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Air Canada Announces Canada's Best New Restaurants 2018

The Restaurant at Pearl Morisette in Ontario named Canada's Best New Restaurant

MONTREAL, Oct. 26, 2018 /CNW Telbec/ - Thousands of restaurants launch every year, but only ten remarkable destinations can call themselves Canada's Best New Restaurants. Today, Air Canada and presenting partner American Express revealed its highly-coveted Top 10 list with The Restaurant at Pearl Morisette from Jordan, ON, placing atop the list as Canada's Best New Restaurant.

Located in wine country on the Niagara Peninsula, The Restaurant at Pearl Morisette has two chefs who serve an ever-changing, multi-course menu of locally produced and foraged ingredients inspired by seasonal French cooking. Coming in second is wine bar Vin Mon Lapin in Montreal, the latest installment from the city's Joe Beef team. Also hailing from Montreal is this year's third place winner, Italian eatery Elena from the founders of hot spot Nora Gray.

To create the list of Canada's Best New Restaurants, a panel of industry experts considered every new bistro, pub and cafe to generate a delicious selection of restaurants for one writer to visit. This took the writer on a month-long quest from coast to coast to coast, sampling cuisine as diverse as Canada itself. The contest is sponsored by, American Express, Acura Canada, Diageo World Class Canada and Nespresso.



"So many cities across Canada are now recognized as culinary destinations, inspiring both national and international travel. With Canada's Best New Restaurants, Air Canada is shining a well-deserved spotlight on the chefs who make our country one of the most diverse and desirable places to dine," says Andy Shibata, Managing Director, Brand, Air Canada. "For 17 years, Air Canada has celebrated the chefs and innovators who are putting Canada on the map and this year's Top Ten are welcome additions to this highly-coveted club."

"As an ongoing sponsor of Air Canada's Best New Restaurants, we are delighted in this list, which inspires our Cardmembers with such evolution within Canadian cuisine," said David Barnes, VP of Communications and Advertising, American Express Canada. "Canada has an incredible restaurant scene and Amex Cardmembers rely on our brand to give them access to the best restaurants and chefs."

A sense of playfulness and adventure abounds in Canadian restaurants — chefs are serving serious food without taking themselves too seriously. An ice cream sundae is the prized dessert at Aloette, and hoser-classic Labatt 50 is on the drink list at St. Lawrence. Elena's colourful jet-set décor hosts a pizza-focused menu groaning with puns, while Bündok, located in Edmonton's hopping young Ice District, grooves to a killer playlist curated by its snowboarding chef.

Here's the complete list of Air Canada's Best New Restaurants 2018:

- The Restaurant at Pearl Morisette (Jordan, ON): Atop a massive black barn, the restaurant glows like a landlocked lighthouse on the Niagara Peninsula. The prix-fixe menu features ingredients largely grown or foraged from the surrounding land, with pairings drawn from the winery's holdings and like-minded makers across the globe.
- Vin Mon Lapin (Montreal, QC): The green of potted plants dapples the white walls of this Little Italy oasis, where stellar wines play off layered flavours and textures. This spot serves a dazzling salad of endive, caramelized pumpkin seeds, pickled elderberries and shaved foie gras matches with the creamy minerality of a Loire Valley Domaine du Haut-Planty muscadet, while aromatic Jerusalem artichoke bread topped with sunflower crumble finds a partner in a sunflower butter.
- Elena (Montreal, QC): To see what's making Montreal buzz, step into the electric Italian-modern comfort of Elena, a pizza and pasta restaurant from the Nora Gray team. Chow down on pizza showered with six kinds of mushrooms, celery root and taleggio; and handmade tagliatelle with a robust pork and beef ragù.
- St. Lawrence (Vancouver, BC): This cozy, teal-panelled spot excels at fat tranches of smoked-ham-studded pâté en croûte accompanied by two kinds of mustard and bottomless crocks of cornichons. A must try is the sautéed sweetbreads with mashed potatoes and morels that are doused with a deep, savoury jus.
- Giulietta (Toronto, ON): Sip on low-alcohol amaro spritzes amid Italian-wool-covered walls, the hip and beautiful come to this west-end outpost for its combination of painstaking technique and robust, elegant flavours. They serve up a beautiful plate of fork-tender goat which undergoes a four-hour braise before appearing atop a creamy pool of polenta that tastes both of butter and chicken broth.
- Aloette (Toronto, ON): The casual dishes served reveal a serious attention to detail: wedge salad with thin slices of avocado and a sprinkle of crunchy wild rice, pumpkin seeds and soy beans, torched scallops with wasabi peas and a burger enriched with brisket and pungent Beaufort cheese.
- Avenue (Regina, SK): The super-tight chef-bartender team behind Ayden in Saskatoon touches down in a city centre heritage building. Their menu consists of tender seared Diefenbaker trout preens on a creamy bed of fresh peas, asparagus and three-grain risotto and a raspberry soufflé.
- Bündok (Edmonton): Catch a chef on the rise at this dark-wood-accented downtown space. Don't miss out on their glistening slices of fruity, olive-oil-painted sea bream crudo that are showered with diced apple and Thai basil, brought into vivid relief with orange flecks of bird's eye chili.
- Sand and Pearl (Picton, ON): Feast on Fogo Island crab legs, buttery lobster rolls on pain au lait and Manitoulin Island trout niçoise salad that pops with pickled green beans and lemony crème fraîche. Wash them down with Parsons Hula Hoop Sour beer or a Huff Estates pinot gris.
- The Courtney Room (Victoria, B.C.): Steak and seafood get dressed up at this serene Victoria sanctuary outfitted with a creative charcuterie cabinet. Their duck breast is aged for two weeks to deepen its flavours, then seared and nestled among Tokyo turnips and braised daikon – perfect with a plummy B.C. Lock and Worth merlot.

Readers can view the full story and find out more about the winners in the pull-out dining guide in the November issue of Air

Canada enRoute magazine and online at CanadasBestNewRestaurants.com.

Canada's Best New Restaurants Video Series

Go to CanadasBestNewRestaurants.com for behind-the-scenes videos of this year's top three restaurants: The Restaurant at Pearl Morissette, Vin Mon Lapin and Elena. Now also screening on the Food, Documentary and Travel TV channels on the Inflight Entertainment system on most Air Canada flights.

Awards Celebration

The Top 10 restaurants were revealed during the annual Canada's Best New Restaurants event on October 25, 2018, at the Queen Richmond Centre West in Toronto. Top chefs from across the country gathered to show off their culinary skills, serving the public, industry professionals and Air Canada guests flavours from their winning menus. For event photos, please see link: <https://bit.ly/2ytzLdd>.

About Air Canada

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