## Réflexion chalets mirror the beauty of Charlevoix



ROCHELLE LASH

Charlevoix is now in an orange zone, so restaurants and other businesses are open under certain conditions; see quebec. ca/coronavirus for information. Réflexion — Maisons Miroirs consists of two mirrored houses, each for an individual bubble of up to six; they can also be rented together. If you prefer to dine in, each house has a kitchen.

Getting away to a chalet is a way of life for Montrealers, but the concept of a chalet can mean many things.

Alpine skiers brought the Swiss chalet to the Laurentians from the 1920s to the 1950s. And renowned builder Victor Nymark emigrated from Finland and introduced Scandinavian log cabins, notably Château Montebello in the 1930s, and many houses up

The Eastern Townships are home to sturdy Loyalist houses built by British settlers, as well as New England-style clapboard cottages, and even Georgian, neo-Gothic and Victorian manses.



The two new chalets of Réflexion — Maisons Miroirs have doubled the beauty of the woodsy surroundings with mirrored exterior walls. MAXIME BROUILLET/RÉFLEXION — MAISONS MIROIRS

But chalet life has evolved, adopting open-plan living, the straight architectural lines of modern design and lots of windows to blend outdoors and

The two new chalets of Réflexion — Maisons Miroirs take those trends one step further and have doubled the beauty of the woodsy surroundings with mirrored exterior walls.

"The mirrored chalets reflect the environment and they disappear in their surroundings," said Simon Allard, one of four developers, along with Guillaume Genest, Simon Veilleux and Louis Bertrand. "It's a harmonious integration into the forest." **Reflecting Charlevoix: "We** want to be deep in nature," said Genest, "but we want to make nature as comfortable as possible."

Each house measures 12.5 by 8.5 metres (41 by 28 feet) and includes a full kitchen with attractive tableware, a bathroom with shower, and two bedrooms — one with a queen bed and one with bunk beds, sleeping up to six. With sectional sofas and

low-slung armchairs, the interior decor is contemporary and upscale, and as deluxe as that of a good hotel. Rich wood plays against dark walls, all in contrast to the light-filled open spaces.

Perks at Réflexion that you don't find with every chalet rental include a washer-dryer, air conditioning, heated floors throughout, a wood-burning fireplace and a private hot tub. Summer calls for outdoor life, and you'll have a furnished patio, with a barbecue and an outdoor

firepit. Privacy is assured. Réflexion's two chalets are nestled in a forested domain of 9,000 square metres, about 10 per cent larger than a Canadian football field, so there is room to roam and an air of tranquillity in the wild.

The developers have thought of everyone concerned. They have even installed markers around the mirrored walls so that birds and other wildlife will not confuse reflections of the environment for rustic reality. The markers are produced by Feather Friendly and approved by the American Bird Conservancy and

Flap Canada, all geared toward safeguarding avian life. The neighbourhood: The historic village of Petite-Rivière-St-François, founded in the 1670s by settlers from the Beaupré region, is about five kilometres from Réflexion. Situated between a steep mountain and the shore of the St. Lawrence River, it is quiet and picturesque, with wonderful views from the town's quay and some water sports on the

For a different view, Héli-Charlevoix flies more than 15 aerial excursions, which are popular for sightseeing and celebrations. The tours start at \$69 per person for six minutes covering about 20 kilometres, up to approximately \$830 per person for 90 minutes over 300 kilometres.

St. Lawrence, depending on the

current and tides.

Depending on your route, the whirlybirds fly over Baie-St-Paul and Isle-aux-Coudres; the waterfalls, mountains and forests of Parc national des Grands-Jardins; the palatial hotel estate of Manoir Richelieu in La Malbaie; and even the fiords of Saguenay,

## IF YOU GO

Petite-Rivière-St-François is a four-hour drive from downtown Montreal via Highway 40 or 20 to Beaupré and Route 138. Réflexion — Maisons Miroirs is about five kilometres from the centre of town and about 16 kilometres from Baie-St-Paul.

Réflexion — Maisons **Miroirs:** reflexioncharlevoix. com: 21 chemin Pierre-Perreault, Petite-Rivière-St-François.

Price: Minimum two nights, for up to six adults and children. Weekdays, depending on season, \$335- \$395 per night (low season is approximately April-June and November). Weekends year-round, \$445 per night; holidays, \$595 per night. Included: Wi-Fi, barbecue, patio furniture, hot tubs, sheets, towels, firewood and complete kitchen equipment (microwave, stove, fridge, fondue pot, tableware and children's utensils). Bring your own food and beverages. Petite-Rivière-St-François

tourism: 418-632-1058, tourismepetiteriviere.com. **Charlevoix tourism:** 800-667-2276, tourismecharlevoix.com.

with possible whale sightings. Adventure packages with heli-hiking and food tastings, as well as custom rides, are avail-

The helicopters accommodate up to three passengers, plus the pilot. Call 418-435-4071 or see heli-charlevoix.com.

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