

Hazelton Hotel



he groundbreaker in Toronto's mixed-use hotel trend has been the Hazelton Hotel. The hotel is centrally located in the Mecca that is Hazelton and Yorkville, quite possibly the swankiest corner in the city. It does not shy away Yorkville's conspicuous status-symbol identity; it fully embraces it.

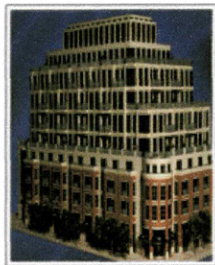
Unlike the current inclination of luxury hotels, though, the Hazelton opts for old-world European grandeur and small-scale exclusivity. Instead of a tall and sleek tower design, the building is only 9 stories tall and offers only 77 suites. This is all part of an attempt to appeal to the most affluent of world travelers in an attempt to become *the* best hotel in Canada.

It certainly has the accolades. For one, it's rated five-stars. That's like the Godfather, but of hotels. Secondly, it is the only Toronto hotel to be a member of Leading Small Hotels of the World, an international organization that takes pride in its extremely tough selection process. And the hotel wears these distinctions like a badge.

If you can afford the \$475 to \$850 a night, you'll be treated like 21st century royalty. At the Hazelton, everything in the (at least) 600 square foot rooms - from curtains to lights to air conditioning - can be controlled by remote from the comfort of your bed. The hotel also eschews the traditional "Do Not Disturb" sign in favour of push-button signals to hotel staff (presumably to conceal your expensive affair from your wife). Even the bathroom includes an LCD flatscreen television. Indulgent, no?

The hotel also includes the luxurious Spa at Hazelton and a restaurant called One, a foodie paradise chefred by Mark McEwan of North 44 and Bymark fame. But the developer's real pride and joy: the \$2 million, 26 seat screening room. After all, the hotel is in Yorkville, and what does Yorkville thrive upon? The Film Festival. Everything about the theatre screams VIP. The ceilings are five metres high, the walls are lined with mohair, and the seats are wide leather loungers and ottomans with side tables and lamps.

This hotel obviously isn't meant for Joe Sixpack. But bring it on, Brad, Paris, and Angelina.
-R.T.



Location

118 Yorkville Avenue, Toronto, ON

Phone

416-963-6300