

A HOME IN THE WOODS

Luxury chalets in Mont Tremblant allow for fun family sojourns

BY SUSAN SEMENAK

MY DREAM HOUSE IN MONT TREMBLANT would have a massive stone fireplace, a hot tub for soaking under the stars, panoramic views from every window and a walking trail through the woods. It would look just like Grand Forêt Villa, one of the chalets, villas and condos available for rent through Tremblant Living, which specializes in luxury boutique vacation rentals in Mont Tremblant, a 90-minute drive north of Montreal.

The rental company, founded in 2003, now manages 20 or so of Tremblant's most luxurious properties, many of which can

comfortably accommodate large groups, whether family reunions, ski trips with friends or corporate retreats.

"Yes, there are luxury hotels in Mont Tremblant, but for the same price, a few families sharing could have one of the most beautiful homes in the area all to themselves," says Tremblant Living's marketing manager Rivkah Sherman. "Everybody gets their own room, but there are large and luxurious spaces to be together, too. When you stay with us, it's not hard to imagine that you actually live here, in a house nestled in the woods, with a creek running nearby."

Grand Forêt, for example, is a 5,700-square-foot stone and wood house that sprawls over two floors on a five-acre wooded property with a view over the ski hill. The house has five bedrooms, each with its own ensuite bath. It's a smart house with centralized lighting, sound and heating systems, and two large-screen televisions. Nature lovers head outdoors to meander along its raised wooden path through the woods or to the playhouse for children's games. Sherman says an adult looking for peace and quiet to meditate or do yoga would be equally enthralled by the rustic wood cabin a few steps from the main house. 

TRAVEL

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"...you can't help but enjoy winter here."



For cooks, there's an open kitchen equipped with professional appliances and all the tools for whipping up a cake or a gourmet meal. "It's a real thrill for someone who loves to cook to use an industrially equipped kitchen like this," Sherman says.

play board games or read by the fire, you can't help but enjoy winter here," Sherman says.

The firm's collection of luxury properties has been carefully curated, each of the houses and condos chosen for its spectacular location just minutes from the ski hills, but secluded from neighbours. Each has its distinct rustic-modern personality.

Those disinclined to cook can ask Tremblant Living to hire a private chef to prepare a feast in the house featuring fresh, local ingredients from the Laurentians, which has developed a reputation as a gastronomic destination.

"We work with local designers who come in to make sure that the look of each of the properties is fresh and updated and comfortable," says Sherman. Altitude, for example, is a condo right on the ski hill and minutes from the village, with its own private elevator and heated indoor parking. Inside, the decor features a totem-pole sculpture and a chandelier of whitewashed antlers. It's a style that Sherman describes as "eclectic Canadiana."

A getaway in a large and luxurious chalet such as Grand Forêt is easygoing and convivial. There's a downstairs lounge with a bar and pool table and an office area for catching up on emails. The children have a bedroom with bunk beds to themselves for a pyjama party while the adults can linger after dinner by the fire. There's plenty of room for coming together after a day of skiing, dogsledding or snowshoeing. But there are also private nooks in which to read or relax. "Whether you are an outdoors person or someone who just wants to

Tremblant Living also prides itself on personalized service. It is one of the only chalet-rental firms in Tremblant that provides a private concierge who will fill the fridge, buy lift tickets or book a massage. ➤

