

LUXURY

LUXURY MAGAZINE

SPRING 2017



STAY

Hôtel Le Germain Charlevoix

Charlevoix, a rugged and wild terrain, lies about 75 minutes from Québec City, where the Laurentian Mountains shadow the St. Lawrence River, a unique geography along the mighty river's 744-mile corridor. A meteor is thought to have formed the narrow valley. Charlevoix was designated a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve in 1988.

The region is littered with discoveries such as stunted forests, rare sub-Arctic tundra ecosystems, and Le Germain Hôtel Charlevoix (from \$152; legermainhotels.com). The 145-room property spreads across the footprint of what was once Canada's largest wooden barn, which burned in 1997, scuttling Cirque du Soleil co-founder Daniel Gauthier's vision to convert the barn into a hotel. Undaunted, Gauthier commissioned a five-building resort from LEMAYMICHAUD Architecture Design, a juxtaposed modern-bucolic ambience of barn doors, exposed steel, and accents shaped by Charlevoix artisans.

WHAT
Heli-hiking, Snow Kitesurfing

WHERE
Charlevoix, Québec

Hotel Le Germain Charlevoix



Héli Charlevoix (heli-charlevoix.com) whisks guests directly from the resort to Haute-Gorge-de-la-Rivière-Malbaie National Park, where moose yearlings emerge from boreal forest marshlands, or to the mountain for a prepared picnic followed by a two-hour hike. World champion kitesurfer Catherine Dufour leads Suroit Aventures' (suroitaventures.com) snow kitesurfing classes beside the hotel in spring and upon Baie-Saint-Paul come summer.

Hôtel Charlevoix concierges will arrange river and sea kayaking and

guided hikes such as canyoning in Saint-Joseph-de-la-Rive with premier local guides who depart directly from the resort. It's best to plot one's adventure while aboard the custom Train de Charlevoix, which conveys guests from Québec City along the sublime coastline directly to the hotel's private station. ▸

—Crai Bower