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ATLANTA'S BEST BASHES... HELLO, 2012!

Vancouver Bound

JEZ falls for the newly renovated Rosewood Hotel Georgia in the heart of downtown Vancouver. Here, a little Northern exposure.

Vancouver, British Columbia, exudes a fresh energy that is addictive after just one visit. Little wonder why—aside from its robust cinematic scene (many Hollywood movies and TV shows are filmed in the waterfront city), this buzzing metropolis attracts visitors worldwide with gastronomy that easily competes with the best in the United States, posh accommodations and an abundance of natural beauty—mountains, oceans, lakes, rivers, beaches and an extensive trail system. In addition to activities galore, world-famous Whistler and Blackcomb mountains are just two hours away. For a peak experience...

STAY

Opening last summer to rave reviews, the **Rosewood Hotel Georgia** achieved its goal of reinventing a classic—and then some. Smack dab in the center of downtown Vancouver, just blocks away from the waterfront and Stanley Park—and mere steps from the city's best dining, shopping, theater and art—it occupies a landmark location. Check in at dusk to be awed by the illuminated old-school marquee bearing the name Hotel Georgia at the corner of Georgia and Howe Streets.

In true Rosewood style, a comfortably elegant atmosphere welcomes guests as if they were coming home—expect top-notch “can-do” service from the moment you are greeted at the door. While refined, this property, like its Rosewood siblings, offers luxury without pretense—somewhat surprising, given the hotel's legacy. Destined for fame when it first opened in 1927, the grand retreat was a star from day one, boasting a who's who of clients, including the likes of Elvis Presley, Nat “King” Cole, Katharine Hepburn and British royalty.

Today, 85 years later, Rosewood Hotel Georgia perfectly juxtaposes heritage with modern hospitality. Restoration efforts reveal a reverence for Old World craftsmanship and that which remains from its heyday—dial-style floor indicators over the elevator doors being one of the original elements still standing—and updates to the property's structure, furnishings, technology and offerings.

Improbably, this co-existence works beautifully and stretches throughout the hotel. Take the lobby, where rich mahogany complements luxe furnishings and jaw-dropping modern art. Rosewood Hotel Georgia is home to one the largest private collections of Canadian art in the entire country. Here, contemporary works pop up in likely and unexpected places, acting as a gateway to imagination and reflecting Vancouver's cultural diversity. The collection not only complements the hotel's long and layered history, but also brings it full-throttle into the 21st century. Successfully introducing this contrast of past and present is, well, something of an art unto itself.

The fully restored Hotel Georgia boasts 156 elegantly appointed

guest accommodations, including the premier Lord Stanley Suite and Rosewood Suite, both ultra-luxe with two bedrooms, exclusive rooftop terraces with city skyline views, private plunge pools and gardens. Guests of the Rosewood Suite also may enjoy access to an adjacent suite. If desired, *voilà!* A three-bedroom space is born.

The suite life continues even in the “room” classification. Designed with a residential feel in mind, all guest rooms are contemporary yet comfortable. Italian Rivolta Carmignani bed linens dress a cozy mattress, while calming décor by way of a light blue, ivory and chocolate color palette allows sleek furnishings to take center stage. Also bringing the drama are spa-inspired bathrooms featuring marble floors, glass-enclosed showers, dual sinks and vanities. And on the smaller but not forgotten front, a Nespresso coffee maker and complimentary Wi-Fi, plus many more amenities, are in every room. For guests who dream of calling the Hotel Georgia home, wake to this reality: The property's separate 48-story residential tower is slated for completion this year.

After a day of sightseeing or shopping in Vancouver, unwind by taking a swim in the 52-foot indoor saltwater lap pool, or work up a sweat in Hotel Georgia's state-of-the-art fitness center. Afterward, allow the therapists at Sense, a Rosewood Spa, to whisk away lingering stress. This plush facility encompasses a chill relaxation area (ask for a heated neck pillow), locker rooms and well-appointed treatment rooms. Spa therapies, like the signature 50-minute Georgian Revival Massage, are plentiful. This massage revives with aromatherapy and a dousing of warm oil down the spine, helping to release tension, cleanse the body of toxins and create a sense of calm.

Rejuvenation extends to nightlife at the hotel, where there's plenty of entertainment on site. For eats, pull up a seat at Hawksworth Restaurant, a touted culinary concept by renowned chef David Hawksworth (details in the dining section below). Or enjoy classic cocktails and casual fare at the 1927 Lobby Lounge. Come spring, the ultra-chic Reflections, the hotel's open-air lounge in the inner courtyard on the fourth floor, will open for the season, inviting guests to throw back original drinks, nosh on light fare and bask in the venue's tranquil vibe. Infinity water features, a central fire pit, oversized teak couches, illuminating lanterns and upbeat music all add to its appeal. In the mix later this year is Prohibition lounge, which will offer vintage sips and evening entertainment in a warm environment.

EAT

The dining scene in Vancouver is just as sizzling. Hot chefs are setting it ablaze with trendy eateries that pop up regularly and menus heavily swayed by the city's international influences and natural envi-



Chill out with cool tunes at the ultra-chic Reflections open-air lounge on the hotel's fourth floor.



travel

When price is no object, book either the Lord Stanley Suite or the Rosewood Suite and enjoy a private rooftop terrace.



The spa-like bathroom makes getting ready for the day or an evening bath a most enjoyable activity.



Swimming has never been so hip! Go for a dip in the mod 52-foot indoor saltwater lap pool at the Rosewood Hotel Georgia.



A classic spot: the 1927 Lobby Lounge is where you'll find traditional cocktails and a casual lounge menu.



The iconic Hotel Georgia is brought back to life thanks to Rosewood Hotels & Resorts.



Dial-type floor indicators are some of the original elements that remain from the historic building.



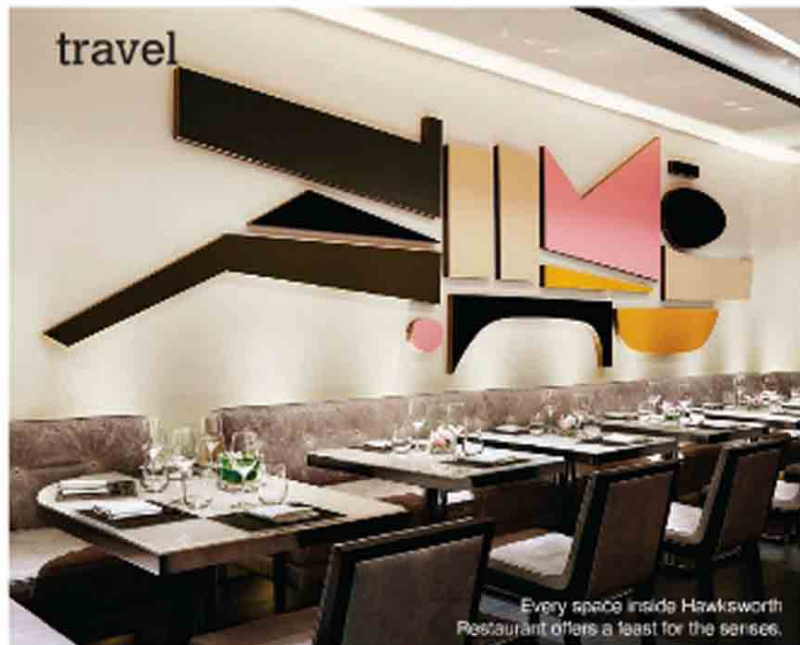
Warm shades of light blue, ivory and chocolate make for a cozy environment.



The sitting area in the lobby is quite the social meeting spot.



Details in design such as this staircase pay homage to the hotel's heritage while giving a nod to the new.



Every space inside Hawksworth Restaurant offers a feast for the senses.



Each dish prepared by Chef Hawksworth is a work of art, including the Valrhona Milk Chocolate Mousse and Oyama Prosciutto and Pear Panzanella.

Enjoy dining in front of a vast, open kitchen at pan-Asian bistro Oru at the Fairmont Pacific Rim Hotel.



ronment. For starters, look straight to the aforementioned culinary marvel **Hawksworth Restaurant**. Conceived and helmed by one of Vancouver's most touted chefs, the concept gorgeously reflects Vancouver's cultural diversity. The venue's swanky décor and envied art collection are well worth the accolades they continue to receive, but contemporary Canadian cuisine is the real showstopper here—think savory dishes made from top-quality, carefully sourced ingredients, including only the very best regional produce. Hawksworth's team uses an array of culinary techniques to create phenomenal flavors and presentation, showcasing his true culinary genius.

Hawksworth's seasonally influenced menu is expansive. Delicious appetizers not only taste great, but they also look like art (no joke!). The foie gras parfait green apple walnut brioche melts in your mouth, as do the 48-hour beef short ribs with black pepper jam, honeydew, green papaya, peanut and Thai basil, and yellow fin tuna ceviche avocado with crispy amaranth, pecan and cilantro. Every entrée is sheer brilliance. Meat lovers, try the slow-cooked lamb shank cauliflower with crispy okra, pomegranate and mughal curry. Seafood aficionados should order the Nova Scotia sea bass with sidestripe shrimp, crunchy artichoke, mandarin and sherry, or the pan-roasted pacific sablefish with maitake, chayote and tom yum broth—simply delish. Be sure to save room for one of the many meal-topping sweet treats.

Accompanying the main dining room, designed by Canada's award-winning team Munge & Leung, are three other distinct spaces. The Bar & Lounge mixes artisan pre-Prohibition cocktails using fresh juices, herbs and house-made bitters, as well as a selection of wines and craft beers; the glamorous, glossy Pearl Room offers an opulent setting (banquette for two, please); the Jazz Age-inspired York Room yields a view of one of the Vancouver Art Gallery fountains, features a dramatic glass chandelier and can accommodate larger parties of up to 60 for a seated dinner or 110 for a standing reception; and the Art Room, fittingly, features a custom art installation by local artist Rodney Graham.

While you could fill every night of the week by dining at Hawksworth, if you opt to hit the town, these savory finds will serve you well. At **Chambar** (562 Beatty St., Gastown, chambar.com), Belgian chef/owner Nico Schuermans and his wife, Karri, mix up traditional Belgian standards, like mussels and fries, with Moroccan flavors and a sprinkling of entrées like lamb tajine and couscous, making the upscale eatery a standout. If you love the vibe, visit **Medina Café** (556 Beatty St., Gastown, medinacafe.com), a popular spot for breakfast or weekend brunch. Enjoy a lazy meal while listening to blues music, and savor Medina's famous waffles with a menu of syrups such as milk chocolate-lavender, raspberry-caramel or fig-orange marmalade. Upscale steak house **Black + Blue** (1032 Alberni St., Downtown, blackandblue.ca) is new on the scene but already has established itself as the place for a sexy soirée. The three-level restaurant is the hottest see-and-be-seen spot in town, serving a large selection of prime cuts of steak (Wagyu, U.S. and Canadian prime), as well as fish and shellfish. For a different kind of dining experience you won't find at home, check out **Hapa Izakaya** (1479 Robson St.,



At The Block, you'll discover everything from hard-to-find international labels to local designers who your friends won't be wearing back at home.



Rich textures, luxurious feel and attention to detail are what you'll find at Mancova.



Want shoes? Head directly to Gravity Pope, which displays its nearly 2,000 shoe styles proudly and makes shopping highly indulgent.

MOUNTAIN HIGHS

This winter, Rosewood Hotel Georgia is offering a special Whistler Blackcomb package, granting guests access to the slopes and the best of Vancouver. The deluxe package includes transportation from the hotel to the slopes in a luxury SUV. After a full day of skiing, snowboarding and/or tobogganing, guests are chauffeured back to the hotel for an après ski cocktail at 1927 Lobby Lounge before embarking on a night on the town. The following morning, the signature Georgian Revival Massage for two at Sense® spa will soothe their sore muscles.

Included in the Rosewood Hotel Georgia's City & Ski Package:

- Two nights' luxury accommodations
 - SUV transfers from Rosewood Hotel Georgia to Whistler Blackcomb
 - The Georgian Revival Massage for two at Sense® spa
 - Two Après ski cocktails at 1927 Lobby Lounge
- Hotel concierge can secure lift passes for an additional fee. This package is available through March 31. Prices start at \$1,927, based on double occupancy. Offer is subject to availability.

marble tables and Louis XIV arm chairs, proudly displays its nearly 2,000 shoe styles and makes shopping highly indulgent. If you're feeling the retro vibe, check out **MintageVintage** (1714 Commercial Drive, Grandview-Woodlands, mintagevintage.com), a secret source for stylists and wardrobe designers in need of fab throwback fashions. At this eclectic shop, shoppers can unearth amazing couture at a fraction of the customary price.

DO

One of the best ways to explore Vancouver is by bicycle. Rent one at **Stanley Park Cycle** (768 Denman St., stanleyparkcycle.com), and ride along the park, the waterfront, by the railroad tracks into Chinatown and through the cobblestone streets of Gastown. Stop for gelato at **Bella Gelateria** (1001 W. Cordova St., Gastown, bellagelateria.com), the much talked-about parlor, popular with practically everyone—it serves as a thoroughfare for foodies and celebs alike. All flavors are made from scratch and from mostly organic ingredients. Continue into downtown and its central thoroughfare, the upscale Burrard Street. The street will take you across the water into Kitsilano, where you can shop its hip boutiques, cute cafés and trendy restaurants.

To make your biking trip extra special, head across the Granville bridge and onto **Granville Island** (granvilleisland.com), a peninsula physically connected to the city and actually considered part of downtown Vancouver. It is most famous for being a center for great cuisine and a haven for arts and culture. Leave plenty of time for the **Public Market** (granvilleisland.com/public-market), Granville's oldest and most established farmers market. Sample from stands full of seasonal, colorful fruits and veggies, freshly baked breads and pastries, maple syrup, and, of course, the local delicacies—cured salmon jerky, sausage and pepperoni sticks. Buy a slice of savory or sweet pie at **A La Mode** (alamodepie.com), and enjoy it outside while watching the boats sail by. If the weather is chilly, grab a cup of hot tea from **Granville Island Tea Company** (1689 Johnston St., granvilletea.com) to go with your pie. Get inspired by browsing through **Make shop** (1648 Duranleau St., makevancouver.com), an unusual concept with funky gifts and custom-made items that can be created right on the spot. You are guaranteed to be occupied for a while, touching practically every piece of the store's vast collection of unique cards, gifts and knick-knacks. Be sure to watch the sunset before riding back into town. —BETH WEITZMAN AND ELINA FUHRMAN



One of the best ways to see and enjoy Vancouver is by bicycle. Rent one at Stanley Park Cycle, and ride along the park and the waterfront while taking in views of the city skyline.