



STAKING OUT NEW TERRITORY

Muskoka Resort Adds 5-Star Wonders to Experience

Muskoka's roots as a tourist hotspot stretch back almost 150 years. The northern oasis has attracted movie stars and hockey legends, billionaires and best-selling authors and generations of families who return year after year for sacred cottage time. They are all drawn by the same powerful pull of serenity and stunning scenery – the mystical combination of the rocks, the trees and the water.

Taboo Resort is home to all of the elemental ingredients that make Muskoka so memorable. It is a 1,000 acre kingdom that rises above the mighty banks of Lake Muskoka, wrapped in forest and granite chunks and lined with sandy shoreline. But it is also a five star haven with world class spa, golf, restaurants, accommodation and conference facilities. It is a rare combination.

For meeting planners, there is always a gamble the first time you hold a conference outside of a major city. You're never quite sure if the resort will be able to handle the hundred and one details that make a conference a success. But Taboo passes all the tests. With a team of its own professional planners, the resort features 17 separate meeting

rooms and an Executive Lounge/Business Centre which range from boardrooms perfect for 12, to banquet rooms that seat up to 240 guests. Each of the rooms feature natural light, immediate access to the outdoors, some with wrap around decks and breathtaking views of the lake. All of the meeting rooms are serviced by on-site technical and audio/visual support.

The most intriguing meeting location is the Boathouse. Located just steps from Taboo's main lodge, the Boathouse is perched on a pretty chunk of granite overlooking the lake. The 3,000 sq. ft. conference room almost feels like a separate resort. Completely self-contained, the Boathouse features its own food and beverage facilities and restrooms. Boasting spectacular views of the lake, within seconds, the Boathouse's sliding panels can transform the space into 3 intimate meeting rooms, with large glass doors opening up to a wide, wooden deck.

Another sumptuous perk is Taboo's Executive Retreats program where groups are given exclusive use of the resort's luxurious executive wing. Perfect for groups of up to 20, the retreat includes Platinum suite accom-

modation, valet parking, turndown service, private group breakfast, meeting room, wellness breaks and private dinner in the Culinary Theatre. Platinum suite accommodation features one and two bedrooms, each with private balconies overlooking Lake Muskoka or one of Taboo's four outdoor heated pools. The suite interiors are equipped with LCD flat screen televisions in the living room and master bedroom, high-speed wireless internet access and desk, fully functional kitchenette with granite tops, suede coaches and wood burning fireplaces.

Of course there is one more ingredient that makes Taboo a northern standout. The food is spectacular. Under the direction of renown Chef Jay Scaife, Taboo offers a variety of eating options.

Elements Restaurant is a sophisticated and soothing space, ideal for groups of up to 20.

The Lounge, which peaks through the pines and out to the water is centred around a sleek, 20 ft. by 4 ft. fireplace. Guests order from the tapas menu prepared with seasonally fresh ingredients. The most fun though is the Culinary Theatre, a one of a kind, 18 seat, open kitchen concept where Chef Scaife pre-

pare his unforgettable tasting menus. Guests get to interact with the chef and watch how the behind the scenes action unfolds. For 'foodies', it's like a slice of culinary heaven.

Check out the culinary section of the Taboo website. Under culinary culture, you can find some of Chef Scaife's top recipes. Current postings include instructions on how to whip up two dishes. The first is chilled diver scallops with cucumber chilli noodle and sun ice oyster lychee melon liquor. The second is maple braised duck leg and apple 'bite' with cinnamon foam.

To work off the extra calories and work on the corporate team building, Taboo's meeting professionals have come up with a unique range of group activities.

Wine Tasting - The one hour course is led by world-class sommelier Markus Carl who presents 4 to 6 wines to each group. Carl dis-

cusses the wine producer, type of grape, region and year. He goes on to detail the language of wine, from aroma (complex to woody) to finish (lingering or disappearing). By the end of the hour, even confirmed beer drinkers will be experts on their Chardonnay and Chablis.

Laser Skeet - Participants fire an infrared beam at a skeet that is powered from an automatic launcher up to 150 feet. Five shooters

fire at the same skeet with the scores being electronically tabulated. Groups can play as individuals or as teams.

Other activities include cooking classes, communication puzzles, scavenger hunts, Hummer Tours and dog sledding.

To finish off the perfect Taboo day, the resort will even fire up an old fashioned bonfire, complete with hot chocolate and s'mores.

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Photo Courtesy of Taboo Resort.



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