



joie de vivre of

# Montréal

story by LAURIE WALLACE-LYNCH

Head out the front doors of Montreal's posh Queen Elizabeth Hotel enroute to the Cirque Festival, and you'll run straight into a dancing, jumping, singing crowd of party revellers enjoying the Caribbean Festival Parade. It's easy to see why Montreal is known as Festival City. »









«Somewhere in Montreal's All Things Fun Festival Office a calendar as big as the city's new Ferris wheel is where the master planner would keep track of the hundreds of festivals taking place each year. They start off the year with Igloofest in January and end the year with the Christmas Market. There are so many festivals, that many overlap as the seemingly non-stop party spills out into neighbourhoods around the city.

In just a four-day period in early July, revellers can take in the famous Montreal Jazz Festival, the Cirque Festival, the First Friday Food Truck Festival at Olympic Stadium (the largest food truck gathering in Canada, held the first Friday of every month from May to October), while the Caribbean Festival and the Festival International Nuits D'Afrique also run back-to-back. Meanwhile, you would have just missed the Mural Fest in June, but still experience the stunning results.

### Montreal International Jazz Festival

This summer, the Montreal International Jazz Festival will celebrate its 40th anniversary. Traditionally held in downtown Montreal, the event has been expanded to include performances in a number of other neighbourhoods throughout the city from June 22 to July 7. Each year, it's a must-see event, showcasing the talents of some of the best in the industry on both indoor and outdoor stages. From traditional jazz to bands commonly heard on rock radio stations, such as The War on Drugs, a Grammy Award winner for Best Rock Album, there is something for everyone to enjoy. The festival has 1,000 concerts held at 15 indoor venues and 10 outdoor venues with more venues added for 2019.



At one time, Montreal was known as "Sin City" due to the number of top jazz clubs, fuelled by Prohibition. Name a well known jazz artist and it's likely they performed in Montreal. And the city maintains a string of jazz clubs in the city, thus making it the ideal location for an International Jazz Festival. While attending the festival, enjoy a delicious meal and fine wines at La Blumenthal, conveniently located right beside the main outdoor stage. From their outdoor patio, fans can sip wine and listen to the acts on the concert stage.

### Montreal Cirque Festival

The Montreal Cirque Festival is a sight to behold. Performers show off their talents on giant rings or walk the tight-rope over a busy downtown street. The dazzling spectacle features incredible performances by more than 100 circus artists from across Canada, Australia, France, Spain, Finland and Sweden. Impressive talents are showcased in street performances, as well as indoor performances during the 10-day festival in early July.

### Montreal Mural Fest

During the past five years, the streetscapes around St. Laurent Boulevard have undergone an artistic makeover, thanks to the annual Mural Festival and the talents of international artists who paint murals on the side of buildings. Since the creation of Mural Fest, the neighbourhood now boasts more than 200 wall art murals to complement a buzzing restaurant scene. The festival attracts a million and a half visitors each year. Highlights include the mural of baseball icon Jackie







Robinson by Fluke Art, and the Leonard Cohen mural by Kevin Ledo. The festival lasts 10 days so you can watch artists at work. Some are painted over the following year, while others remain for several years. A great way to see the murals is to take a guided walking or bike tour with Spade & Palacio and then enjoy lunch at La Fabrique, some fresh bagels at St-Viateur Bagels or an irresistible smoked meat sandwich at the famous Schwartz's Deli. »

Above: Mont-Tremblant Blues Festival

Left top: Mont-Tremblant Luge ride  
Left middle: The Montreal Cirque Festival

Left bottom: Montreal International Jazz Festival

Below: Montreal Mural Fest



### «Discover other attractions

Between the festivals, be sure to do some shopping on Sainte-Catherine Street West and explore Old Montreal on foot and then hop on the enormous La Grande Roué de Montreal (Ferris wheel) to enjoy a panoramic view of the port and the old city. At night, head to Notre Dame Cathedral to enjoy a spectacular sound and light show.

### Living the Goodlife in the Laurentians

The fun and festivals continue in the Laurentians for the 25th Anniversary of the Mont Tremblant International Blues Festival. The Fairmont Mont Tremblant is a gorgeous home base for the festival. Not only does the Fairmont Hotel overlook the village of Mont Tremblant, a simple walk down the hill and opens up into the festival's main Casino Stage, amongst a plethora of great restaurants, lounges



and boutiques. A few of the top-notch acts last summer included Moneyjunk, Victor Wainwright and Dawn Tyler Watson. There are shows happening day and night, spread throughout the many stages in the village.

### Luxuriate at Mont Tremblant

Mont Tremblant is fun central. In the winter it is renowned for great skiing, but the summer is filled with activities to enjoy including the mountain Luge ride, zip lining at Zyptrack Activity Centre, a Birds of Prey Show at the top of the mountain and visitors can swim or relax on the sand beach at Lake Tremblant, go kayaking, sailing or take a relaxing boat cruise. You can also visit the casino, go golfing or for an utterly relaxing day, do as we do, enjoying hours of pampering at the

luxurious Scandinave Spa. The spa is nestled amongst tall pines and on the banks of a fast flowing river. The unique three-part Scandinave method encourages clients to heat up in the relaxing thermal baths or steam rooms, cool down under a chilly waterfall, take a dip in a cold pool or swim in the fast-flowing river, and then unwind bundled up in a thick, fluffy white spa robe around a warming fire surrounded by chaise lounges.

Mont Tremblant comes to life again at night, not only in terms of the Blues Festival, but also the bars, restaurants and special events. A must-do family activity is the new Tonga Lumina Experience sound and light show. It's a fun ride up the mountain on the chair-lift and once you







Left top: Mont-Tremblant Blues Festival  
 Left middle: Montreal Mural Fest  
 Left bottom: Montreal International Jazz Festival  
 Below: The Montreal Cirque Festival



disembark, you follow a path deep into the mountain to marvel at the sound and light spectacle as you learn the legend of the giant who protects the mountain.

No matter what food you are craving, you are likely to find it at Mont Tremblant. From shared plates at Gypsy Restaurant at the Westin Hotel to Asian-inspired dishes at O'Wok, artisan pizzas at Pizzeria to beer sampling flights at La Diable Microbrewery, the international delights continue in terms of culinary and blues.

For more information visit [www.tourisme.quebec.com](http://www.tourisme.quebec.com), [www.quebecoriginal.com](http://www.quebecoriginal.com), <https://www.mtl.org/en>, [www.laurentides.com](http://www.laurentides.com), <https://mont-tremblant.ca/en/>, <https://www.fairmont.com/> »

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# Festivals in Montreal

## Montreal **MURAL** public ART festival

June 6-16, 2019

Montreal's MURAL Festival is an eleven day event celebrating the international urban art movement. Championing live art, music, exhibitions and artist talks, the Festival is an important gathering of the global artistic community. World class musicians and visual artists collaborate for a cultural celebration in the heart of Montreal on the Saint-Laurent Boulevard.

Through six successful editions, the MURAL Festival has transformed Montreal, reinforcing Montreal as a go to global destination for contemporary urban art and an ultimate tourist destination.

## Festival **INTERNATIONAL DE JAZZ** de Montréal

40TH EDITION, June 27 to July 6, 2019

Montreal transforms into the world's largest jazz club with approximately 1,000 concerts at 15 indoor and 10 outdoor venues. The event has transformed the city into a gathering place for lovers of all music, related to jazz.

## Just for **LAUGHS** FESTIVAL

July 10 to 28, 2019

The largest comedy festival in the world invites you to Montréal. Every summer, the festival tickles the city into a laughing frenzy with galas, street art, theatre productions, and stand-up performances. Hosting some 1,700 artists from 19 countries as well as over 2 million festival-goers, Just For Laughs offers over 1,000 performances, including hundreds of free outdoor shows.

## OSHEAGA **MUSIC** and ARTS Festival

August 2 to 4, 2019

Think Coachella minus the heat or Glastonbury without the mud plus an epic lineup of indie superstars. Dedicated to music and the visual arts, a big festival designed to showcase local and national emerging talents alongside some of the biggest names in the industry.

## Montréal **PRIDE**

August 8 to 18, 2019

A week of activities, events and parties along with a main program.

## ÎLESNIQ Montréal **ELECTRONIC** Music Festival

August 9 to 10, 2019

The latest and greatest electronic beats in the lush settings of Parc Jean Drapeau.

Since 2014, ÎleSoniq Montréal features some of the most popular artists from the electronic, dance and hip-hop scene. In addition to the hottest music programming, fun and entertaining activities, an urban art area, and all you need to refuel will amplify your festivaler's experience. End off your summer by dancing to the beats of your favorite DJs on the Montréal islands!

## **CIRQUE** International **CIRCUS ARTS** Festival

(MONTRÉAL CIRQUE FESTIVAL)

July 4 to 14, 2019

The urban landscape is transformed as circus acts take over the city!

Streets, parks and sidewalks become venues for colourful, high-flying performances. Family-friendly shows, new creations and innovations, circus-related activities, the Festival has something for everyone and is ready to welcome little ones or grown-ups in search of the extraordinary, surprises and emotions.

