

# Canadians get credit at Adirondacks’ Saranac Waterfront Lodge



ROCHELLE LASH  
*Hotel Intel*

Have adventures in contemporary comfort. Dine in rustic splendour. Connect with nature, and yourself.

The new Saranac Waterfront Lodge is a deluxe four-season resort in the majestic Adirondack High Peaks region of Upstate New York, a vast conservation and recreation area that has been a muse for luminaries from all walks, including Albert Einstein, W. Somerset Maugham and Bruce Springsteen.

Two hours south of Montreal and 15 minutes from Lake Placid, Saranac Lake has drawn visitors from north of the U.S. border for more than 100 years. The hotel is offering Canadians a US\$100 credit per room on lodging, dining or drinks with a minimum two-night stay.

Saranac Waterfront Lodge captures all the charms of this epic landscape, with ravishing views of nature — the mighty mountains, the crystalline waters and the bountiful forests.

It’s the only lakeside establishment around the town of Saranac Lake, and it’s special from sunrise to sunset. The lodge offers a relaxed lifestyle, with lunch on the patio, firepits flickering on the lawn, family-friendly connecting rooms and weather-proof indoor pool and hot tub. The word is out, and it’s already booked for Insta-worthy weddings and gourmet wine dinners.

The hotel is decked out in contemporary Adirondack decor with mountain motifs and woodsy furniture, and is equipped with state-of-the-art ventilation and eco-conscious operations certified by LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design).

**The seasons:** The lodge is on a protected bay of Lake Flower, so it’s perfect for paddling, pontoon cruises, fly-fishing or simply listening to the loons. Later at the Boathouse, there are Reuben sandwiches and local lager, or chardonnay and oysters, in season.

Autumn heralds farm-to-table cuisine in the Harvest dining room after a day of superlative hiking, foraging, birdwatching or



Saranac Waterfront Lodge reflects the charms of the Adirondack High Peaks region in all seasons. PHOTOS: SARANAC WATERFRONT LODGE



The guest rooms and suites at Saranac Waterfront Lodge have a fresh look.

taking in the fiery colours of fall foliage. A fleet of beautiful white bicycles awaits for touring.

I’m a fan of the Adirondacks’ wintertime idyll of skating and sledding and the delightful Saranac Lake Winter Carnival (Feb. 3-12, 2023), which will include a costume parade and a sparkling Ice Palace. Nordic ski trails criss-cross the foothills, and Whiteface Mountain, a former Olympic venue, has the longest downhill vertical in the east. It can be chilly out there, but the Navigator’s Lounge promises fireside afternoon tea and hot buttered rum (starting soon, Fri.-Sat., 3-8 p.m.).

**The lodge:** At the helm is general manager Olivier Bottois, for-

merly of the presidential Palais de l’Elysée in Paris, Hôtel Le St-James in Montreal, Whiteface Lodge and the Relais & Châteaux property Lake Placid Lodge.

“Saranac Waterfront Lodge is unique because it is the only hotel in Saranac Lake directly on the shore,” said Bottois. “And it is the only new property in this Adirondack area, so our facilities and technology are spanning new and environmentally sensitive.”

The lobby decor evokes the great outdoors, with plaid, tweed and leather in mellow earth tones. It’s modelled after an Adirondack “great room,” but it’s airier and brighter than most, with soaring ceilings and waterfront windows.

## IF YOU GO

Saranac Lake, N.Y. is a two-hour drive south of Montreal. It’s 14 km from Lake Placid.

**Saranac Waterfront Lodge:** 518-619-4000, [saranacwaterfrontlodge.com](http://saranacwaterfrontlodge.com); 250 Lake Flower Ave., Saranac Lake, N.Y. Accessible. Dog-friendly, US\$150 per stay. Preferred Hotels & Resorts (member discount).

**Dining:** Gluten-free available. Kosher kitchen available with total hotel buyout.

**Price:** Discounts may be limited by availability. Canadians have a US\$100 credit per room, per visit, with proof of residency. Rooms

from approximately US\$250, suites from US\$400; week-ends/holidays can be higher. Approximately 25 per cent off for prepaid. Fourth night free at certain times. Stays include in-room coffee, fitness area, electric car charging, bike storage. Some suites have balconies, sleeper sofas, soaking tubs, mini-fridges; 24 boating slips.

**Extra:** Bicycles, boats, kayaks, paddle boards ([hkboatrentals.com](http://hkboatrentals.com)).

**Tourism information:** 518-891-1990, [saranaclake.com](http://saranaclake.com), [slarea-chamber.org](http://slarea-chamber.org).

## 15 MINUTES

### Time spent viewing da Vinci’s Last Supper is fleeting but transportive, writes *Rick Steves*.

Milan can’t compare with Rome and Florence artistically, but Italy’s second city hosts two noteworthy masterpieces: Michelangelo’s last Pietà sculpture and Leonardo da Vinci’s Last Supper.

On this visit to Milan’s Sforza Castle I get a rare opportunity to enjoy a Michelangelo statue with no crowds. Michelangelo died while still working on the Pietà Rondanini, his last Pietà — a representation of a dead Christ with a sorrowful Virgin Mary. While unfinished, it’s a thought-provoking work by a nearly 90-year-old genius. The symbolism is of life and of death: Jesus returning to his mother, as two bodies seem to become one. Christ’s head is cut out of Mary’s right shoulder, and an earlier arm is still just hanging there. Above Mary’s right ear, you can see the remains of a previous face (eye, brow, and hairline).

Michelangelo’s more famous Pietà at the Vatican, carved when he was in his 20s, features a beautiful, young, and astonished Mary. Here, Mary is older and wiser. Perhaps Mary is now better able to accept death as part of life ... as is Michelangelo. The Pietà at the Vatican is simple and clear, showing the mother holding her dead son. Contemplating

the Pietà Rondanini, I wonder who’s supporting whom.

The big highlight of any Milan visit is seeing Leonardo’s Last Supper in the Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie. Decorating a former dining hall, this remarkable, exactly crafted fresco is one of the ultimate works of the Renaissance.

Deterioration began within six years of The Last Supper’s completion — Leonardo painted on the wall in layers, as he would on a canvas, instead of applying pigment to wet plaster according to the usual fresco technique. The church was bombed in the Second World War, but — miraculously, it seems — the wall holding The Last Supper remained standing. A 21-year restoration project, completed in 1999, peeled away 500 years of touch-ups, leaving Leonardo’s masterpiece fainter and yet more vibrant.

To preserve the artwork as much as possible, the humidity in the room is strictly regulated, and only 30 people are allowed in every 15 minutes. As my group’s appointed time nears, we’re herded between several rooms to dehumidify. The rooms’ doors close behind us, then open slowly in front of us. I’ve studied up, but I review my notes as I wait to enter, like cramming for a test. I want to get the most out of every second in the presence of Leonardo’s masterpiece.

Then the last door opens and we enter. There it is — filling the far wall in a big, vacant, white-washed room: faded pastels, not a crisp edge in sight, with much of the fresco looking like an old film negative.

To give my 15 minutes an extra punch, I decide to enter the room as if I were one of the monks for whom The Last Supper was painted some 500 years ago.. The Last Supper was

the first Eucharist — a ritual we celebrate daily as monks.

I meditate on the painting. It shows the moment when Jesus says, “One of you will betray me.” The apostles huddle in small groups, wondering, “Lord, is it I?” Some are concerned. Others are confused. Only Judas — that’s him clutching his bag of silver — is not shocked.

Again and again, my eyes return to Christ. He’s calm despite the turmoil he must feel over the ulti-

mate sacrifice he must make.

But then, my modern-day sensibility intrudes. I can’t help it. I want to tell the monk that Leonardo cleverly used lines of perspective that converge on Christ, reinforcing the idea that everything does indeed centre on him.


But I suspect the monk wouldn’t care, since he already understands the artist’s intent.

Suddenly, two doors burst open — abruptly ending my


musings. My group and I are sternly ushered out and a new group enters. On a bench in front of the church, I sit down for a moment to settle back into the 21st century.

*This article was adapted from Rick’s new book, For the Love of Europe. Rick Steves ([www.ricksteves.com](http://www.ricksteves.com)) writes European guidebooks, hosts travel shows on public TV and radio, and organizes European tours. You can email Rick at [rick@ricksteves.com](mailto:rick@ricksteves.com) and follow his blog on Facebook.*

### Let’s Get Excited About Travel Again!



As Canada’s largest operator of escorted tours for the mature traveller, Senior Discovery Tours takes care of all your travel details, so you can just sit back and enjoy our beautiful world. **Our escorted tours** (of more than 100 destinations) **include everything: flights, carefully selected hotels, most meals, excursions, all tips, all taxes, insurance for cancellation and for health while outside of Canada, and even transportation between your home and the airport** (from most Canadian cities).




Safe travels

**PORTUGAL 2-CENTRE HOLIDAY**  
**16 Days • Winter Departures**

Special Value Holiday. 7 nights seaside in the Algarve, 7 nights in the lively resort of Cascais (near Lisbon). Air Transat flights, First Class hotels, breakfast and dinner (with wine) daily, 1 lunch and many guided excursions.

**\$4797 per person, double occupancy, from Montreal**

PROUDLY CANADIAN  FOR 45 YEARS

**Senior Discovery Tours**

225 Eglinton Avenue West  
Toronto, ON M4R 1A9  
1-800-268-3492

**SeniorDiscoveryTours.ca**