-hour fitness centre, an indoor pool, a bar, two restaurants (one Mexican and one Italian), conference space and a ballroom with a terrace that promises glamorous occasions. Homewood Suites by Hilton Montreal Midtown, ideal for longer stays, will offer all-suite accommodations, free breakfast, receptions three evenings a week and a grocery shopping service.

Quebec City had a banner year in 2019 with the high-design boutique property Monsieur Jean, l'hôte particulier and the glittering, theatrical Le Capitole Hôtel, where dinner and a show create an exceptional evening — when conditions permit.

The Hilton Québec, near the historic Porte St-Jean, will reboot in January after a major makeover. Yielding magnificent views from a hilltop, the Hilton will gradually roll out a year-round outdoor rooftop pool, a business centre, children's amenities, restaurants and lounges, as well as an executive club on the 23rd floor.

Skiers and snowboarders will be happy about the overhaul at Château Mont-St-Anne, which has rebranded with a long-winded name: Delta Hotels by Marri-



Humaniti Hotel Montreal, Autograph Collection is a crystalline tower of guest rooms and condos scheduled to open in April across from the Palais des congrès. **HUMANITI HOTEL MONTREAL, AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION**

ott, Mont Ste-Anne, Resort and Convention Centre. Opened two weeks ago, the Delta is slopeside, with new lodging (some hotel rooms and some condo-style) and in-room dining, according to red zone rules around Quebec City.

ONTARIO

No surprise, Toronto is hopping.

The posh Hazelton Hotel has almost completed a huge renovation by Yabu Pushelberg, the renowned designers who originally crafted the exclusive boutique hotel in Yorkville. The fashionable One Restaurant is still preparing fine cuisine, but

only for in-room or takeout.

Scheduled to open in spring or early summer on the "it" corner of Bloor and Yonge Streets, the all-new and trendy W Toronto will sport a sleek urban design by Sid Lee Architecture and a rooftop bar and restaurant, which promise to be sociable places to see and be seen.

Also lighting up the city's skyline in 2021 will be the reimagined Park Hyatt Toronto, near the Royal Ontario Museum. The Drake Hotel, a funky hipster hangout on Queen St. W., is planning an expansion. The eco-glam 1 Hotel Toronto will transform the site of the former Thompson with spectacular leafy interiors

in King West Village, named Canada's coolest neighbourhood by Travel + Leisure magazine. On the horizon — in 2022 or beyond — is the exclusive Nobu Toronto, part of the global empire co-conceived by Robert De Niro.

Ottawa's newbies are practical and accessible. The latest include 2019's Holiday Inn Express and Suites Ottawa Downtown East, near ByWard Market (with a free grab-and-go breakfast); the 2019 Sandman Signature Ottawa Airport Hotel (with free airport shuttle); and in 2020, Wingate by Wyndham Kanata West Ottawa (also with free breakfast). The Carleton Suite Hotel has been updated significantly. The new Hyatt Place Ottawa West and the Hampton Inn and Suites Ottawa West (a Hilton property) are expected in 2021.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

In Vancouver, two notable boutique establishments opened in 2019. The Seaside Hotel in North Vancouver's Shipyards District features waterfront accommodations, spa life and dining — all of it operating, but it will adapt if current restrictions broaden. Across town and popular for its moderate rates, Hotel Belmont took over a vintage building at Granville and Nelson Sts.

For post-pandemic resort-region travel: the retro-chic Hotel Zed opened in the coastal tourist town of Tofino on Vancouver Island in summer 2020. Already operating in Victoria and Kelowna, Zed describes itself as "ridiculously fun" and boasts a psychic's den, a retro arcade and a bike trail through the lobby, an extension of Tofino's Multi-Use Path. TripAdvisor called the adorable Zed "one of the most Instagrammable hotels in the world."

In the bountiful food and wine region of the Okanagan Valley, the Naramata Inn has been updated from top to bottom — all 12 guest rooms, lobby, kitchen and its excellent, hyper-local restaurant, where chef Ned Bell delivers exceptional artisanal cuisine (closed from Jan. 2 to March 18).

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