

TRAVEL

A SKI-IN HOTEL FOR ROSSLAND



ROSSLAND GEMS

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Twelve years. That's what it took to raise Rossland's "The Josie" from concept to the first new ski-in hotel built in Canada in a decade. In between, there was the global financial crisis, rapid growth of mega-resort conglomerates on ski hills around North America and even a grassroots crowdfunding campaign to keep Red Mountain Resort afloat—the hill on which The Josie sits—after it nearly went out of business more than a decade ago.

Slopeside hotels are standard fare at other BC destinations, like Whistler or Big White. But Red is different. This is a mountain without a high-speed chairlift and

where a half-dozen skiers constitutes a lineup. A \$40 million hotel is big news.

Officially opened on November 28, 2018, The Josie is named after a historic gold mine, which was located on the backside of Red Mountain and operated by turn-of-the-century pioneer Robert E. Lemon from the late 1800s to the early 1900s. (Lemon named it for his sister.) The new hotel is meant to celebrate that pioneering spirit, says Spencer Clements, one of the owners. As such, it's not a taste of Whistler in the Kootenays. It's different—with just 106 rooms, the boutique building complements the next-door Day Lodge. In contrast to some tourist towns, the locals that work here

actually welcome travellers—they're eager to show why they hang their hats in Rossland. But with rooms starting at about \$180 per night, and going up considerably from there, patrons can expect refined service.

"Our guests will never carry their own skis," said Paul Girardi, manager of guest services. A ski concierge is included. Onsite dining at the Velvet Restaurant & Lounge brings urban chic to the rural Kootenays. And the soon-to-open slopeside pool and spa up the ante further.

Situated within a snowball's throw of the Silverlode Chairlift at 4306 Red Mountain Road in Rossland, The Josie is open for year-round service. thejosie.com

—David Webb



Travelling with a group? Book a catered dinner for up to 20 in the historic **Deane Cabin**, one of the mountain's original log homes. 1-800-663-0105

Grab dinner at **The Flying Steamshovel**, a local's haunt named after a turn-of-the-century flying machine that crashed where the eatery now sits. theflyingsteamshovel.com