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Photo of Sean Cullen and Michael Theriault by Della van Tasselman

**“A GREAT BIG FAT GORGEOUS HIT!”** NEW YORK POST

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# hairspray

● BROADWAY'S BIG FAT MUSICAL COMEDY HIT ●

THE PRINCESS OF WALES THEATRE 300 King Street West, Toronto



Photo by Kenneth Bell for





Marshall McLuhan proclaimed the world to be a “global village” from Toronto, Canada. That astute prophecy, some 40 years later, finds the place from which the insight was launched to be precisely that: The world within a city™.

# *int*roducing Toronto and the Niagara Region, Ontario



**Top:** Nighttime pizzazz out front of Yorkville’s Sassafraz, a favorite haunt for visiting celebrities.

**Bottom:** Acoustic “panels” float like spaceships over the Toronto Symphony Orchestra at Roy Thomson Hall.

Toronto is an astonishing and eclectic mosaic of peoples and languages, cultures and lifestyles. It’s a North American city of rare openness, energy and style. The countless things that make international travel fascinating and stimulating - dining, shopping, museums, galleries, theater, history, architecture and more - come together in this vibrant, welcoming metropolis. In Toronto, you can shop couture or discover a hot, emerging designer. You can sample haute cuisine or relax in a neighborhood bistro. From galleries to museums, classical to experimental theater, opera to hip-hop, Toronto has it all.

And then, little more than an hour away, is the Niagara Region. Niagara Falls, Ontario is much more than the location of the Seventh Wonder of the World. The Niagara Region is a superior New World wine area and the location of several internationally acclaimed golf courses. The town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is host to the Shaw Festival. Dedicated to the works of George Bernard Shaw and his contemporaries, the Shaw Festival is the second largest theater company in North America after Ontario’s Stratford Festival.

You can travel the world but you’ll never find more of it in one place. Here.

Baroque splendor dominates one of the salons at the Art Gallery of Ontario.

# *i n v i t i n g*

## TORONTO'S EXPLODING ARTS SCENE



Toronto is famous for its film industry and the Toronto International Film Festival, but its performing arts scene gets the highest accolades from visitors and residents alike. In venues as diverse as the plush Royal Alexandra Theatre and the majestically modern Roy Thomson Hall, Toronto offers up grand productions. In more intimate surroundings, such as the Glenn Gould Studio, Toronto expresses its innovative side.

The city's theater scene is frequently singled out for praise, both for its range and its consistent excellence. In part, the city earned its reputation for being the first to stage musicals that later became Broadway blockbusters, such as *Showboat* and *Mamma Mia!*

But Toronto's reputation doesn't hinge on big-name shows. Across the city, smaller troupes have made a name for themselves by staging powerful and innovative works. The Soulpepper Theatre Company devotes itself to staging classics from Goldsmith to Beckett with exhilarating elan throughout the Summer and the Canadian Stage Company follows with the best of contemporary theater from Fall to Spring.

A difficult fact of life for Toronto's talented performers is that they must compete for attention with theaters themselves. Some real architectural gems are:

**THE ROYAL ALEXANDRA THEATRE:** Lovingly restored to its original Edwardian glory, this is where you come to see some of the biggest theatrical spectacles.

**THE CARLU:** Reopened in 2003 as an event venue, the Carlu is one of the world's best examples of the art moderne style. Designed by Jacques Carlu, who went on to construct New York's Rainbow Room, this was Glenn

**THE HISTORIC DISTILLERY DISTRICT:** Toronto reclaimed this 19th-century landmark as prime theater and arts space in 2003. Housing three performing arts venues, this is a rare example of Victorian-era industrial design.

**ROY THOMSON HALL:** The recent enhancement project has received rave reviews. Not only are the acoustics truly magnificent, but the hall is unusual in creating a feeling of intimacy between audience and performers; even though there are more than 2,800 seats, none is more than 107 feet from the stage.

**THE PRINCESS OF WALES THEATRE:** A few doors away from the Royal Alex is the Princess of Wales, which was originally built to mount the lavish production of Miss Saigon. Artist Frank Stella painted the interior and exterior murals - all 10,000 square feet of them. Hairspray is scheduled to open in April, 2004.

**THE CANON:** The Canon, a restored vaudeville theater, displays the grace of an earlier age. It hosted a slate of musicals in recent years and is home to Mel Brooks' The Producers for the foreseeable future.

**THE ELGIN & WINTER GARDEN THEATRE CENTRE:** Built in 1913, this double-decker theater's opulent gilding and hand-painted frescoes are just some of the charms that led it to be declared one of the most beautiful theater complexes in the world.

**MASSEY HALL:** This landmark concert hall is a favorite with musicians, such as Canadian chanteuse Diana Krall, for its flawless acoustics.

**TORONTO MUSIC GARDEN:** Julie Moir Messervy and cellist Yo-Yo Ma designed this inspiring two-acre park on Toronto's waterfront. The garden's six sections represent the musical movements of Bach's First Suite for Unaccompanied Cello.

Cast members in the Toronto production of THE PRODUCERS, the new Mel Brooks musical.

Photograph: Cylla von Tiedemann

## entertaining on many fronts

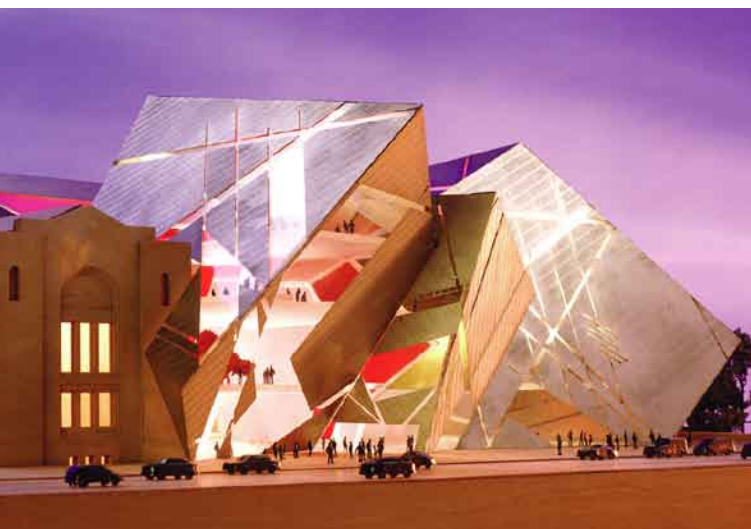
Toronto is home to a dazzling array of performance groups, one reason that the city's arts scene satisfies disparate tastes. The Toronto Symphony Orchestra can deftly switch tempo from Beethoven to Cole Porter, and the internationally acclaimed Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra dedicates itself to early music.

Ballet and Opera are twin Toronto passions. Home to both the Canadian Opera Company and the National Ballet Company, Toronto is currently planning a grand new opera house to stage larger and more ambitious spectacles.

Finally, it's impossible to talk about entertainment in Toronto without mentioning comedy clubs. So many funnymen have come from Toronto (Mike Myers, Jim Carrey, Lorne Michaels and John Candy, for starters) that you can't help but wonder if they grow them in a special lab. In a way, they do: Second City, Yuk Yuk's, and the Laugh Resort have all been successful comedian incubators.







Daniel Libeskind's dramatic crystal extension of the Royal Ontario Museum.

## a museum-goer's paradise

The city is home to the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM), which is in the process of getting a glittering new look. As part of a \$200 million renaissance project, the ROM will gain a crystal façade, the creation of Daniel Libeskind. The ROM will also gain several thousand square feet in display space, enabling curators to display more of its six-million-piece collection. Antiquities from Egypt, Greece, and Rome, armor from medieval Europe, ancient statuary from China, Korea and Southeast Asia, and bones of the dinosaurs will have a new home.

The Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO) is also undergoing an expansion, which was designed by Frank Gehry. The massive Henry Moore sculpture will remain out front, a hint at the 800 piece Moore collection within. The gallery's permanent collections total more than 26,500 pieces, ranging from 15th century European paintings to Canadian and international contemporary art.

Toronto's smaller museums are no less intriguing. The unique Bata Shoe Museum has a permanent collection that ranges from Manolo Blahniks to 4,500 year old Egyptian sandals. Who said museum going had to be serious business?

## entertaining toronto

### Royal Alexandra Theatre

260 King Street W. 1-800-461-3333

[www.mirvish.com](http://www.mirvish.com)

### Princess of Wales Theatre

300 King Street W. 1-800-461-3333

[www.mirvish.com](http://www.mirvish.com)

### Canon Theatre

244 Victoria Street 1-800-461-3333

[www.mirvish.com](http://www.mirvish.com)

### Elgin & Winter Garden Theatre

189 Yonge Street 416-314-2901

[www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)

### National Ballet of Canada

470 Queens Quay W. 416-345-9595

[www.national.ballet.ca](http://www.national.ballet.ca)

### Canadian Opera Company

227 Front Street E. 416-363-6671

[www.coc.ca](http://www.coc.ca)

### Toronto Symphony Orchestra

212 King Street W. 416-593-7769

[www.tso.on.ca](http://www.tso.on.ca)

### Massey Hall

178 Victoria Street 416-872-4255

[www.masseyhall.com](http://www.masseyhall.com)

### Roy Thomson Hall

60 Simcoe Street 416-872-4255

[www.roythomson.com](http://www.roythomson.com)

### Famous People Players Dinner Theatre

110 Sudbury Street 416-532-1137 or

[www.fpp.org](http://www.fpp.org) 1-888-453-3385

### The Second City

56 Blue Jays Way 416-343-0011 or

[www.secondcity.com](http://www.secondcity.com) 1-800-263-4485

### Royal Ontario Museum

100 Queen's Park 416-586-5549

[www.rom.on.ca](http://www.rom.on.ca)

### Art Gallery of Ontario

417 Dundas Street W. 416-979-6648

[www.ago.net](http://www.ago.net)

### Bata Shoe Museum

372 Bloor Street W. 416-979-7799

[www.batashoemuseum.ca](http://www.batashoemuseum.ca)

# i n d u l g e

Toronto is a restaurant-goer's nirvana—once you decide where to go. One of the most ethnically diverse cities in the world, Toronto's rich heritage is reflected in its kitchens. What do you feel like having tonight: French, Chinese, Ethiopian, Italian, Jamaican, Japanese, Greek, Thai, or Portuguese... or perhaps some creative fusion of two or more styles? Here are some of the best for your consideration.



**Top Right:** Dining at Rain, a fashionable Toronto watering hole.

**Above:** Shaken or stirred, there's plenty of action in Toronto's many bistros and bars.

## downtown dining

**Brassai:** As elegantly modern as the works of the French photographer for whom it is named, this new King Street West restaurant sets the standard for excellent bistro cooking. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, it makes for a picture-perfect dining experience.

**Bymark:** Located in the shadow of Mies van der Rohe's TD Centre, this glamorous restaurant lives up to its legendary setting. Sensual luxury is equally present in the sleekly modern décor and on the plate.

**Susur:** Internationally acclaimed chef Susur Lee's eponymous restaurant has become a must for gourmards. Lee's Asian-inspired culinary creations have garnered high praise for their bold, intense flavors and presentation. Menu changes daily based on what Lee buys fresh that morning at the markets.

**Xacutti:** Little Italy isn't known for its Indian fusion cuisine but with the arrival of Xacutti it soon will be. The warm appeal of cardamom and ginger has never been so clear.

**Avalon:** Located a block north of Toronto's vibrant theater district, Avalon offers a nightly, eclectic tasting menu paired with wines. The results sometimes surprise but always delight.

**Lee Garden:** Situated in the heart of Chinatown, this ever-popular Cantonese restaurant serves some of the freshest seafood in the city.

**Canoe:** Spectacularly located on the 54th floor of the Toronto-Dominion Tower, Canoe takes you on a culinary journey that shows off Canadian cuisine at its finest. Tender caribou will have you wondering why you have been eating beef all these years.



**Above:** Casual dining is one of Toronto's great pleasures.



**Monsoon:** The Asian-Fusion menu is a delight, but it can be hard to pay attention to. The difficulty is that the Yabu Pushelberg-designed interior - which won a James Beard Award - is so delicious in its own right.

**Perigee:** Because of its location in the Distillery Historic District, it's natural to wonder whether this French/Mediterranean restaurant is targeted at the tourist trade. Serious foodies can rest assured: the open kitchen dominates the room, making the dining experience here akin to a particularly dramatic chef's table.

**Rain:** Just across the street from the design-forward Hotel Le Germain, this Asian-fusion restaurant is a stunner. The seductive décor, including its waterfall walls, is a hit as are its signature dishes, such as miso black cod atop tatsoi greens.

**Brasserie Aix:** Another non-Italian entry in Little Italy, this bistro is making its mark with Asian-influenced French cooking and a subtly sexy interior (another masterstroke by Yabu Pushelberg).

**Rodney's:** So what if Toronto is nowhere near an ocean - it can fly in some of the best seafood you've ever tasted. There's an expression you will hear patrons use a lot here: "Make love to your oyster." It's love at first bite in this down-home eatery.

## dining about town

**Sassafras:** Situated in celebrity-studded Yorkville, patrons keep one eye on the Fusion-inspired menu and the other on the entrance, since stars show up with regularity and mob the place during the Toronto International Film Festival.

**Colony Kitchen:** It's a seen-and-be-seen spot, but the cooking steals the show. Asian flavors transform even the simplest dishes.

**Boba:** Situated in a renovated turn-of-the-last-century house, this is an elegant but cozy dinner spot. The menu mixes European and Asian flavors, with delicious results.

**Bistro 990:** For classic French cuisine it's hard to beat this midtown mainstay. The three-course prix fixe dinner menu is an especially good idea, since the desserts are impossible to resist.

**North 44:** One of the most famous restaurants in Toronto, this spot lives up to its glittering reputation. The international menu highlights the best Canadian produce. But it's the soft, sexy lighting that gives the restaurant its romantic appeal.

**Centro:** Yes, it's a scene, but one in which everyone gets a warm welcome. The wine bar downstairs is open till the wee hours, but the real reason to come here is the cooking. Centro's origins are Northern Italian, but its offerings range to other Mediterranean cuisines.



## Toronto taste treats

Bymark	66 Wellington Street W.	416-777-1144
North 44	2537 Yonge Street	416-487-4897
Susur	601 King Street W.	416-603-2205
Sassafras	100 Cumberland Street	416-964-2222
Truffles	21 Avenue Road	416-928-7331
The Fifth	225 Richmond Street W.	416-979-3005
Avalon	270 Adelaide Street W.	416-979-9918
Biff's	4 Front Street East	416-860-0086
Canoe	66 Wellington Street W.	416-364-0054
Monsoon	100 Simcoe Street	416-979-7172
Rain	19 Mercer Street	416-599-7246
Joso's	202 Davenport Road	416-925-1903
Bistro 990	990 Bay Street	416-921-9990
Lai Wah Heen	108 Chestnut Street	416-977-9899
Rodney's	469 King Street W.	416-363-8105

## celebrating food

*Food is so important to Toronto that the city holds annual festivals to celebrate the subject. Here are a few to watch out for:*

### **SANTÉ – THE BLOOR-YORKVILLE WINE FESTIVAL:**

Early in May, this four-day gourmet showcase highlights the work of some of the city's best chefs, paired up with award-winning vintages from the Niagara, Ontario wine region.

### **TASTE OF LITTLE ITALY:**

This neighborhood may be internationally renowned, but it still respects its roots. The two-day June party features food, music, and crafts.

### **CARIBANA:**

Caribana reinvents Toronto as a tropical paradise for a couple of weeks in July. Between parades, concerts, ferry cruises and art exhibits, you can sample the best of Caribbean cuisine.

### **TASTE OF THE DANFORTH:**

Toronto's Greek neighborhood comes alive with a celebration of Greek and Mediterranean cuisine in mid-August.



**Left:** Fashion forward boutiques can define entire neighborhoods, such as Yorkville or Queen St. West.

# *in*comparable

There's nothing to haggle about on this subject: Toronto is one of the great shopping cities of the world. Visitors will appreciate the favorable exchange rate on the Canadian dollar but the real allure is the sheer diversity. Check out the best in Canadian fashion and European style. Don't be surprised if you find yourself answering the same question on returning home: Where did you get that? Toronto, of course.

## *fashion capital*

Toronto is a magnet for fashion designers across Canada. "We have so many gifted designers and so much emerging talent," says Robin Kay, president of the Fashion Design Council of Canada. One showcase for it is Toronto Fashion Week, which is becoming part of the international fashion calendar. The best and brightest present their fall and spring collections in this twice-yearly event.

As Toronto's fashion industry has grown, so has the number of homegrown labels and boutiques. While it's true that some of the local designers sell their fashions internationally - Lida Baday, Brian Bailey, Franco Mirabelli, Mercy, and Mistura by Joeffer Caoc are among the designers that can be found at top US retailers - many more are available exclusively in Toronto. "There's a lot

to discover in terms of young, edgy designers," says Jeanne Beker, host of the internationally syndicated Fashion Television. Some designers and labels to watch for in Toronto are Crystal Siemens, David Dixon, Wolves and Mabel.

## where to buy

There are a number of shopping neighborhoods sprinkled throughout Toronto, each with its own distinct appeal and panache. The most exclusive is Bloor Street West between Yonge Street and Avenue Road. Here is where you will find the signature boutiques of top European designers: Armani, Hermès, Chanel, Prada, Vuitton, and Escada, to name a few. It's also where you'll find fine jewelers such as Bulgari, Cartier, Tiffany, and Birks. While you're in the neighborhood, you'll want to check out Holt Renfrew. Fresh from a multi-million-dollar upgrade and expansion, this luxury store carries some of the very best Canadian and international labels in its fashion, accessories, and cosmetics departments. Exclusive mini-boutiques set up within the multi-level store feature Smythson of London, Dolce & Gabbana, Burberry, Paul Smith, and Links of London for fine accessories. The store also has an excellent showcase of Canadian designers. Even if you're not in the mood to shop, both the Estée Lauder Spa and the Holt's Café will lure you in.

Some spots to watch out for are Jeanne Lottie (for chic handbags), I-cii (featuring Comme des Garçons and Ann Demeulemeester), Augustina (for feminine baubles from jewelry to lingerie), Nocean (for unusual and exotic pens). The neighborhood is also the home of Hazelton Lanes, a shopping complex

that includes the likes of Woman Apothecary for toiletries and Teatro Verde for glamorous home décor. Yorkville is also renowned for its small commercial art galleries, including Feheley Fine Arts, Nancy Poole's Studio, Sable-Castelli, and Kinsman Robinson.

Other neighborhoods where you'll find fascinating shops are dotted throughout the city. Rosedale boasts fine antiques and excellent reproductions at shops such as Putti, Belle Epoque, and L'Atelier. The new Distillery Historic District is gaining a reputation for its commercial art galleries. Kensington Market is the place to go for vintage clothing and accessories.

While the multi-level Toronto Eaton Centre has its share of American chains, it also has quite a few Canadian retailers. Check out Browns (for shoes), La Senza and La Vie en Rose (both for lingerie), Harry Rosen (for men's clothing), Mendocino and Femme de Carriere (for women's clothing) and Laura Secord (for chocolate). Across the street you'll find The Bay, an expansive department store that started out as a fur-trading company in the 17th century.

Pretty Yorkville boutiques line 19th century Cumberland Lane.





## the art & design district

Funky divas and creative-minded professionals who want to see what's new and edgy and daring are now heading to West Queen West. Newly christened the Art & Design District, the neighborhood runs west from Bathurst Street, and it shouldn't be confused with Queen Street West. Queen Street West boasts cool boutiques such as Fashion Crimes and Price Roman, that sit side-by-side with more mainstream retailers like Club Monaco and Caban.

Over the past few years there has been a boom in designer boutiques in the Art & Design District, and the atmosphere is eclectic. High-end home décor shops such as Dexterity rub shoulders with beauty boutiques such as Rubies Beauty Bar. Men's clothiers include Delphic and Eza Wear, and women's include Pink Cobra and Comrags. And given the name, it's no surprise that the Art & Design District contains a number of small commercial galleries, such as the Stephen Bulger Gallery and the Susan Hobbs Gallery. "There's definitely a strong artistic flavor and spirit here," says Jamie Angell, owner of Angell Gallery. The community has attracted a diverse group of creative people, not only fashion designers and fine artists but photographers, film and television production types and graphic designers.



Window shopping, an affordable Toronto pastime.



## five sumptuous spas

After a day of indulging yourself in the shops, pamper the body, lift the spirit and nourish the soul at one of the city's many fine spas. Here are five of the best:

### Elizabeth Milan Hotel Day Spa

Arcade Level, The Fairmont Royal York 416-350-7500

[www.fairmont.ca](http://www.fairmont.ca)

This Mediterranean-themed spa's specialties are body treatments such as The Chocolate Body Indulgence and The Amazing Grape Treatment, both 90 minutes long.

### The Elmwood Spa

18 Elm Street 416-977-6751

[www.elmwoodspa.com](http://www.elmwoodspa.com)

The multilevel Elmwood specializes in skin care especially facials such as the DNA Facial (a.k.a. The Elmwood Facelift). The Thai massage is another specialty.

### Stillwater Spa

Park Hyatt 416-926-2389

[www.stillwaterspa.com](http://www.stillwaterspa.com)

Calm and serenity prevail at this high-end spa with trickling water features and special lighting techniques. Aqua therapy in a private pool and the Mandarin Honey Body Glow, a vichy therapy scrub, are two of the more popular body treatments.

### Victoria Spa

Hotel Intercontinental 416-413-9100

[www.victoriaspa.com](http://www.victoriaspa.com)

225 Front Street W., 3rd floor

A calm-inducing space accented with Asian artifacts welcomes patrons into the Victoria Spa. Popular treatments include Ayurvedic facials and body treatments.

### Votre Beauté European Day Spa

Westin Harbour Castle 416-203-8483

Sleek, modern Italian décor, a floor to ceiling waterfall and original art create an upscale environment for a full range of body therapies.

A few of the more popular treatments are the organic apple body scrub and body wrap, and an anti-aging facial with ginseng.



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The Paramount at Richmond and John at the epicenter of Toronto's nightclub scene.

## clubs and lounges

Toronto is a competitive town. That's the only way one could explain the seemingly endless array of recent nightclub openings "The clubs are so glamorous that it's almost like a competition to be the sleekest, the hippest, the sexiest", says Li Robbins, who writes the nightlife column for Toronto Life magazine.

That's not to say that only the newest nightspots have the best offerings. "The whole club scene has been evolving as older clubs give themselves facelifts and renovations," says Li Robbins. "They are part of that competition to have the sexiest

décor and the best DJs coming in. Toronto attracts DJs from Europe and the UK. They are some of the best in the world, and that's another reason the club scene is so vibrant."

One new contender is C Lounge, which opened to great fanfare in October. C's take on streamlined design creates an elegant space punctuated with indoor waterfalls, and its music is a sultry mix of R&B and electronica. In case that were not enough reason to stay and lounge awhile, C also has an Aveda mini-spa onsite and a masseuse on full-time duty. Talk about easing out the stresses of the day.

# i n t r i g u e

Deciding where to lounge in Toronto will be the only challenging part of your evening. You can satisfy a craving for champagne one night and unwind over a game of pool the next, or you could listen to live music every night of the week.

**Right:** Bistros and bars are among the hundreds of Toronto's night-hopping choices.



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Senses, a beautiful Toronto bar for beautiful Toronto people, is located in the sleek new Soho Metropolitan Hotel.

## and now for something completely different

*Imbibing cocktails and live music is a pleasure, but Toronto's calendar of events includes many night-and-day events that will appeal to other palates.*

### Harbourfront Reading Series:

2004 marks the 30th anniversary of this year-round program, which features Canadian authors such as Margaret Atwood and Barbara Gowdy reading their work.

### Toronto International Film Festival:

This make or break event for filmmakers takes place every September for 10-days with more than 250 films from 70 countries.

### International Festival of Authors:

The jewel in the crown of Harbourfront's reading series, this is the largest spoken-word festival in the world. It lures authors from Salman Rushdie to A.S. Byatt to come read their work. Staged every October, the festival's many events are packed into 11 days.

Another see-and-be-seen spot is Lobby, which has carved out its own special niche on the most elegant stretch of Bloor Street West. The lounge's interior design is white-on-white, with fresh flower arrangements and an airy, spacious atmosphere. It has the distinction of running its own small gallery space featuring the work of up-and-coming young artists.

Alto Basso, in the heart of Little Italy, is more laid-back. With a dance floor that shakes to a mix

of techno, African drumming remixes and other inspirational rhythms, you'll spend more time moving your body than checking out the scene. At the Gypsy Co-op, once the dinner crowd clears out, this lively spot is transformed into a dance club playing pulsating house music with soul and funk overtones. The triple-decker Joker nightclub is highly regarded for both its look - its third-story Cathedral Room really does have a vaulted ceiling - its hip hop and R&B sounds, and its pool lounge.



## the live music scene

Toronto has one of the most exciting music scenes in the world. "This is the hub of Canada's musical life, and people come here from all parts of the country to collaborate, record and play live," says Li Robbins. "A lot of highly talented musicians are in one place. Toronto's music community is tightly connected, and musicians from all kinds of backgrounds play with different ensembles in different combinations. It's exciting, and the sum is greater than the individual parts."

The small but dedicated local jazz scene is evidence of the elevated tastes to which the many nightlife proprietors cater. The legendary Jeff Healey has created an eponymous club that features his ensemble - Jeff Healey's Jazz Wizards - as well as the sounds of rock and roll, blues, and R&B. The classic Top O' the Senator lounge is another of the city's leading jazz destinations; its headliners run the gamut from sultry vocalist Molly Johnson to sax goddess Jane Bunnett. Up for more? The annual Downtown Jazz Festival and the Beaches International Jazz Festival draw thousands every year to experience some of the best and most important jazz that North America has to offer.

For aficionados of other musical styles, here are a few spots to keep in mind. Bambu by the Lake is a new addition to the Harbourfront area, enlivening it with the sounds of calypso, salsa, and soul. The legendary El Mocambo has shuttered its original venue, where the Rolling Stones rocked in the 1970s, but its rock and roll roster has moved into the Tequila Lounge. The Horseshoe Tavern launched the careers of Blue Rodeo and The Tragically Hip, and while it features major acts on most nights, Tuesdays are devoted to up-and-coming local bands. If you're very lucky, you might catch homegrown acts such as the Barenaked Ladies or Ron Sexsmith playing around town.



Live music at the Cameron House is a Toronto nightclub institution.

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### C Lounge

456 Wellington Street W. 416-260-9393

### Lobby

192 Bloor Street W. 416-929-7169

[www.eatdrinkplay.ca](http://www.eatdrinkplay.ca)

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# *i*ndescribable

THE WONDER OF NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO

The Horseshoe Falls at Niagara Falls: the Seventh Wonder of the World.



In addition to its most famous natural wonder, the Niagara Falls, this region is also home to both a wondrous microclimate that makes the area a vintner's dream, and the Shaw Festival, a marvel of the theater world.

## **niagara falls and the niagara parkway**

Once regarded as the honeymoon capital of North America, Niagara Falls is now a major entertainment destination. The billion-dollar Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort complex is the most recent addition to a roster of major players. The new resort will feature a five-star hotel and spa, several innovative restaurants and plenty of gambling space.

Magnificent though it may be, it's hard for any man-made structure to compete with the grandeur of the Falls. The best way to see them is aboard the Maid of the Mist, a boat tour that takes visitors through the churning waters of the American side of the Falls, past the Rock of Ages, and to the foot of Horseshoe Falls. You can also take in a spectacular view of the region from the upper reaches of the Skylon Tower Observation Deck.





**wine country** A 90-minute drive southwest of Toronto will transport you into the picture-perfect landscape of the Niagara Region and its surprisingly excellent wines. Oenophiles know that Niagara lies on the same latitude as France's Burgundy region and that vintners carefully selected varietals that would flourish, such as pinot noir, gamay, chardonnay, and cabernet sauvignon.



The most famous product of the grape in Niagara is the region's world-renowned icewine. So deliciously rich and sweet that it easily replaces dessert at the end of a fine dinner, icewine is a rare treat. Niagara's vintners have swept international judges off their feet with their icewines. In 2003 alone, Pillitteri Estates Winery won the Excellence Trophy for its icewines at Les Citadelles du Vin in Bourg sur Girond, France, and the Henry of Pelham winery took home the gold for its icewine in the Challenge International de Vin in Blaye-Bourg, France.

You can sample icewine for yourself by taking a tour of the region along its charming wine road. In summer, almost all of the area's 56 wineries offer tours and many now have added culinary experiences where visitors are entertained with wine and food pairings. Some, such as Strewn Winery, offer cooking classes where chefs show you how to marry the tastes of food and wine in the perfect union. One of the best gourmet experiences can be found at Hillebrand Estates Winery's Vineyard Café, with its regionally-inspired menu. Vineland Estates boasts an outdoor dining room as well as an indoor one, so you can enjoy drinking in the scenery as well as its award-winning vintages, and even arranges helicopter flights directly into the vineyard. At the postcard-pretty Good Earth Cooking School dynamic chefs teach private cooking classes to visitors.

Keep an eye out for Niagara's beautiful architecture. The most exciting project is Toronto-born Frank Gehry's soaring design for Le Clos Jordan Winery, slated for completion in 2006.

For more information on Niagara experiences, visit these websites: [www.savourontario.ca](http://www.savourontario.ca), [www.wineroute.com](http://www.wineroute.com), [www.shawfest.com](http://www.shawfest.com)



**Top:** Sampling wine at a Niagara vineyard.

**Left:** One of the Niagara region's many architecturally distinguished wineries.

**Right:** World renown icewine from the Niagara Region.





Taking a stroll through picturesque Niagara-on-the-Lake.

## niagara-on-the-lake & the shaw festival

Niagara Falls may be the instantly recognizable face of the Niagara region, but the charming town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is its heart. Fiercely protective of its historic beauty, the town's residents have ensured that new construction is styled to fit in seamlessly with the old, for an effect that is visually stunning.

However, quaint charm isn't the only thing that attracts visitors to Niagara-on-the-Lake. The single biggest

drawing card would be the world-renowned Shaw Festival. Featuring the best plays from 1856 (the year the Irish writer was born) to today, the festival starts in April and runs through early December. The 2004 season brings Shaw's *Pygmalion* and *Man and Superman* to the stage, along with *Ah, Wilderness!* by Eugene O'Neill, *Harlequinade* by Terence Rattigan, and *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde.

## great golf

*One of the unique things about the Niagara, Ontario wine region is that so much is packed into such a small space. As if wine, food, and natural wonders weren't enough to keep you busy, there are also championship golf courses and outstanding spas.*

**The Legends on the Niagara** golf complex, located on 700 acres bordering the Niagara River, features not one but two 18-hole championship courses designed by two of Canada's most dynamic golf architects, Tom McBroom and Doug Carrick.

**The Royal Niagara** course is famous for its use of water. Comprised of three nine-hole courses, the Royal Niagara's unique features include tees set on the brink of the Welland Canal.

**The Whirlpool Golf Course** was designed by the legendary golf architect Stanley Thompson and is set against the stunning backdrop of the Niagara Gorge.



## how to get here

**By air:** 40 airlines connect to Toronto's Pearson International Airport (YYZ). Pearson Airport is located 27 kms (16 miles) from downtown.

**By rail:** VIA Rail and AMTRAK bring visitors into the city. Union Station is located downtown and connects to the subway.

**By road:** Several highways link surrounding cities to Toronto. Nearest Canada-U.S. border crossings: Niagara Falls, Fort Erie and Windsor.

# information

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