

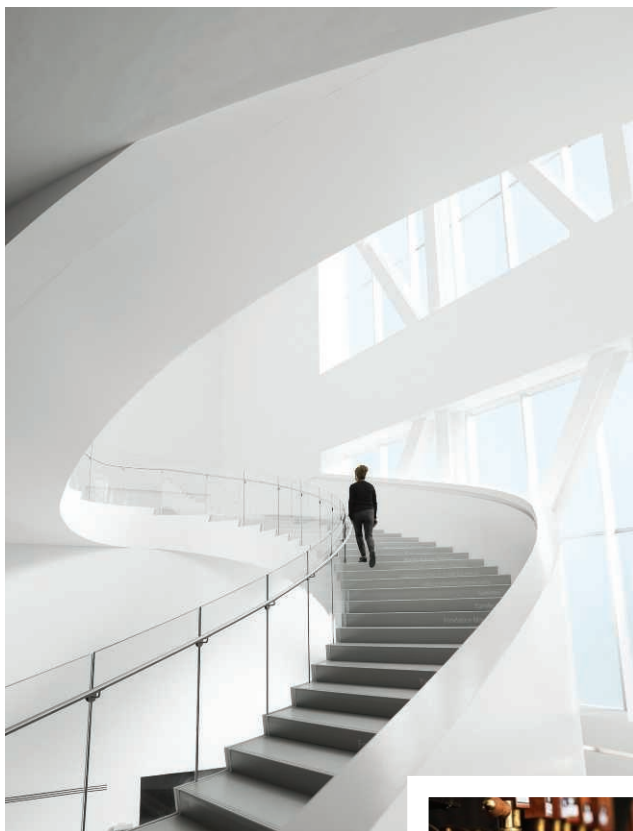
YOUR JOURNEY BEGINS WITH US

VIRTUOSO LIFE

JULY | AUGUST 2022

Endless
Summer

Blissed out in the Balearics



Clockwise from top left: Le Musée national des beaux-arts, Cidrerie et Vergers Pedneault, La Barberie, and Le Clan.

New France Now

Inuit artisans, poutine, and a modern outlook in Québec City.

BY JEN ROSE SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY BY DANA DOROBANTU

GO FOR For a cobblestoned aerie at the wilderness cusp, Québec City wears its centuries of history with a distinctly modern sensibility. Founded by explorer Samuel de Champlain in 1608, it was to be New France's riverside heart. Though gabled roofs within the **UNESCO-listed ramparts** retain a soupçon of Paris, a closer look reveals Northwoods avant-garde. Chic restaurants craft cutting-edge *boréal* cuisine sourced from nearby forests; Inuit sculpture in **Le Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec** showcases Indigenous innovators work in bone and rock. Upper-latitude luxuries abound: Boutiques brim with lush woolens, while thermal pools at **Strøm Nordic Spa** are steamy vantage points from which to watch tides pulling at the Saint Lawrence River. Over time, the city has swelled to just over half a million residents, but

most historic sites cozy into the walkable hilltop Upper Town and riverside Lower Town, with a vintage funicular to link the two.

EAT Refined tasting menus at **Le Clan** nod to producers with deep ties to the Québec landscape, but the new restaurant transcends the usual farm-to-table fare. Portraits of fishermen and farmers line the moodily hip dining room. One angler even harvests barrels of seawater for use in the restaurant's sour-dough loaves.

A sugar shack is no place for restraint: Re-creating the woody conviviality of maple season, **Restaurant La Bûche** is a syrup-drenched entrée to Québécois comfort food. Try hearty poutine, *tourtière* meat pie, or pork *crettons* on toast, followed by a gooey dollop of maple taffy on snow.



DRINK Exuberant summertime energy feels like a season-long party at **La Cour arrière du Festibière**, where revelers split sangria pitchers in a riverfront, ankle-deep wading pool from June through September.

In the stylish Saint-Roch neighborhood, a gardenlike terrace wraps cooperative microbrewery **La Barberie**. Beers range from blackberry-tart Blanche aux Mûres white beer to Marée Basse wild ale, aged for two years in Bordeaux barrels.

SHOP Amid the Upper Town's centuries-old tangle of streets, Innu-owned **Atikuss** sells beaded moccasins and mukluks sewn in Québec's remote North Shore community of Uashat mak Mani-utenam by First Nations women artisans. Accents of fur from responsibly hunted beaver, fox, or seal banish cold

in bespoke, knee-high leather "hopeboots" with an Arctic-ready designer sensibility.

From the Upper Town, ride the 1879 funicular downhill to endlessly browsable galleries and boutiques along **rue du Petit-Champlain**. Sample local treats at **Cidrerie et Vergers Pedneault**, including piquant ice cider fermented from late-harvest apples left to freeze when winter temps plummet.

STAY Copper-roofed turrets at the 610-room **Fairmont le Château Frontenac** crown Québec City's Upper Town, high ground that lends the 1893 property marvelous views. A longtime perch for royalty – both the old-world and Hollywood varieties – the Château's oak-paneled lobby exudes Jazz Age sophistication. Snag a window seat at elegant Champlain restaurant to watch summertime fireworks over the Saint Lawrence. *Doubles from \$450, including breakfast daily and a \$100 dining credit.*

History is intimate at **Auberge Saint-Antoine**, whose Lower Town location is a two-minute walk from the Old Port's main cruise terminal. Archaeological artifacts found on-site are displayed in each of its 95 distinctly designed rooms and suites, while flagship restaurant Chez Muffy serves warmly sophisticated farm-to-table cuisine in a stone-walled, 1822 maritime warehouse that's been reverently updated. *Doubles from \$337, including breakfast daily and a \$100 dining credit.* **VI**



Clockwise from left: The Fairmont over Lower Town, Strøm Nordic Spa, Atikuss, Champlain Street, and La Bûche.