



DISCOVER TORONTO'S LUXURIOUS SIDE

| BY TRACY BEARD

Toronto, the capital of Ontario, Canada, is a vibrant cosmopolitan city residing on the banks of Lake Ontario's northwestern shore. This dynamic metropolis embraces its history, strives for progress and showcases Canada's appreciation for opulence. Soaring skyscrapers stand beside vast green spaces, and quaint residential streets morph into luxurious neighborhoods. Visitors can bask in luxury at The St. Regis Toronto, dine at delicious high-end restaurants and shop for designer clothes and services. Toronto is the perfect place to splurge on today's modern luxuries.

LAVISH ACCOMMODATIONS

Toronto excels in public transportation, but a chauffeured trip from the airport with [Global Allure Management](#) to The St. Regis Toronto will launch your vacation with style. The hotel was once the Trump Hotel, located in the financial/entertainment district downtown, and built in 2012. New management took over in July 2017, and a rebranding and remodel took place over the next year and a half. Toronto's first St. Regis hotel is one of the most stunning hotels in the downtown area. It is a wonderful blend of refined style and modern sophistication. The luxurious guest rooms and suites, tailored butler service and impeccable hospitality make [The St. Regis Toronto](#) the perfect place for people to live, holiday or connect and socialize.

GLAMOUROUS BEGINNINGS

John Jacob Astor IV founded the first St. Regis Hotel in New York City in 1904. At that time, he was one of the wealthiest men in America, and his mother, Mrs. Caroline Astor, set many of the standards for high society. Marketing & Public Relations Manager at The St. Regis Toronto, Alex Marconi said, "The Astors were known for doing things grandly—it was the gilded age filled with glamour, champagne and opulence."

EXTRAORDINARY ASPECTS

St. Regis hotels worldwide are known for their three signature rituals—the Afternoon Tea Ritual, the Evening Ritual and the Bloody Mary Ritual. Alex shared how each St. Regis hotel creates its own unique tea blend and Bloody Mary. In Toronto afternoon tea is served every Saturday and Sunday from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 pm, and Bloody Marys are available from early in the day until late at night seven days a week.

The Evening Ritual in Toronto begins each night at 6:00 p.m. with a formal announcement and finishes with a champagne sabering and a toast for guests in the Astor Lounge. Caroline loved this ritual and felt that it was a fabulous way to "bid farewell to the working day and welcome in the evening."

Rooms and suites at the hotel are enchanting. My corner suite boasted a fireplace, heated tile floors, six gigantic pillows on an enormous king-size bed, remote control

curtains and a Nescafé machine. Chandeliers graced the living room, bedroom and hallways. The master bath featured a deep soaking tub and a massive shower stall with a delightfully large rain showerhead.

The St. Regis brand is known for its iconic butler service. Guests can text their butler for a cup of coffee or tea, arrange for garments to be pressed and indulge in the hotel's complimentary packing and unpacking service. Alex stated, "The only thing our guests cannot buy is time; therefore, we give them the gift of time." [The Spa at The St. Regis Toronto](#) features a wellness menu with numerous modernized spa treatments designed for those seeking treatments for the mind, body and soul. The discriminating spa setting is the perfect environment for relaxation and rejuvenation.

EXCEPTIONAL DINING

[LOUIX LOUIS](#) is the principal restaurant and grand bar in The St. Regis Toronto. It is a place to hand-pick the type of experience you'd like for the evening. LOUIX LOUIS boasts one of North America's most extensive dark spirits collection waiting to be savored 31 floors above the city. Toronto's history as the largest distillery back in the turn of the 19th century inspired the stunning décor, and "The Bouquet of Whiskey" mural on the ceiling, designed by Madison van Rijn, appears as if whiskey is swirling at the top of a glass.

My dinner at LOUIX LOUIS was terrific. It began with a champagne cocktail and a squash soup with pumpkin seeds and Parmesan foam. The perfectly cooked and seasoned beef filet arrived topped with a pat of tarragon butter and a drizzle of red wine sauce. I ordered a side of crisp-tender green beans with local blue cheese crumbles and thick-cut bacon lardons. It was my birthday, and the staff surprised me with a piece of scrumptious King's cake, 13 layers of decadent chocolate topped with gold flakes.

PLEASURABLE PAMPERING

[Her Majesty's Pleasure](#) is the ideal place for pampering, whether you opt for a manicure,

pedicure or a fresh look created by one of the professional makeup artists. The elegantly designed beauty bar offers multiple sensory beauty services while





simultaneously offering creative cocktails for purchase during your visit.

ENTICING EATS

Kevin Durkhee is the owner of [Culinary Adventure Co.](#) I met Kevin and three other guests for his yearly Artisan Cheese Market VIP experience at the St. Lawrence Market. He enlightened us about the city's early history and downtown architecture, and he shared stories about long-term merchants at the market. We tasted oysters, cold-smoked salmon, perogies and Portuguese coconut tarts before heading to the Artisan Cheese Night Market where we sampled numerous Canadian cheeses.

[Luma](#) restaurant, located on King Street West, serves artisanal cuisine made from local ingredients. I ordered a sparkling rosé and paired it with the tender skewered calamari with shizo and caramelized garlic dressed with goju jeng sauce. Cold charred eggplant salad with whipped goat cheese and pomegranate molasses made a great accompaniment to the spicy calamari. I concluded with the chocolate bar—dark chocolate ganache shaped into a bar with a brownie, cookie crumbles, candied peanuts, brûléed banana and peanut butter ice cream—so rich and tasty.

Toronto is a multicultural city catering to every preference. [Planta](#), a vegan restaurant,

serves tasty vegan meatballs, delectable lettuce wraps with fried mushrooms and many other mouthwatering options. Plan ahead for an upscale dinner at [Alo](#). Chef/Owner Patrick Kriss presents one of Canada's top French tasting menus. Enjoy the multicourse tasting menus with sommelier-selected wines from numerous regions.

DECADENT DRINKS

[BarChef](#) Toronto on Queen Street in West Toronto proposes an assortment of classic and multisensory cocktails. Whether it looks like a bouquet of flowers or an erupting volcano, these drinks are not just cocktails, they are events. Aromatics, decorations and breathtaking demonstrations take these concoctions over the top.

The "Spring Thaw" was the creator's expression of the season with vivacious spring blossoms and aromatics from Ontario's green fields and winter thaw. The cocktail is comprised of sparkling wine, London Gin, chamomile syrup, grapefruit and orange blossom air. Edible flower petals, basil, and a Campari and vanilla sphere-shaped granita complete the presentation.

FIRST-CLASS SHOPPING

Briar de Lange heads up all the business redevelopment in Yorkville, Toronto's elite

neighborhood that embraces their version of Beverly Hills' Rodeo Drive. This mecca of designer shops is fun to browse, and delightful eateries pepper the area. Toronto's first Eataly, a 50,000-square-foot Italian food marketplace with three stories of food markets, restaurants and small eateries will open in this area in the fall of 2019.

TANTALIZING TOURS

[VIP Ontario Tours](#) offers a variety of tours inside and outside the city. Roy, my driver and tour guide, escorted me to Niagara Falls. After a fabulous boat trip out into the spray of the falls, we continued to Peller Estates Winery where I dined on the patio and tasted three ice wines. From there we proceeded to Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery for more tasting. It was a full day before Roy drove me back to the St. Regis.

Toronto is Canada's largest melting pot with over 135 diverse cultures all converging and mingling in one spot. It is an incredible city with history, architecture, culture and elegance. Contact [SeeTorontoNow.com](#) to help you book a fantastic visit to this enticing city. ♦

