

# CAPITAL VENTURE

Rediscover Ottawa, which walks the line between charming town and cosmopolitan city, with first-class cultural and historic experiences.

BY ANDREA KARR



## Modern Digs

### Alt Hotel Ottawa

#### STAY

Rest your head at the Canadian-owned Alt Hotel in downtown Ottawa, where you can grab snacks (or full meals) in the lobby and keep up your yoga practice with the hotel's new Nama-Stay yoga videos. Bonus: The Alt is eco-friendly, with geothermal energy used for heating and cooling, plus energy-efficient lighting.

## Historic Haven

### The Century House Bed and Breakfast Ottawa

With just four rooms, The Century House offers a quaint stay without skipping on modern amenities such as free parking and Wi-Fi. It's known for its gourmet breakfasts (think indulgent waffles or a hearty frittata), served up family-style in the dining room.



## Morning Munch

### Benny's Bistro

#### EAT

Hidden behind The French Baker in the ByWard Market, this is a tiny gem that serves some of our all-time favourite brekkies. Order the buck-wheat crêpe, which is stuffed with ham and Gruyère and topped with an egg.

## Dinner Hour

### Absinthe Café

Stop by this Wellington West hot spot for French-inspired cuisine and a taste of its namesake drink. On Monday nights, there's a special fondue menu; go with friends and order cheese and meat varieties to share, then finish with the Valrhona chocolate fondue for dessert.

## Sweet Treat

### Moo Shu Ice Cream & Kitchen

Try small-batch ice creams and ice cream truffles made with Ontario dairy and fresh, sometimes surprising, ingredients, like craft beer or lime leaves.



## Spring

### C'est Bon Gourmet Food Tours

#### DO

Take a guided walking and tasting tour of one of Ottawa's famed foodie neighbourhoods: the ByWard Market, Wellington Street, Preston Street (Little Italy), the Glebe or Chinatown.

## Summer

### Yowttawa

This outdoor music fest will celebrate the country's 150th anniversary with performances by Canadian artists, plus contributions by other international artists. (For more sesquicentennial offerings, see opposite.)

## Fall

### The Canada Science and Technology Museum

After \$80.5 million in renovations, the museum will reopen in November, just in time for its 50th anniversary of celebrating Canadian innovations, such as a prototype of the world's first pacemaker and a cobalt-60 therapy machine from the '50s—at the time, a revolutionary new way to deliver radiation to cancer patients.

## Winter

### Nordik Spa-Nature

Spend a day rotating between the spa's seven outdoor baths and eight saunas. Book a massage for ultimate R&R.

## What's Close By?

If you have the time to range farther afield, here are three other spots to see in Ontario.



### 1 HOUR AWAY

## PAKENHAM

Sporty types will love the ski hill, or visit Fulton's Pancake House & Sugar Bush for horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides, live music and maple treats.



### 2½ HOURS AWAY

## THOUSAND ISLANDS

A pretty archipelago with tons of history (it was once pirate territory!), this region is now an ideal spot to go boating, hiking and exploring historic castles.



### 3 HOURS AWAY

## PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY

Visit a few of the dozens of artist studios and galleries in the region, where you can even take an art class—in between wine tastings, of course.

