

# X marks the spot for a remarkable new Toronto hotel



ROCHELLE LASH

The dazzling new Hotel X Toronto, a member of the Library Hotel Collection, is big and bold and so distinctive that it defies labelling.

Urban resort. Luxury getaway. Fitness phenom. Architectural triumph. Convention hotel. Sports hub. Party central. They all fit.

So perhaps calling it X, the unknown factor, is the perfect way to characterize this immense, innovative 30-storey glass-and-steel tower, which is unique on many fronts.

What is certain is that this dynamic wonder personifies the vibrant, successful metropolis of Toronto, now North America's fourth-largest city (after Mexico City, New York and Los Angeles).

"Hotel X Toronto has life covered, whether you are a business traveller, a couple, a family or a group of friends travelling together," said Celso Thompson, director of sales and marketing.

**LOCATION**

The hotel rises dramatically above Lakeshore Rd. along Lake Ontario, so the 404 rooms and suites have breathtaking views of either the Queen City's spectacular skyline or the shimmering water, or both.

Hotel X Toronto is surrounded by virtually unlimited entertainment, wedding venues and sports in sprawling Exhibition Place. Events include the Toronto Argonauts' season opener June 23 (you can see a sliver of action from certain guest rooms); and the Canadian National Exhibition, Aug. 17-Sept. 3.

The nearby Budweiser Stage will present Imagine Dragons, June 13-14, and Keith Urban, June 29-30.

Hotel X Toronto also faces Toronto's glorious Waterfront Bike Path that runs along Harbourfront, Queen's Quay and Ontario Place. The shop called Wheel Excitement rents bikes, tandems and kids gear at moderate prices.

IF YOU GO

**Hotel X Toronto:** 647-943-9300; hotelxtoronto.com. 111 Princes' Blvd., (at Exhibition Place), Toronto. A member of the Library Hotel Collection.

**Prices:** from \$325, including rooftop pool, Ten X Toronto fitness, bottled water/Nespresso, evening turndown, courtesy car (on availability) within two km/Billy Bishop Airport/Union Station.

**Extra:** valet (\$45) and self-parking (\$30); tennis, squash, fitness classes, children's centre.

**Tourism:** Toronto, 416-203-2500, seetorontonow.com; Ontario Tourism: ontariotravel.net.

FEATURES

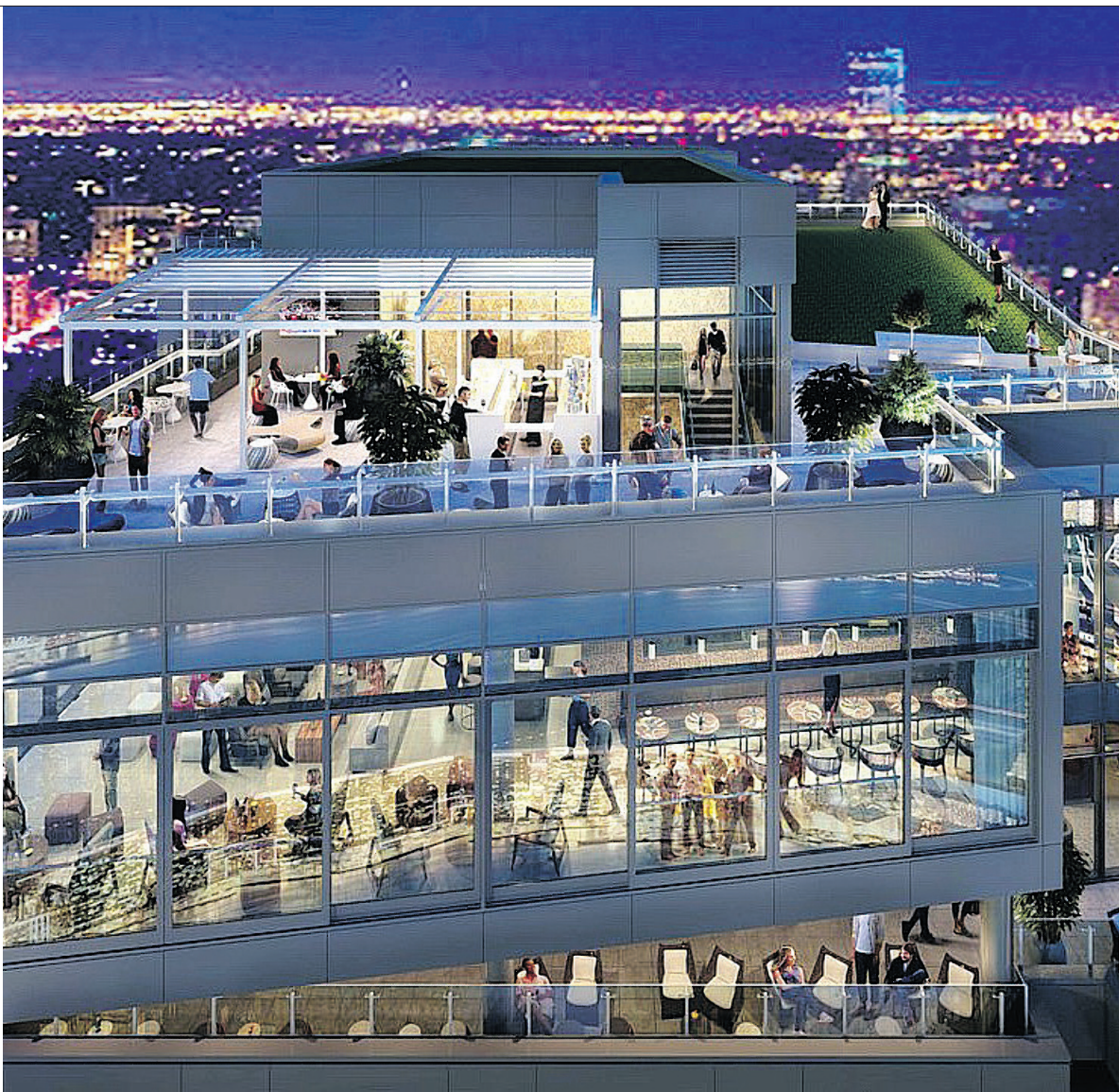
The hotel delivers classic luxury in the most impressive modern package imaginable. The interiors are richly appointed in marble, with decor in leather and linen. Every space is wrapped in huge windows, so light and air prevail.

In your room, you'll sleep on silky, white bed sheets and refresh in sparkling white and glass bathrooms stocked with toiletries by l'Occitane of France. Tech conveniences include USB ports and smart TVs with Chromecast and Apple TV, including Netflix. And again, the views are mesmerizing.

Hotel X Toronto's star attraction is the Falcon SkyBar (opening in mid-June), a sensational three-storey rooftop with cocktail lounges and party areas. Part of the SkyBar complex is The Pond, a 15-metre infinity-edge pool on a terrace. You can dip, drink, snack and sunbathe high in the sky.

The hotel is equipped for gatherings galore. Especially charming are the wedding-worthy Bowtie Room, a man cave for groomsmen with a pool table and TV screens, and the Pearl Room for bridesmaids who can primp at the makeup and hair stations.

This lodging and lifestyle complex also has a 250-seat cinema and a Spielberg-worthy, 60-person white-leather screening room. The supervised Children's Play Centre includes a youngsters' room with toys and books,



Hotel X Toronto is an urban resort topped by the three-storey rooftop Falcon SkyBar. PHOTOS: HOTEL X TORONTO

a sports court, a video-game room, arts and crafts and movies.

FOOD

Hotel X Toronto is home to a Starbucks, a Nespresso Café and Maxx's Kitchen — so far. The culinary highlight, Petros 82, a gourmet Mediterranean restaurant, is scheduled to open in August, and the historic Stanley Barracks, an 1800s military installation on the grounds, will become a small brewery.

Maxx's, a modern bistro, serves creative casual fare, such as fig and Stilton pizza; poached prawns with lime; gnocchi with goat cheese and wild mushrooms; a veal-cutlet sandwich, plus classics like a burger, tuna niçoise, hot beef sandwich, turkey club, fish 'n' chips or steak-frites.

ARCHITECTURE/DESIGN

Stephen B. Jacobs Group Architects of New York brings a human touch to the grandeur of Hotel X Toronto.

The public spaces are dramatic, but they're individually designed, so you're not overwhelmed by the hotel's overall size. The lobby has 10-metre ceilings, flashy floor mosaics tiling and a living wall of plants. The Library Club Lounge is a serene hideaway with a fireplace, handsome leather furniture and a deck.

The hotel incorporates the outdoors, starting with a huge expanse of gardens and fountains



Lakefront rooms and suites offer views of the city and Lake Ontario.

for strolling. Many of the restaurants, lounges and ballrooms open onto sweeping terraces. As well, the windows in the guest rooms open.

And, as a nod to nature, Andi Pepper Interior Design decked the halls with more than 800 large-scale landscape images by Canadian photographer Neil Dankoff, whose work is also displayed in the hotel's art gallery.

**FITNESS/Wellness**

Ten X Toronto (opening this month) is the largest hotel athletic facility in Canada, and it's

awesome. Built up over multiple storeys with glass walls, Ten X has four indoor Deco-Turf tennis courts, nine squash courts, a golf simulator and advanced weight and cardio machines from Technogym's Artis Collection. Ten X Toronto has fitness classes, hot yoga, Pilates, a pro shop and a juice bar with Schinoussa nutrition products (tenxtoronto.com).

A second swimming pool (25 metres) and a full-service spa with 10 treatment rooms will open in early 2019.

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