

HOTEL INTEL

COCOON AND RELAX OR HIT THE SLOPES

Rebranded, rebuilt Delta at Mont-Ste-Anne offers second night free until March 4



ROCHELLE LASH

The Quebec City region is celebrating winter big time, in many ways. This week’s hotel is one of more than 20 lodging establishments around Quebec City offering a second night at no charge until March 4. The former Château Mont-Ste-Anne has been rebranded and rebuilt with a new look — it is now Delta Hotels by Marriott, Mont-Ste-Anne, Resort & Convention Centre. That’s a long handle that describes the only full-service establishment at the heart of this superlative sports region, loved for outdoor pursuits from downhill to dog-sledding. The Delta is three hours northeast of Montreal and 45 minutes past Quebec City, where Carnaval de Québec will pulse with themed floats, Bonhomme’s Palace, ice sculptures and activities from Feb. 4 to 13. You can pair an action-packed ski-snowboard visit to Mont-Ste-Anne with the delightful annual winter fest in romantic Quebec City — and for each two-night reservation, you pay for only one night. **News:** After a \$25-million investment, the Delta has emerged with a stylish Nordic-modern design, upgraded food and an elaborate game room for kids and

IF YOU GO

Delta Hotels by Marriott, Mont-Ste-Anne, Resort & Convention Centre: 800-463-4467, 418-827-1862, marriott.com; 500 du Beau Pré Blvd., Beaupré. Marriott Bonvoy loyalty program. Marriott app offers check-in, room key, service. CAA or senior discount (62 and over). Accessible. Pets, \$70 per stay. **Price:** Second night free with direct booking, online or by phone. Rooms start at \$239, for two adults, or two adults with two children. Studios and one- and two-bedroom suites are also available. Included are ski storage, guest computers, parking, in-room Nespresso coffee, organic tea by Taylors of Harrogate. **Mont-Ste-Anne:** 888-827-4579, mont-sainte-anne.com. Part of Resorts of the Canadian Rockies. Partner of Vail Resorts, so some Epic passes are valid (epicpass.com). **Quebec City tourism:** 877-783-1608, quebec-cite.com.

teens, as well as red-hot après-ski around a huge fireplace and the redone Bistro Nordik. There is more to come in June. The Aqua Nordik centre will open, with an indoor lap pool and an outdoor complex of swimming pools and hot tubs. A tunnel will connect the Aqua Nordik centre, the hotel and the conference building, so the entire resort will be weatherproof. “Guests really appreciate that they can cocoon,” said Sébastien



A rebuilt and rebranded Delta sits at the base of Mont-Ste-Anne, Quebec’s second-largest downhill ski area. It’s part ski lodge and part conference hotel, featuring a stylish Nordic-modern design, refined cuisine, and an elaborate game room for kids. DELTA HOTELS BY MARRIOTT, MONT-STE-ANNE, RESORT & CONVENTION CENTRE

Roy, the Delta’s general manager. “The kitchens are top-drawer, and many families ‘dine in’ even when restaurants are open. “Plus, after an exhilarating day outdoors, they have everything in one location, so all they have to do is relax.” **Lodging:** Part ski lodge and part conference hotel, the Delta blends an urban look of lean lines, concrete accents and modular furnishings mixed with country chalet touches like butcher-block tables and art-works crafted from raw timber. The 157 hotel rooms and 57 condo-style suites are admirably outfitted with balconies, large-screen TVs (with Netflix and YouTube), lots of closet space, high-quality bedding and bathrobes and gleaming bathrooms with rain showers. At least half of the accommodations have bathtubs, fireplaces, and kitchens or kitchenettes that dazzle with white tiles, black granite counters and stainless steel appliances.

Dining: Chefs produce refined cuisine at Bistro Nordik, refurbished in line with the Delta’s super-sharp modern look. Dinner is a Quebec-centric menu of salmon and beef tartare, creamy lobster bisque, linguine with seafood, roast Cornish hen or lamb confit. More basic are the burgers — beef, black bean or wapiti — as well as steaks or tofu. For takeout breakfast and lunch, Café Nordik has Starbucks coffee, plus pastries, sandwiches, salads and cooked-to-order eggs. The bar carries spirits, beer and wine, including Quebec potables like Avril amaretto from Les Spiritueux Iberville in Montreal, Oshlag vodka from Montreal and gin by Menaud in Charlevoix. **Sports:** The Delta’s mountainside entrance is about 30 steps from the gondola at Mont-Ste-Anne, a downhill area that has it all — from gentle runs with marvellous views of the St. Lawrence River, to the notorious P.A. Rousseau, a punishing mogul pitch named

for the Olympic freestyler. One of Mont-Ste-Anne’s strengths is that many trails run top to bottom, so there is a sustained challenge for all levels. The area is also outstanding for alpine touring and fat-biking, and has the longest night-skiing vertical drop in Canada and one of the largest cross-country centres in North America. Mont-Ste-Anne and its sister area, Stoneham Mountain Resort, have nurtured many Olympians and world champions, including Mélanie Turgeon, Alain Laroche, brothers Vincent and Philippe Marquis and freestyle snowboard phenom Laurie Blouin, who won silver at the 2018 Olympics and is scheduled to compete in Beijing. With 547 acres of on-trail terrain and glades, and a vertical drop of 625 metres, Mont-Ste-Anne is Quebec’s second-largest ski area after Tremblant, whose stats are 755 acres and 645 metres. rochelle@rochellelash.com

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