

MONTREAL: A CHEST HAIR FRIDAY

A photograph of a person from behind, wearing a yellow backpack, walking down a narrow, snow-covered street in Montreal. The street is lined with historic buildings, some with flags (including the Canadian and Québécois flags) hanging from their facades. The ground is covered in patches of snow and ice, and streetlights illuminate the scene.

WORDS: WILL FARLEY

PHOTOS: WILL FARLEY/ WITH PERMISSION

The components of a successful Chest Hair Friday are always the same: a mix of good people, good food, good drink, and an openness to letting the day unfold as it should. If you're celebrating Chest Hair Friday at home, you likely have the components covered. When you're traveling on Friday, we've got you covered. This is the first of many guides that will help you make the most of your Friday in cities around the world.

Montreal is a breathtaking city. The cobbled streets downtown twist and turn following the curves of the earth more than the grids we are used to in most cities this side

of the Atlantic. The ringing church bells and ornate architecture are more redolent of the original settlers homeland than the metropolises of New York or Chicago. It's more Orleans than New Orleans.



MORNING

Cafe Olimpico

*124 Rue Saint Viateur O, Montréal,
QC H2T 2L1, Canada*

Maybe you had one too many last night and need a morning pick-me-up. Cafe Olimpico is a beautiful cafe with two locations, one in the old city under the beautiful Hotel William Vale and the other in the Mile End neighborhood. Pick up a coffee and a pastry and get your head right.

La Banquise

*994 Rue Rachel E, Montréal,
QC H2J 2J3, Canada*

This is either your first or last stop to recover if you've had an especially fun night. Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week you can have poutine mainlined into your very hungover frame.

Drawn & Quarterly

*211 Rue Bernard O, Montréal,
QC H2T 2K5, Canada*

Still not ready to get back out into the world? Stop by Drawn & Quarterly, a Montreal based publisher with a focus on comics and design. Who knows, maybe you will find a copy of Chest Hair Friday there at some point?



Annex Vintage

56 Rue Saint Viateur O, Montréal,
QC H2T 4K6, Canada

This lovely Mile End shop is full of men's and women's vintage as well as a great collection of knick knacks, kitsch, and cards. I found two new pins, but could have left with a whole lot more. I was saving a little money for the rest of my Friday.

St. Viateur Bagels

263 Rue Saint Viateur O, Montréal,
QC H2V 1Y1, Canada

I live in New York and have access to some amazing bagels, but my dream is to combine the NYC schmear culture with Montreal's sweet, honey brushed and slightly more dense bagel. St. Viateurs is the best and happens to be just down the street from Annex Vintage.



WILENSKY'S LIGHT LUNCH

AFTERNOON

Wilensky's Light Lunch, Inc.

34 Avenue Fairmount O, Montréal,
QC H2T 2M1, Canada

This is maybe my favorite place in Montreal. Old school cool. Get a special, don't ask questions or for any substitutions. The tourist line at Schwartz's can go fuck itself. It's good, but not as good as this.

Casa Del Popolo

4873 St Laurent Blvd, Montreal, QC H2T
1R6, Canada

Sun streams through the big front windows in the afternoon, grab that Aperol spritz and live your bliss. After all, it is Chest Hair Friday.



LA CHAMPAGNERIE

La Champagnerie

343 St Paul St E, Montreal,
QC H2Y 1H3, Canada

Time to celebrate. This is the place to kick off the festivities and transition into cocktail hour.

EVENING

Au Pied De Cochon

536 Avenue Duluth E, Montréal,

QC H2L 1A9, Canada

All foie gras everything.

L'Express

3927 St Denis St, Montreal,

QC H2W 2M4, Canada

Classic, refined, this is a place out of time. Most chefs I know that pass through geek out here. It's the kind of place where it is easy to envision patrons smoking cigarettes with their wine and butter basted dishes.

Joe Beef

2491 Notre-Dame St W, Montreal,

QC H3J 1N6, Canada

Dave McMillan and Frédéric Morin have three restaurants (Joe Beef, Liverpool House, and Le Vin Papillon) in the Little Burgundy neighborhood. It's a restaurant built on the small excesses that only an excellent host has thought to provide. Rip a shot with the bartender before being plied with an entire lobster in your lobster spaghetti. One more glass of wine? Why not? From here you will most likely be homeward bound.

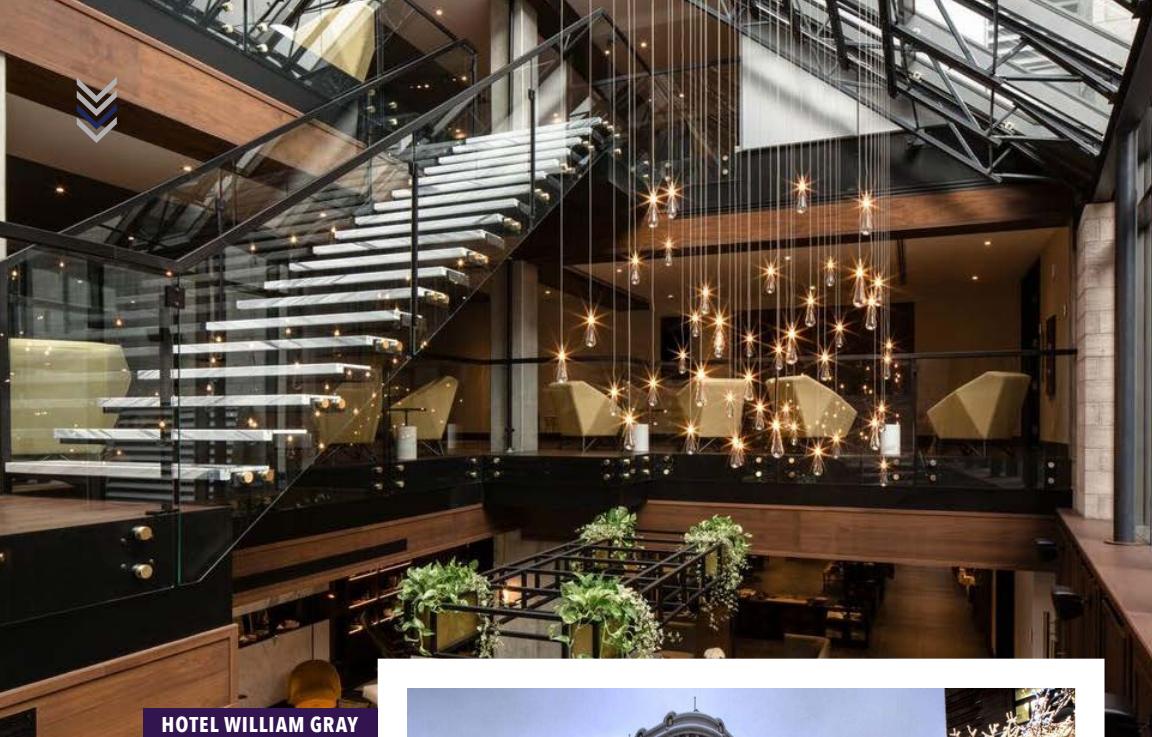


CASA DEL POPOLO

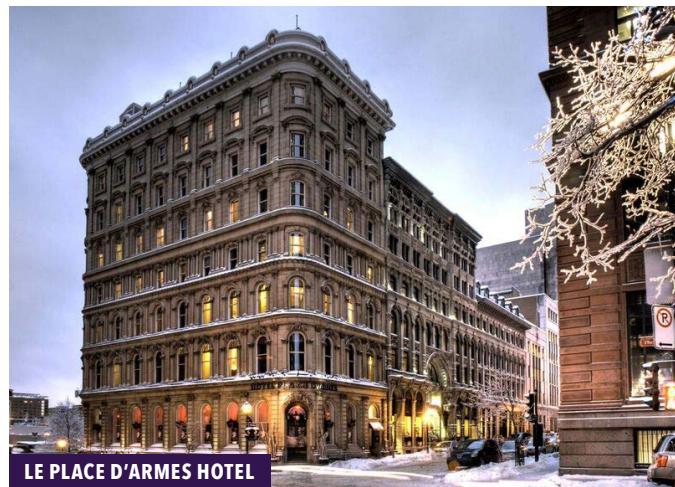


JOE BEEF





HOTEL WILLIAM GRAY



LE PLACE D'ARMES HOTEL

TO STAY

Hotel William Gray

421 St Vincent St, Montreal,
QC H2Y 3A6, Canada

Time to find a place to lay your weary head down to wait for sobriety. William Gray is a beautiful hotel in the heart of Old Montreal. Cafe Olimpico has a branch downstairs if you need something sent up in the morning to stop the jack-hammer that is banging on the inside of your skull.

Le Place D'Armes Hotel

Palais des Congrès in Montreal, 55 St Jacques St, Montreal, QC H2Y 1K9, Canada
Right across the street from the Basilique Notre-Dame de Montreal, this hotel features beautiful views. Some of the rooms even have a fireplace. So if you want to end your Chest Hair Friday Burt Reynolds style sprawled naked in front of the fire, be our guest.