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LAKE TO PEAKS ALPINE ESCAPE

WINTER GETAWAY: Package includes
three lodge visits in same week



A new partnership between Canadian Rocky Mountain Resorts and Purcell Mountain Lodge allows guests to experience three different ski lodges in one week.

SUZANNE MORPHET
SPECIAL TO THE PROVINCE

There's no shortage of ski lodges in this country, but choosing one usually means foregoing something, whether it's a variety of ski options or worse — all the comforts of home.

But this year, a new partnership between Canadian Rocky Mountain Resorts and Purcell Mountain Lodge means you get to experience three different ski lodges from lake-shore to mountain peaks in one

amazing week. Moreover, staying at these lodges doesn't involve any hardship.

Emerald Lake Lodge

The magic begins at this historic property nestled in the Rocky Mountains in Yoho National Park. Originally built by Canadian Pacific Railway as a summer destination for people who loved to hike and paddle, it was purchased by Canadian Rocky Mountain Resorts and extensively renovated before reopening in 1986. The family-owned compa-

ny replaced the old bungalows with chalet-style cabins and restored the main lodge to its previous rustic appeal. Stone fireplaces, wing-back chairs, a bar from the Yukon's Gold Rush days, and a billiards table of similar vintage are some of its charms.

Winter visitors don't get to admire Emerald Lake's namesake colour, it's true, but they get something else: the deep, muffled silence of a snow-covered landscape. And when we visited in mid-January we had the lodge and outdoor hot tub under the stars

almost to ourselves. Many visitors seemed to be day-trippers, coming to ski on the groomed cross-country trails that circle the lake and wind through the forest to the town of Field, 12 kilometres away.

An afternoon on skis left us famished and eagerly anticipating dinner in the Mt. Burgess dining room, recently ranked one of the '101 Best Hotel Restaurants Around the World' by The Daily Meal.

Canadian Rocky Mountain Resorts pioneered Rocky Mountain cuisine, an approach that combines the lav-

ish menus of the old railway days with local foods used by aboriginal people, including wild game, mushrooms and berries.

The result? Seriously satisfying dishes such as braised buffalo short ribs with sautéed chanterelles in a red wine reduction or — for starters — a charcuterie platter including smoked buffalo, prosciutto, duck breast, game pate, elk salami, cheese and homemade relish.

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