

HOTEL INTEL

Château Morritt claims a peaceful spot on Tremblant's Lac Moore



ROCHELLE LASH

Just when I thought all the prize locations in Tremblant were taken, the exciting Château Morritt opened in July on the shore of tiny Lac Moore, a half-kilometre from the centre of the Old Village.

It's a growing hotel-condo development, with practical, contemporary lodging and two outstanding attractions: a beach, which is a welcome retreat from a day of sports and adventures around Tremblant, and lakefront drinks and dining at Chez David.

"Overall, Château Morritt is a peaceful place," executive director Tanya Chauret said. "Our junior guests tend to be toddlers — and well behaved, so far — and they love the water activities."

"And couples like unwinding in the countryside, but with comforts and good food."

Lakefront: Lac Moore is calm and fringed with lily pads, bulrushes and a forest from which only a few private homes peek out. There are no motorized boats, so even on a busy weekend you might see only a few paddlers drift by.

Château Morritt has a small beach and a roped-off swimming space, plus it provides lounge chairs, a pedal boat and a few paddle boards, kayaks and canoes. (Lac Moore is shallower than Lac Tremblant, and therefore warms up faster, so it's a bit

easier for swimming and water sports.) You can take out a picnic from Chez David and enjoy lunch on the dock or at tables shaded by swaying maples and birches.

In winter, the Lac Moore tableau changes to resemble a storybook scene of skating on the frozen lake.

Lodging: Château Morritt's Phase I, a timber and stone lodge, includes 12 two-bedroom units and six one-bedrooms, all with balconies, full stainless-steel kitchens, bath-shower combos, and living-dining rooms with fireplaces, queen beds and sofa beds, and tables for four or six. Some have a view of Lac Moore.

The condos are compact and convenient, decked out with multiple smart TVs, climate control in each room, lots of closet space and bathrooms with rain showers, sizable vanities and washer-dryers. The toiletries are by Truly Earth Friendly, infused with green tea.

In order to snare this coveted waterfront location, the developer of Château Morritt snapped up an old ski lodge, Auberge du Coq de Montagne, which still operates 13 waterfront rooms (now somewhat renovated). Morritt's Phase II will replace the old Auberge in 2022-2023, along with a clubhouse featuring an indoor pool and gym.

The project is the latest enterprise of David Morritt, a British entrepreneur who also owns three sun-centric resorts in the Caribbean.

Dining: Chez David opened in 2019 and took Tremblant by storm the old-fashioned way — by word of mouth.

Tremblant's bon vivants



Château Morritt is a new hotel-condo development close to the heart of Tremblant's Old Village. PHOTOS: CHÂTEAU MORRITT

indulged in après-sports bites, sunset drinks and day-to-evening casual dining. Under COVID restrictions, the lakefront terrace cemented Chez David's success with distanced outdoor tables and heat lamps.

It's still the place to be. On Wednesdays, some wines are half-price by the bottle. From Thursdays to Saturdays, soloists strum and sing. The Tremblant dining scene is booming, so reservations well in advance are essential.

The bistro menu (11:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., subject to change) features braised beef cheeks, cod with mushroom risotto, flank steak with sherry, salads with grilled shrimp, plus comfort choices of barbecue wings, tacos, poutine, fish and chips, pizza, burgers or charcuterie. The fries are top-notch.

Fancier fare (after 5:30 p.m.) might include starters of grilled octopus, gravlax, veal chops with chanterelle sauce, and beef many ways: tartare, carpaccio or rib-eye steak.

Neighbourhood: Château Morritt is four kilometres from Mont Tremblant resort, and the mountain is bustling with summer activities — some tame and others thrilling: gondola

rides, Mission Laser and Mission Liberté (live-action team games), the climbing tower, minigolf, the huge, zip-lines and Euro Bungy (reserve these online at tremblant.ca).

On Lac Tremblant, the Centre Nautique Pierre Plouffe has paddle boards, kayaks, water-skiing, pontoon rides and sailing (819-681-5634; tremblantnautique.com). The Beach and Tennis Club has a resort feel, with waterfront lounge chairs (first come, first served), changing rooms, a bar and a sundeck (819-681-5253 or, for tennis, 819-681-5959).

Cyclists are in heaven, too. At no charge, Tremblant's car-free multi-functional path meanders from the mountain's base through the woods and connects with the town's Villa-geoise-de-Mont-Tremblant, and finally links up with the Linear Park of the P'tit Train du Nord.

All types of bike rentals — pedal power, assisted-power bikes, electric bikes, fat bikes, mountain bikes and toddlers' trailers — are available at various outlets, including a kiosk beside Tremblant's Cabriolet (tremblant.ca), and also at Cykel and Cybercycle in the Old Village (cykel.ca; cybercycletremblant.com).

IF YOU GO

Château Morritt: 819-425-3380, chateaumorritt.com; 2151 Chemin du Village, Mont-Tremblant.
Chez David at Château Morritt: 819-717-3020. Wed.-Sun. Reservations required. No breakfast. Takeout available.
Lodging prices: Summer high season, one-bedroom condos for up to four, approximately \$250 (weekdays) to \$399 (weekends and holidays); two-bedroom condos for up to six, approximately \$325 (weekdays) to \$499 (weekends and holidays); including Wi-Fi, beach and small watercraft, parking, elevator access. Auberge, \$99, with private bathroom (no elevator).
Mont Tremblant resort: 888-738-1777, tremblant.ca
Tremblant region: 877-425-2434, tourismemonttremblant.com

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