

Lifestyle content you care about from *Vitamagazine.com*

VITA



The
Feb

ruary
Issue

Inside *the* Issue

RETAIL How to score a deal on brand-name fashion in Canada

DINING Where and what to eat in town this month

FASHION Vancouver's latest and greatest retailers

WINE Raise your glass to some bubbly wine-tasting events

TRAVEL What makes a hotel room extra "suite"?



show some *love to* *your city* and small, local businesses

LOVE YOUR CITY ————— VANCOUVER, BC

The city wide LOVE contest
is back in your neighbourhood
for February 2024!

Find details on Instagram at
[@loveyourcitycontest](https://www.instagram.com/loveyourcitycontest)

Photo by South Granville @southgranville
See below for all participating neighbourhoods

- Share your favourite local businesses with us on Instagram.
- Find the love installations in each neighbourhood for bonus entries!
- Win weekly prizes plus the big grand prize full of goodies, valued at \$4000!

Head to [@loveyourcitycontest](https://www.instagram.com/loveyourcitycontest) for more details and learn how to join in on the fun.

SHOW LOVE TO: WEST 4TH - CHINATOWN - DUNBAR VILLAGE - ROBSON STREET
GASTOWN - MOUNT PLEASANT - WEST END - THE EAST VILLAGE - YALETOWN - DOWNTOWN
SOUTH GRANVILLE - COLLINGWOOD - WEST BROADWAY - MARPOLE - CAMBIE VILLAGE



Editor's DESK

A Note From Noa

Since we never publish a January issue of *VITA* magazine, February means the start of a new year around here. And this issue most certainly reflects that fact! From a “fresh” way to snag Jillian Harris and Tori Wesszer’s new cookbook to new restaurants and retailers around the city, the following pages are filled with newness. We’re also spilling the secrets of snagging designer deals in Canada, taking a look at cool wine clubs across the country and listing what we think makes for a “suite” hotel stay. As for me, I’m entering 2024 toting a brand-new bag: from the label’s very first handbag collection, this chic Veronica Beard Goody Bag features two-tone canvas with leather trim and a drawstring closure, and fits all my daily essentials.

Noa Nichol EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Fraiche Take

Jillian Harris and Tori Wesszer’s new cookbook is out ... and you can get it in a special-edition *Jilly Box*

BY NOA NICHOL

When Jillian Harris and Tori Wesszer announced the release of their latest cookbook, *Fraiche Food, Fuller Hearts*, bursting with 135 recipes straight from the heart of their bustling kitchens, we were excited. When we found out we could get the book, along with a plethora of kitchen gadgets and goodies, in the limited-edition and gift-worthy Fraiche Food, Fuller Hearts Collection by The Jilly Box, well, we couldn’t wait to get our oven mitts on it!

Says Harris, “This collection is an invitation to get in the kitchen, bring our recipes to life, and create memories that will last a lifetime. Tori and I have spent a lot of time together in the kitchen, whether we’re working on family recipes or creating new ones, and we value this time together so much that we wanted to share it with you, along with a set of products that will really elevate your entire cooking experience.”

The Fraiche Food, Fuller Hearts Collection by The Jilly Box is filled with six amazing products; three of the brands included are both Canadian-owned and women-owned businesses, which we also love! The Jilly Box is on a mission to support small, Canadian-owned businesses by offering curated collections, featuring Harris’ favourite products and brands. This unique collection (which also features favourites from Wesszer’s home) is certainly no exception. “[It’s] filled to the brim with products we use in and around the kitchen every day,” Harris says.

This limited-edition collection includes six incredible and unique items: a Canadian pine cookbook stand by Primrose Lifestyle that will add a rustic elegance to your kitchen, meant to be passed on for generations to



WIN IT
VITAMAGAZINE.COM

come. Next, a matching oven-mitts-and-apron set designed exclusively for this collection by The Cross Design, based in Vancouver, was inspired by Harris and Wesszer’s beloved Grandma Marjorie. The flower shop-style apron has a charming linen heart on the left pocket, while the mitts, in a soft checkered

blue pattern, offer an elegance for any home cook. Also included, a brass wall plaque that reads “Bon Appetit” from Jardines Domaine, a nod to Wesszer’s love of France, vintage décor and French cooking. Another great décor item: a custom-made and easy-to-use conversion chart from Fraiche Living

that will have you kissing the days of Googling cups to grams and vice versa goodbye forever! And, of course, the collection would not be complete without Harris and Wesszer’s newest best-selling cookbook, *Fraiche Food, Fuller Hearts*.

While the Kelowna-based cousins’ first cookbook centred around entertaining, this one, Wesszer explains, is “all about everyday meals and helping people eat better, together, at home. You can expect even more recipes than the first book—all in the traditional categories: appetizers, mains, veggies and sides, desserts, etc. The pages are filled with plant-forward, comforting classic recipes from our own childhood to grace your tables, such as Lazy Cabbage Rolls and Mushroom French Dip Sandwiches, along with others we have added to our kitchen repertoire along the way through the years, like Butternut Squash Gyros, Tortilla Pie and Creamy Buffalo Chick’n Dip. There’s something for everyone.” Bonus: the recipes have plenty of modifications for vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free and nut-free options.

You can purchase the Fraiche Food, Fuller Hearts Collection by The Jilly Box online while supplies last; priced at \$199, it’s valued at \$310 (and includes free shipping) and, for every box sold, \$2 will be reinvested into the Breakfast Club of Canada. Plus, adds Harris, “For the month of February only, you can get \$25 off your Fraiche Food, Fuller Hearts Collection by using the code VITA25! I know that you will love this collection and enjoy it as much as we do, so get ready to make memories as well as enjoy your nourishing and delicious new recipes.” Jillybox.com

New Noshes

Where and what to eat in Vancouver this month

BY KATIE NANTON

MAH MILK BAR

When a new, independent corner-store café opens up—especially after months of anticipation—we run, don’t walk, to see what’s on offer. At Mah, across from Victoria Park, owners/managers Maggie Campbell and Harry Swinburn (“Mah” combines Maggie and Harry) have created the East Van oasis we’ve been waiting for. There’s a handful of tables, a tight menu of breakfast and lunch sandwiches—think egg-and-avocado with feta and beet relish—and coffee made with Hatch Roasters beans. Also, a grab ‘n’ go pastry case and curated grocery section of essentials (milk for your morning cereal, cheese for your kid’s lunch) along with local-label treats like strawberry-balsamic jam from Le Meadow’s Pantry, smoked olive tapenade from Fume-eh and handcrafted Schoki chocolate bars. We loved reading the small placards with background info on the artisanal brands stocked as we munched a black-dough (how chic!) ham-and-cheese parmesan croissant with a smattering of sliced olives inside. Mah is a watering hole with good vibes that has us craving more just like it for our communities. **1502 Victoria Dr., 604-225-9514. Mahmilkbar.com**



DAHLIA

There’s something about Dahlia, the French Riviera-inspired restaurant and cocktail bar in the lobby of Vancouver’s Azur Legacy Hotel, that makes it feel like you’ve jetted off to Saint-Tropez, Vienna or Prague, landing just in time to get dressed for drinks. Maybe it’s the small-but-swanky room with its sparkling overhead chandelier, cerulean blue walls and napkins folded into tiny tuxedos setting each place. Maybe it’s the menu, from which you’d best order the Avocado Ritz appetizer—if only to feel its name slip lavishly off your

tongue—with poached prawns, avo and crisp lettuce, followed by the lemon-and-garlic-rubbed Tuscan chicken with delicate potatoes dauphinoise. Maybe it’s the sinfully sweet and fluffy house-made brioche appetizer, served with divine whipped butter, that’s unlike any other bread basket in the city, or the bold cocktails (we recommend the Illusion, blended with dill-infused mezcal, cherry tomatoes, vodka and balsamic). Or, maybe it’s all of the above—try it for yourself and let us know, won’t you? **833 W. Pender St., 604-225-9514. Dahlia-restaurant.ca**



THE FLAMINGO ROOM

If you ever went to a comedy show at Havana’s covert back theatre, you’ve already been to the prior iteration of The Flamingo Room. While it’s slightly bittersweet to see that performance space close, a most elegant tropical bird has appeared in its place, with a dedicated side-stage for local music and stand-up comedy as well. Find the 900-square-foot cocktail bar by seeking out a flamingo-emblazoned sign to the right of Havana’s entrance, then take in the Miami-inspired vibes before settling into some bites from the snack menu: Cuban-spiced tuna tostadas, tajin-spiced compressed watermelon, and huevos diablos with Mexican cotija cheese. As for cocktails, just try ordering a drink called Jiminy Crickets! or Like a 1920s PBR without smiling. If you find yourself sitting with a flock of two to four, seek out the spirited pitchers and communal punch bowls; you can’t go wrong with a Hibiscus + Guava Mojito Pitcher shared among friends. **1214 Commercial Dr., 604-254-9229. Flamingoroomvan.com**

THE MAKING OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA

February Issue

No. 95 ————— 2024

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF NOA NICHOL
BUSINESS MANAGER JAY NICHOL
CREATIVE DIRECTOR MADISON HOPE
SOCIAL MEDIA VICKI DUONG
SPECIAL EVENTS LYNDI BARRETT
PROOFREADER KATIE NANTON

CONTRIBUTORS
MADELEINE CLERIDES, ANDRÉANNE DION, JULIA DUMBRELL, VICKI DUONG, ALEESHA HARRIS, KATIE NANTON, JILL VON SPRECKEN
COVER LOUIS VUITTON WOMEN’S SS24

VITA

PUBLISHED BY VITA DAILY MEDIA INC.

CANADA POST PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT #42849020

We acknowledge the support of the Government of Canada.

@VITADAILYMEDIA

NOA@VITAMAGAZINE.COM

VITAMAGAZINE.COM

Designer Deals

How to score a deal on brand-name fashion in Canada

BY ALEESHA HARRIS

When it comes to fashion, a deal is always a good idea. But a designer deal? Well now, that's even better. While retail in Canada always seems to come at a higher price—and, in fact, it does, with government policies and taxes playing a big role in this—there are a few strategies to score designer deals without having to cross the border. Here are three ways to do just that.

DESIGNER OUTLETS

Designer outlets present an opportunity to find major discounts on new fashion finds. Typically operated by the individual brands, the direct-to-consumer shopping option sees items marked down an average of 25 to 65 per cent off retail. Two outlet complexes stand out in Canada: Toronto Premium Outlets and McArthurGlen Designer Outlet in Vancouver. Offering several Canadian exclusives such as Timberland, Karl Lagerfeld and Knix, Toronto Premium Outlets is a must-shop for fashion fans. In addition to “mid-luxe” outlet favourites like Michael Kors and Coach, the retail park offers more than 50 luxury brand stores, many of which can't be found anywhere else in Canada, including Gucci, Prada, Balenciaga and Saint Laurent. Celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, Toronto Premium Outlets have become a “destination shopping” option for domestic and international shoppers searching for a deal. Vancouver is home to McArthurGlen Designer Outlet, featuring a wide variety of designer stores like Armani, Versace, Jimmy Choo and Stuart Weitzman. Situated conveniently close to Vancouver International Airport, McArthurGlen is a must-stop shop for travellers making their way in and out of the city. If you don't live near either of these designer outlets, or don't have plans to travel to one anytime soon, many of the stores offer phone orders and shipping to ensure more Canadians can take part in the designer deals.

SHOPPING APPS

Shopping apps have changed the retail game in recent years. Offering the experience of personalized shopping, complete with exclusive designer finds, shopping apps bring designer deals directly to you.



La Jolie Madame LINGERIE

Personalized service since 1971.
Specializing in bra fittings | 30-44 A-I Cups



Shop our selection online:
LAJOLIEMADAMEBOUTIQUE.COM

849 Hornby Street Vancouver, BC | PHONE: (604) 669-1831



ShopThing app, headquartered in Canada, is a leader in the space. Offering a team of personal shoppers located in Toronto, Los Angeles, Paris and Dubai, the platform offers a curated collection of new—and, more recently, used as well—designer goods ranging from clothing to footwear to handbags. Unlike the shopping apps of individual brands, independent apps like ShopThing present a variety of designers in one easy place—and at prices that are typically much better than retail.



PRELOVED FINDS

Canada's preloved luxury market has grown in leaps and bounds in recent years. Where there were once a few key players, now there are seemingly countless options where shoppers can find authenticated secondhand styles by designers ranging from Chanel to Hermès. With several locations, including Vancouver and Toronto, Mine & Yours offers a treasure trove of preloved pieces. Celebrating its 10-year milestone this year with the opening of a new boutique in Kitsilano, the designer resale store's offering can always be counted on to include coveted designer finds. Another standout in the Canadian luxury resale market, VSP Consignment boasts a curated collection of pieces that are meticulously styled and photographed online for an even more elevated shopping experience. With a location in Toronto, plus the original location in Calgary that opened under the original name Vespucci in 1986, VSP is a go-to for true fashion collectors. A must-see for the handbag obsessed, Luxe Du Jour offers perhaps the most comprehensive online offering of preloved designer handbags in Canada. Based in Calgary, with an outpost in Irvine, California, the resale site features an ever-evolving roster of current and vintage designer bags. Thanks to its secondary services such as Luxe Bag Rental and Luxe Bag Spa, where preloved pieces can be cleaned and refurbished for a fee, Luxe Du Jour makes scoring the perfect designer accessory an accessible option for more Canadian shoppers. v



Hot Shops

Vancouver's latest and greatest retailers



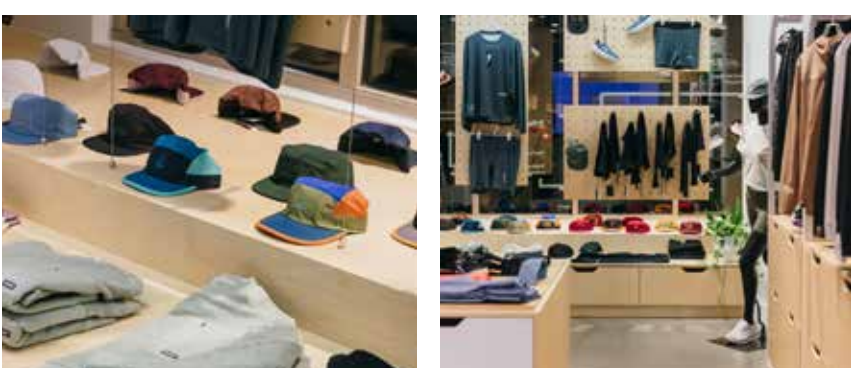
LOUIS VUITTON
Louis Vuitton's new boutique gives a grandiose greeting. Located in the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver, the redesigned store, carrying a full suite of signature leather goods, accessories, shoes and fragrances for women and men, reflects the unparalleled natural beauty and expansive luxury scene of our city—and beyond. Carefully curated to reflect Vancouver's local lifestyle, Louis Vuitton Hotel Vancouver features seasonal collections and signature pieces. Whistler-goers will love the chic display of the LV Ski ready-to-wear collection, complete with the meticulously handcrafted Monogram Stripe Skis. The store also presents its Lunar New Year capsule with fantastically festive and limited-edition goods. An on-site hot-stamping service exemplifies the brand's historic tradition of handcrafted customization, giving clients the opportunity to personalize a variety of leather goods. The store also boasts a dedicated Louis Vuitton artisan, who apprenticed in Paris in the art of applying bespoke designs. The fragrance counter additionally offers custom engrav-

ing on perfumes and colognes, making the most memorable gift with advance orders. As for rare objects, swoon over the display pieces from the most recherche métiers, with impressively rare objects like a Bomboca sofa and a Cocoon chair, both by Studio Campana for Louis Vuitton Objets Nomades. The location also boasts a version of Marcel Wanders' Diamond Screen, woven specifically for the Hotel Vancouver in gigantic proportions. Locally speaking, Canadian artists are a key focus for this Louis Vuitton shop's art. A geometric, three-dimensional canvas by local artist Scott Sueme stands out, exploring the quality and perception of colour. A bold birch composition was also created for the store by Montréal-based artist Heidi Spector, coated in resin to create a confection-like surface. Additional international commissions include an ingenious painting by Italian artist Isadora Capraro, coffee table by Hélène de Saint Lager and chandelier from Henri Bursztyn. **730 Burrard St., 604-696-9404. Ca.louisvuitton.com** JULIA DUMBRELL



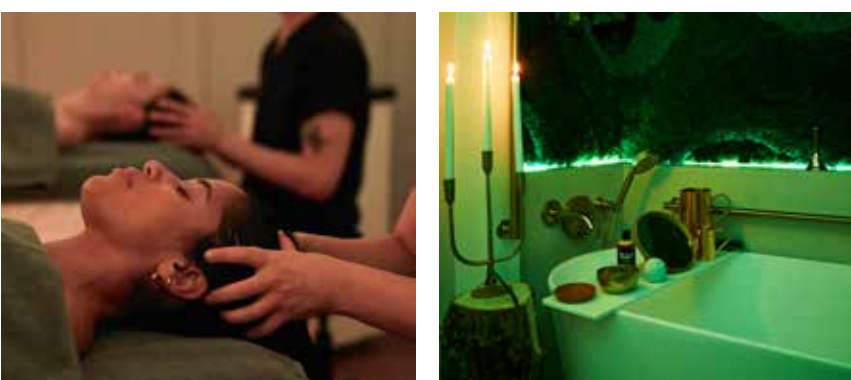
FAIRMONT PACIFIC RIM NORDIC SPA

The Fairmont Pacific Rim has expanded its wellness offerings for the new year with a fresh spa experience. The new Nordic Spa, situated by the hotel's outdoor pool and hot tub, includes a pair of icy cold-plunge tubs and a fragrant cedar-plank sauna set against breathtaking harbour and mountain views. With the circuit outdoors, visitors can choose to don insulated, waterproof robes to shield against the rain and cold, and the outdoor bar offers drinks and food; order a glass of Champagne or a tropical green smoothie and the Superfood Salad with added salmon. The private experience is ideal to do with a friend, or with your partner for a romantic date—with health benefits to boot. Start in the sauna to warm up; 15 to 20 minutes. Then, cold plunge—stay in as long as you can! Finally, back to the sauna or to the hot tub to warm up. Rinse and repeat. Hotel guests can enjoy the spa for 90 minutes for \$35 per person; locals can book in for \$149, Monday through Friday, for a three-hour session that also includes access to the Willow Stream Spa's facilities. **1038 Canada Pl., 604-695-5300. Fairmont.com** MADELEINE CLERIDES



RUNASYOUARE

What makes someone a runner? Is it exceeding a certain pace, the time spent pounding the pavement or how far you get? For RunAsYouAre, what makes a runner is someone who runs, no matter what that looks like. Accurately named, this Kitsilano retailer represents a rebrand and new location for Vancouver Run Co., with a refreshing aim to transform the running experience for everyone—particularly new runners—to ensure they stay injury-free by equipping them with personalized recommendations. Feeling overwhelmed by what your running needs may be? RAYA has treadmills in-store and staff (including physiotherapists) to analyze your gait and ensure your smoothest and most comfortable run yet, one step at a time. **2033 W. 4th Ave., 778-379-8511. Runasyouare.co** VICKI DUONG



LUSH SPA

If you've ever wanted to have a bath in the heart of the city, it's your lucky day! The new Lush Spa, located in Lush Cosmetics Robson, is a sensory oasis, offering massages, facials, scalp scrubs, foot rubs and even baths using (what else?) all-natural Lush products. We're tempted to try the bespoke Validation Facial (designed to pamper the skin and make it glow), the Comforter (a cosy 60-minute treatment with a warming hot chocolate body scrub), Synaesthesia (featuring waves of massage, music and sensory delirium), Tangled Hair (using firm techniques on the scalp, face and upper body) and The Lakes Book-a-Bath Room Tour (an immersive bathing experience that brings the outdoors in). It's most definitely bath time downtown! **1020 Robson St., 604-687-5874. Lush.com** NOA NICHOL

FINE FINDS

• BOUTIQUE •



CLOTHING GIFTS SHOES ACCESSORIES

SHOP ONLINE!

FREE CANADA-WIDE SHIPPING OVER \$100

finefindsboutique.com

1014 Mainland St, Vancouver | 604-669-8325

Lively Libations

Raise your Riesling to some out-of-the-box and bubbly wine-tasting events

BY JILL VON SPRECKEN

According to Ernest Hemingway, “A bottle of wine was good company.” But for those craving a tad more company than that, a wine or cocktail club is worth considering.

Take note: these aren't the sleepy swirl-and-sip events of yore. There are disco records spinning on the turntables. And toddlers keeping tiptoes on their toes. (Not all at the same event, thankfully.) And there isn't a droning sommelier or stuffed-shirt in sight. Just a lot of fun and socializing while sipping wine and spirits. Read on for a few of our favourites.

VIN VAN

Joanna Owen and Stephanie Walker are bringing wine-tasting events to Vancouver in more ways than one—and each is more refreshingly charming than the last. “I come from London, U.K., where the pop-up scene is very prevalent,” says Owen. “It's a part of Vancouver that doesn't really exist.” Her own love for pop-ups and wine came together to create Stomping Grapes, a wine bar that pops up monthly in the Ellis Building on Main Street.

“It is essentially a wine-and-disco night,” Owen explains. “It's very casual. People can mingle, and then later on in the evening people dance as well.” The wine list rotates, so each event has a fresh roundup of local, low-intervention (otherwise known as natural) wines. “We focus on smaller family-run wineries that have a good story behind them.”

For more structured, less disco, evenings, the pair also hosts long-table dinners that include wine pairings. And, finally, the Vin Van itself cannot be overlooked. The cheerfully revamped Boler camper van, named Vivian, has wine and will travel—to your private event or tasting. Vinvan.ca



WITCHING HOUR

“It's a bit of a 'yes' space,” explains Stacey McLachlan, the mom and creative mind behind Witching Hour, a happy hour pop-up that caters to the under-five set—and their parents.

The idea sprung from McLachlan's own desire to maintain a social life, with less of the stress that comes from toting toddlers. “My philosophy has always been to just bring Coco, my daughter, along for the ride,” she says. But sometimes that's easier said than done. “You're out for dinner with a friend, and you find yourself chasing your two-year-old across the bar to make sure they don't put their finger in an electrical socket or ruin somebody's first date.”

That got McLachlan thinking, and joking with friends, about a toddler-friendly bar. Then the aha moment: bring willing parents and tots, and a few supplies like baby gates and toys, to an existing bar. “Let us take over the space and bring our chaos with us,” she says.

The perfect, willing, candidate is Please! Beverage Co. in Vancouver, which now plays host to the kid-friendly pop-up on a monthly basis. Tickets for the first event sold out quickly—as have the events following. “People are longing for the opportunity to feel like an adult,” says McLachlan. “Whether that's a nice meal or a drink, alcoholic or otherwise, and not just have to watch *Cocomelon* and go to the Gymboree.”

[@witchinghouryr](https://www.instagram.com/witchinghouryr)

Take note: these aren't the sleepy swirl-and-sip events of yore

TORONTO VINTNERS

Just like a fine wine, Toronto Vintners is steeped in history. The club was founded in 1975 by Ted Turner, a part-time actor and amateur winemaker, following a visit to a wine club in San Francisco. He decided to bring the concept to Toronto, so he put an ad in the paper—because that was what you did back then—attracting 150 wine enthusiasts. Et voilà! The rest is history.

“We're the first in Toronto,” says Shau-na Sexsmith, the club's current president. “The longest continuing operating wine club in Toronto.” That history lends to the more traditional format: blind tastings featuring a particular region or varietal. But don't be intimidated. “There's absolutely no criteria for joining ... you don't have to be a wine geek. It's no pressure. I wouldn't say laid-back because we're pretty excited; we're an energetic bunch.”

Perhaps the biggest perk, aside from the obvious (sipping wine among friends and friendly strangers) is the buying, and cellaring, power. “We have a wine-buying committee,” Sexsmith explains. “We'll sit on wines for a very long time, and then we'll bring them out when we think they're at, or near, their peak drinking window. I think it's fantastic that somebody can sit down and taste a Bordeaux that's 15 years old.” We'll raise a glass to that. torontovintners.org



MAUDE SIPS

It's all about community, explains Martina Maude, creator of Maude Sips and a Vancouver transplant. “When you move anywhere, the big things that you do are drink and try to meet people, and this was a way to do that.” What started with a few people at her apartment quickly grew, as friends started bringing friends. “It's just all evolved from there into this really fun little party. And it's around the grapevine.”

The evenings are built around a theme, and tastings are done blind. Once everyone has wine in their glass, Maude facilitates a conversation that ranges from tasting notes to details about the winery. “Often a big thing that gets missed is who is making this wine,” she says. “Really basic tasting notes, I'm not necessarily going to remember that. But I'm probably going to remember that it's from this woman who became the breadwinner for her family at age 19 when her father died, and she took over the vineyard. So I really dive into those stories.”

Rinse and repeat with five to six bottles, and add dinner. “After all the tastings happen we have a fuller pour, and it turns into a bit of a party.” In short: a great way to meet people and drink nice wine. As Maude says, “Seems like the only way I want to drink wine, to be honest.” [@maude.sips](https://www.instagram.com/maude.sips)

Six Romantic Sips

Wines we love, for a day of love



ROAD 14 2020 SEVENTY-FOUR K

This red wine represents all the full-bodied red grape varietals grown at Road 13—talk about a love fest! With big ripe fruit notes on the nose of black cherry, blackberry, cherry pastry, barbecue spice and subtle sweet oak, this fruit-forward, balanced wine has hints of dark plum, blueberry pastry and mint on the palate. Pair with a sizzling steak, pulled pork, smoked brisket or by itself watching the sunset. Road13vineyards.com

LIQUIDITY 2020 ESTATE PINOT NOIR

Perfectly riding the edge of structure and delicacy, plush red fruits and velvety tannins are complemented by juicy acidity, fresh minerality and an elegance that is perfectly expressive of the Okanagan Valley. Pair with fire-roasted bell pepper ravioli, eggplant lasagna and Mac Miller's *Blue World* on a lazy Sunday afternoon. Liquiditywines.com

SEGURA VIUDAS BRUT RESERVA

Enjoy an elegant and persistent mousse with aromas of white fruits, citrus and tropical fruits and light floral notes. The palate is complex and full of flavour, with good acidity and notes of lime and pineapple. Dry and long on the finish, with fine and delicate bubbles. Serve this cava with seafood (clams, winkles, anchovies), pasta or a warm quail salad, soft milk cheeses or a mild brie. Or, match with a creamy omelette with blue cheese, dates and walnuts; porcini mushroom risotto; or monk fish stew with clams and peas. Seguraviudas.com

JOSH CELLARS ROSÉ

Josh Cellars is a négociant brand, working with California's best growers to build a superior wine blend. This

rosé is perfect for sunsets and warm, fuzzy Sundays. The nose is bright with aromas of fresh strawberries, white flowers and stone fruits. On the palate, the wine bursts with citrus, white peach and strawberries, with a crisp, mouthwatering finish. Pair this light-bodied wine with lighter-bodied dishes: try fresh fruit like strawberries or raspberries or enjoy with bright, fresh seafood like shrimp or ceviche. Joshcellars.com

LA FIOLE RÉSERVE CÔTES DU RHÔNE VILLAGES 2020

Hand-harvested Grenache and Syrah grapes are aged for two years in French oak casks to create this deep-ruby wine. Intense and complex, notice black currant, blackberries and licorice on the nose, with flavours of back fruits and more licorice. Examples of great pairings: grilled tuna or swordfish, Peking duck, lamb loin, caribou, venison or, more casually, hamburgers or nachos. Lafiole.com

BODEGA GARZÓN URUGUAY TANNAT RESERVA 2021

The greatest wines in the world are created where a grape varietal finds the ideal conditions to express itself in a natural and authentic way. This Tannat Reserva is a wine of generous body and structured palate, characterized by its intense colour, its nose of black fruits and mineral notes, while a balanced acidity reinforces its elegance and voltage. Roasted game meats are the ideal pairing, the most traditional combination being slowly cooked leg of lamb flavoured with sage, mint, garlic and olive oil. It also pairs beautifully with blue cheese and toasted walnuts. BodegaGarzon.com

Suite Spot

Equipped with amenities that go beyond the basics, hotels have become the main travel attraction

BY ANDRÉANNE DION

No longer just a place to lay down your head and freshen up between stops on a packed sight-seeing schedule, hotels have become destinations in their own right. Lobbies double as art galleries, rooms grace the pages of décor magazines and travellers are increasingly looking to spend more time living the suite life. “In the past, people would want to see as much of the location as possible,” says Kelly Torrens, VP of product at Kensington Tours, a Toronto-based luxury tour operator. “Now, they’re asking for a little bit more time to enjoy the properties themselves.” Hotels around the world have nailed the recipe for a perfect stay, and these small luxuries prove that it’s all in the details.

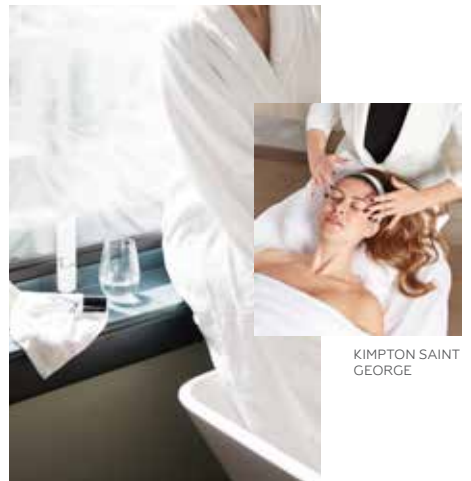
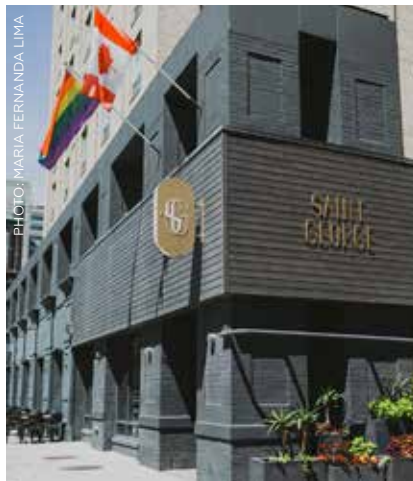


A SIGNATURE SCENT

First impressions are everything, so it’s no wonder many upscale properties are investing in their own one-of-a-kind fragrance lines. Walk into any 1 Hotel location, from New York to London to Copenhagen, and you’ll be greeted by Kindling, an unmistakable blend of eucalyptus, cedar, oakwood, musk and moss.

A memorable lobby scent not only helps foster a sense of familiarity for frequent travellers and returning guests, but also a sense of place. “I’m personally drawn to hotels that work with a local perfumery to create a signature scent for them, because it’s really connected to their local history and culture,” says Torrens. Her favourite is found at Hotel Brunelleschi in Florence, Italy, where notes of daffodil and lily of the valley evoke the Arno River, which runs through the city.

And with many spots selling their exclusive candles and room sprays, it’s easy to keep the vacation vibes going at home. Wymara Resort & Villas in Turks & Caicos recently launched an oil diffuser featuring its signature scent of bergamot and ginger lily, teak and musk that’s been flying off the shelves of the on-property boutique. “That scent reminds guests of their trip,” notes Shelley Rincon, the resort’s CEO.



IN-ROOM SPA TREATMENTS

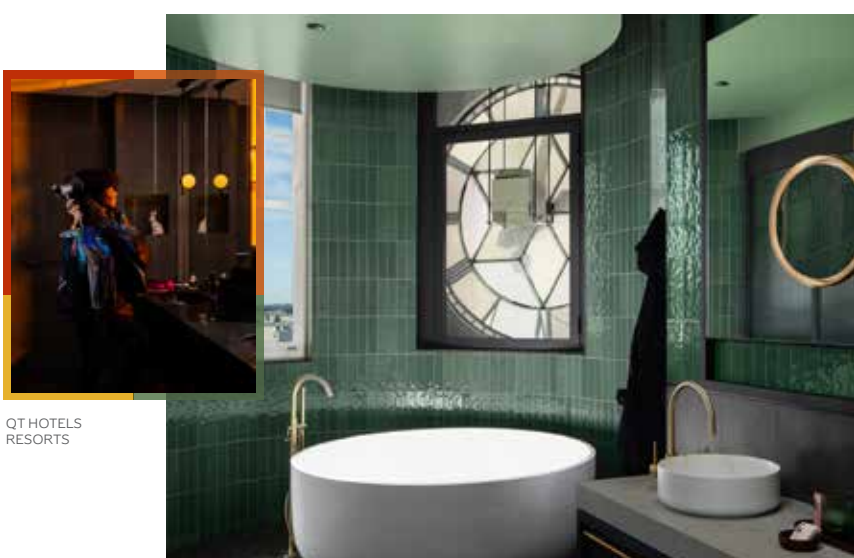
With wellness getaways firmly in the spotlight, souped-up beauty treatments are high on travellers’ wish lists. To answer the demand, the Kimpton Saint George in Toronto has partnered up with local Yorkville studio Radford to offer visitors facials, hair, makeup and brow services in the comfort of their own room. “We really wanted to give guests

that opportunity to hit the pause button, without having to travel somewhere to do that,” says Sean Muir, director of rooms at the hotel. For your spiritual care, book a 60-minute reiki and chakra healing session back at LaSalle Chicago, Autograph Collection; performed in your hotel room by a holistic healer, this in-depth step-by-step method aims to transform trauma and limits into

abundance, freedom and love. Energy blocks are identified and released through reiki and the seven chakras (energy centres) are opened, leaving you refreshed and ready to make the most of the rest of your stay.

The High Acre, a boutique inn in Dundas, Ontario, takes in-room wellness to a whole new level, offering infrared saunas and hammam steam rooms in each

bathroom. For owner Brett van Sickle, a former National Ballet of Canada dancer, relaxation requires privacy. “It was something that didn’t exist yet in Canada. Everyone loves to go to spas, but no one loves the communal part of it,” he explains. In that spirit, Vakkaru Maldives’ upscale overwater bungalow features a private open-air spa with stunning views of the clear-blue water below.



TOP-NOTCH BATHROOM AMENITIES

Want to pack light? Booking a hotel with standout bathroom amenities is a great way to free up some space. From skin-friendly toiletries to high-performance hair tools, properties are betting on self-care to wow their guests. Many, like the Fogo Island Inn in Newfoundland, are turning to locally made soaps and lotions to stock their vanities, while others opt for luxury names like Aēsop (Park Hyatt in Tokyo), Diptyque (The Ritz-Carlton) or Guerlain (Saint James in Paris).

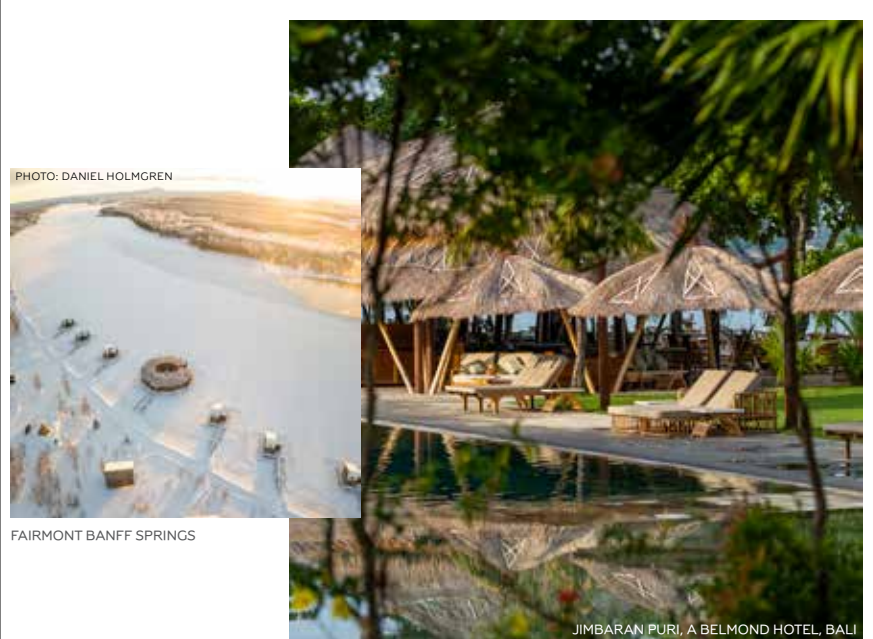
For Rincon, it was important to bring the ultra-popular Dyson Supersonic hair

dryer—which retails for \$580, plus sky-high import duties to the island—to Wymara. “Luxury hotels have always missed that mark on the hair dryer, it’s always just the most basic. I want our guests to have at least the same quality that they would have at home,” she explains. And to prevent theft, they were able to source an elegant solution: “We found these very small, very discreet brackets that are placed in the wall so the guests can barely see them, but still have a lot of freedom to use the hair dryer.” At QT Hotels & Resorts in Australia and New Zealand, Dyson Supersonic hair dryers and Corrale hair straighteners are on hand to ensure good hair days.

LUXURIOUS BEDDING

If you’ve ever wondered what makes hotel beds so comfortable, the answer is simple: luxury properties spend a lot of time—and money—making sure guests get a good night’s sleep. Ever wanted to snooze like a celeb? The Lotte New York Palace has collaborated with Swedish brand Hästens on its Ultimate Sleep Suite, which features the brand’s famous

\$300,000 blue-checked mattress that reportedly counts Drake and Beyoncé among its fanbase. Closer to home, Germain Hotels’ beds are proudly Canadian-made, with fluffy pillows, silky sheets and cloud-like mattresses that guests can’t get enough of. They sell their signature bedding line at Maison Simons and mattresses can be purchased from their supplier, Literie Laurier.



IMMERSIVE LOCAL EXPERIENCES

With travellers in search of off-the-beaten-path experiences, hotels and resorts are keen to showcase the unique appeal of their properties, notes Torrens. Located in the Swedish Lapland, Arctic Bath is a unique floating hotel that makes the most of its location by focusing on the health benefits of saunas and cold plunges. At the Fairmont Banff Springs, the wellness programming includes forest bathing, a nature walk with the hotel’s certified local guide that promotes reconnecting with nature through meditation and grounding activities. The sea turtle sanctuary at the Belmond Jimbaran Puri in Bali allows visitors to participate in the release of hatchlings, typically between May and September. At the Four Seasons Resort Seychelles, which is set on Petite Anse Bay, guests can help with the property’s coral conservation efforts and rescue coral fragments under the guidance of marine educators. V

Enjoy
Responsibly

DISCOVER THE PENFOLDS COLLECTION



VENTURE BEYOND

