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Toronto

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Special Meetings Report

How Fresh Thinking and New Technology Can Solve Old Problems

**Toronto's
Top 100 Events**

27 New Venues

**The Best Ideas
From Big Events**

**Art Basel, Super Bowl XLIV
& the Golden Globes**

**Plus: Boxed Lunches, Dining Tables,
Pop-Ups, Corporate Picnics & More**

The Directory

A selection of resources from our comprehensive online directory of event and meeting suppliers and venues

New Venues

ART GALLERY

POWER PLANT CONTEMPORARY ART GALLERY

Three galleries available for private events make up the interior of this former industrial space. The Royal LePage and J.S. McLean galleries feature 30-foot ceilings and lighting on an adjustable grid system, while the Canadian Tire Gallery has 10-foot ceilings. (231 Queens Quay West, 416.973.4949)

BARS/LOUNGES

CIAO WINE BAR

Italian restaurant Ciao Wine Bar, open in Yorkville since mid-January, is the latest offering from the Liberty Entertainment Group. The space, formerly Fluid Restaurant & Lounge, covers 8,000 square feet over three levels. The restaurant seats 250, including 110 on the lower level. Two private dining rooms hold 18, and two patios will hold 60 in the warmer months. (133 Yorkville Ave., 416.925.2143)

DOLCE SOCIAL BALLROOM

Dolce Social Ballroom is the latest venture from nightclub owner Travis Agresti. In the King West neighbourhood and designed by the California-based firm Mr. Important Design, the venue caters to the 28-and-over crowd. The 6,000-square-foot club holds 560 on the main floor, which features a brass ceiling treatment and origami chandeliers. A 280-seat rooftop patio was scheduled to open this spring. (647 King St. West, 416.361.9111)

POP NIGHTCLUB

Open since February in the space formerly known as Fluid, Pop Nightclub is the newest venture from club owner Moses Sabatino. The venue, designed by Irfan Bukhari, holds 700 and is divided into two rooms—a brightly coloured dance club and a more subdued lounge with a retro feel. (217 Richmond St. West, 416.593.6116)

SAMOVAR

Rumen Dimitroff, the man behind Rasputin and the original Pravda Vodka Bar, opened a new Russian-inspired lounge called Samovar in August. In Cabbagetown, on the second floor of a heritage building that once housed the Laurentian Room, Samovar specializes in premium vodkas, absinthe, and champagne. The venue, filled with dark wood and a mahogany bar that dates back to 1935, is available for private events. The space holds 140. (51A Winchester St., 416.925.4555)

BOWLING ALLEY

SHAMROCK BOWL

Shamrock Bowl, which originally opened in 1952, hosted a grand reopening in early October following an extensive restoration. The venue offers five-pin bowling in a retro 12-lane bowling alley and is available for corporate events and teambuilding activities. (280 Coxwell Ave., 416.406.2695)

CONFERENCE CENTRE

ALLSTREAM CENTRE

A \$46 million renovation has transformed the historic Automotive Building, which opened at Exhibition Place in 1929, into the Allstream Centre—dubbed the greenest and most energy-efficient conference facility in Canada. Inside the Princes' Gates, the 160,000-square-foot venue debuted in late October. A 43,900-square-foot, column-free ballroom seats 3,000 under a ceiling design inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright. The second floor has 20 meeting rooms that can hold groups of 50 to 750 and five lounges. (105 Princes Blvd., 416.263.3000)

HOTELS

IN THE WORKS BISHA HOTEL AND RESIDENCES

Munge Leung is designing this 41-storey hotel and condominium project—a partnership between INK Entertainment and Lifestyle Developments. In the entertainment district, the project will feature a 24-hour café, two restaurants, and a rooftop pool. A sales centre opens in June. (56 Blue Jays Way, 416.869.9444)

RADISSON PLAZA MISSISSAUGA TORONTO AIRPORT

This hotel opened in September. The \$36 million Victorian-themed hotel offers 13,000 square feet of event space in the Grand Victorian conference centre. The facility includes a tiered presentation room with theatre seating, an executive boardroom, a garden view event space with access to a rooftop terrace, and a ballroom with 26-foot ceilings and crystal chandeliers. Restaurants include the Regal Lounge and the Regent. The hotel also offers a business centre, a fitness centre, a spa, and an indoor pool. (175 Derry Road East, 905.364.9999)

OPENING SOON THOMPSON TORONTO

This 16-storey hotel, designed by Architects Alliance, is slated to open in the King West Village neighbourhood in May. The hotel will feature 102 guest rooms, a 150-seat signature restaurant operated by New York-based Scarpetta, a rooftop pool, a 40-seat screening room, conference and event spaces, and a fitness facility with a yoga studio. (550 Wellington St. West, 416.640.7778)

INDEPENDENT EVENT SPACE

ALLSTEEL RESOURCE CENTRE

The Allsteel Resource Centre, an 8,000-square-foot design showroom in the brick boiler house of the former Toronto Carpet Factory in Liberty Village, opened in late 2007 and became available for private events in August. The space has 60-foot ceilings, exposed brick walls, and 20-foot leaded glass windows. The reception area in the building's original smokestack offers views of the venue's three levels. (90 Fraser Ave., 416.588.6200)

TORONTO REFERENCE LIBRARY

The Toronto Public Library's new event centre opened in the Toronto Reference Library in September. The 5,000-square-foot space, on the second floor, overlooks the Rosedale Valley. Glass walls divide the venue into three areas, including a primary event space that holds 460 for lectures and 360 for seated dinners. (789 Yonge St., 416.393.7193)

MUSEUM

MZTV MUSEUM OF TELEVISION

Broadcaster Moses Znaimer opened the MZTV Museum of Television in a new location on Queen Street East in mid-July. The museum, which charts television history and houses an extensive collection of television sets and memorabilia, is available for private events. The space holds as many as 100 people. (550 Queen St. East, 416.599.7339)

PERFORMANCE SPACE

TELUS CENTRE FOR PERFORMANCE & LEARNING

The Telus Centre for Performance and Learning, an extension to the Royal Conservatory of Music's headquarters, opened in September. The centre includes music studios, wired classrooms, and a library. The Conservatory Theatre rehearsal hall holds 160 for dinner and 200 for cocktails, and the 1,140-seat Koerner Hall is suitable for music performances, lectures, and conferences. Mazzoleni Hall has permanent theatre seating for 237. Meeting rooms and workshop spaces can hold groups of 12 to 69. (273 Bloor St. West, 416.408.2824)

RESTAURANTS

AME

Michael and Guy Rubino partnered with INK C.E.O. Charles Khabouth to open Ame in August. The 5,000-square-foot restaurant includes a private dining room for groups of as many as 30, a main dining area that holds 100, and a Japanese lounge and sake bar that holds 50. In January, Ame launched a cocktail cooking school which can accommodate up to 10 people per session. Participants learn how to make cocktails like the Smoked Apple Cobbler and the Gin Kim-Chi during the lesson, led by a mixologist. (19 Mercer St., 416.599.7246)

BUCA

In a space that once served as a boiler room, Buca is an Italian restaurant on King Street West with high ceilings, exposed brick walls, dark floors, and bare lightbulbs. A wine bar holds 38 and can be booked as a private room. The entire venue holds as many as 102 and is available for buyouts. (604 King St. West, 416.865.1600)

CALISTO RESTAURANT & LOUNGE

Gianfranco Loponte (of Vivoli) opened Calisto Restaurant & Lounge, an Italian eatery inspired by a Roman cave of the same name, in July. The restaurant is available for private bookings and holds as many as 210 guests. The main floor can accommodate 110 and the lower-level lounge, complete with a dance floor and DJ booth, holds 100. (647 College St., 416.351.7576)

EARTH

Ed Ho, owner of Globe Bistro on the Danforth, opened Earth in November. Interior designer Ron Nuhn used an earthy palette of dark brown and taupe, along with beams from an 1870s log cabin and recycled aluminum light fixtures. The main dining room seats 80, and a private room can hold 18. Two seasonal patios hold 50 and 23. Set menus are available for large groups. (1055 Yonge St., 416.551.9890)

FRANK

Executive chef Anne Yarymowich and chef de cuisine Martha Wright offer contemporary dishes with a focus on sustainable farming and slow food at the Art Gallery of Ontario's new restaurant, Frank, named after architect Frank Gehry. The restaurant seats 130, and a private dining room can accommodate functions for as many as 35. (317 Dundas St. West, 416.204.2712)

LE PAVILLON ON THE PARK

After 35 years as partners in the original Le Pavillon on Church Street, Paul and Danielle Bigue—along with son Stephane—have opened Le Pavillon on the Park. The restaurant, which offers a selection of French and Quebecois dishes, seats 125 and is available for buyouts. A rooftop terrace holds more than 130 in the warmer months. (1001 Eastern Ave., 416.649.1001)

ORIGIN

Chef Claudio Aprile opened his second eatery in March. The corner spot, once home to a flower shop, holds 90 and has a wraparound patio for 75. A private room with a terrace holds 20. Aprile, known for his molecular gastronomy approach to cooking, offers a raw bar and modern global cuisine. (107 King St., 416.603.8009)

RODNEY'S OYSTER HOUSE

Rodney Clark opened his first Toronto oyster house in 1987 and later moved it to its current location on King West. Personal messages from Hollywood celebrities and athletes, written on oyster shells, line the walls of the 150-seat dining room. A private dining room seats 20, and the outdoor Oyster Garden opens in the summer. (469 King St. West, 416.363.8105)

ROOSEVELT ROOM

Modeled after Hollywood's legendary Roosevelt Hotel, the Roosevelt Room is decorated in gold, brown, and black and boasts a white granite bar fronted with intricate metal panels and brass foot rails. The entertainment district supper club seats 120 and holds 500 for receptions, but smaller semiprivate events can take place behind metallic sheers. (2 Drummond Place, 416.995.4381)

ROSEWATER SUPPER CLUB

Rosewater Supper Club reopened in September with a new menu and a more contemporary look. Dark oak tables fill the dining room, and the bar is now faced in blue glass. The entire venue holds about 375 people: The main dining room seats 110 or holds 200 for receptions; the mezzanine seats 70 and holds 100 for receptions; the Supper Club seats 110 and holds 160 for receptions; and the White Room seats 20 and holds 50 for receptions. (19 Toronto St., 416.214.5888)

RETAIL VENUES

BOSS BLOOR STREET

Boss Bloor Street, the new flagship location from Hugo Boss, is a 12,000-square-foot, three-storey boutique that includes an event space on the third floor. The space, which holds about 150, has windows overlooking Bloor and a terrace with a view of the courtyard at the rear of the building. Boss Bloor Street opened in December. (83 Bloor St. West, 647.449.2677)

THE CABINET SALON

Designed to feel like a private sitting room, the Cabinet is second-storey hair salon and gallery space on Queen Street West. The venue, owned by stylists Emma Rose and Alex MacDonald, holds as many as 150 for receptions and is available for select private events. (577 Queen St. West, 647.344.3132)

Where to...

Take a Group Bowling

In November, sisters Ljuba and Branka Nikolovski, the owners of All Star Interactive, a bowling alley in the city's east end, opened the **Danforth Suite**, a 2,000-square-foot event venue equipped with 12 bowling lanes. The second-floor space has a lounge area with dark leather furnishings, a bar, Wi-Fi Internet access, and televisions for visual presentations. The venue can accommodate groups of up to 130 for bowling and teambuilding sessions. Catering is available and the space holds 80 for seated dinners. (2791 Eglinton Ave. East, 416.261.5011)



ON BIZBASH.COM

Reports on
Toronto's newest
event spaces