



NATURAL LUXURY

A game-changing entertainment, dining and accommodation destination

by Doug Wallace

The finishing touches have been made to downtown Vancouver's new entertainment complex. Set between Yaletown and Gastown and adjacent to BC Place Stadium, Parg Vancouver sports two luxury hotels, a rooftop park, eight restaurants, a massive spa and downtown's only casino. Built to meet LEED Gold environmental standards, it's a welcome addition to the entertainment district, a lavish, all-in-one wonder.

## **Home-Base Space**

Total comfort comes in the forms of the 329-room JW Marriott, designed by Torontobased Studio Munge, and the more boutiqueoriented, 188-room Douglas, part of Marriott's Autograph Collection of hotels, designed by New York's Celano Design Studio. Both are inspired by nature and the beauty of BC, with the latter featuring a full-sized replica of a Douglas fir tree encased in glass.

## The Meeting Mix

The complex's more than 60,000 sq. ft. of indoor and outdoor event space is accessible via both hotels and includes a 15,000-sq.-ft. ballroom, the largest hotel ballroom in Vancouver, with banquet seating for 1,200. Two additional ballrooms and 17 meeting rooms with floor-to-ceiling views and state-of-the-art audio-visual technology add further variety and flexibility for business quests. Tailored menus and an inventive cooking demonstration program lend even more good taste.

## **Plenty of Perks**

The coolest feature by far is the 30,000-sq.-ft. all-season rooftop park six storeys above the street, with its 200 native pine trees. Canada's first Spa by JW welcomes those who need a splash of TLC after a day in the boardroom. From there, it's on to one of the eight diverse restaurants and lounges conceived by awardwinning restaurateur Elizabeth Blau and Chef Kim Canteenwalla, who has helmed restaurants around the world, in places such as Las Vegas, Cambodia, Dubai and Thailand. For the lucky, the 72,000-sq.-ft. casino gaming floor has 600 slot machines, 75 tables, a poker room and 11 salons for a more private gaming experience.





