

Cool nights in the city

THE TORONTO TRIO

JIM BYERS



BISHA HOTEL TORONTO: Scheduled to open this northern summer, this property will offer hotel rooms and residences in the city's booming entertainment district. It's a project by Toronto restaurateur and nightclub owner Charles Khabouth, so expect a sleek, urban style; early renderings are reminiscent of a penthouse suite in, say, Miami, with bold colours and chic features. The design is from Studio Munge, a Canadian firm known for taking chances. One floor is being designed by singer Lenny Kravitz's company Kravitz Design. Akira Back will be the celebrity chef, serving Japanese and Korean-influenced fare in one of the four dining spots. Back, born in Korea but raised in Aspen, Colorado, has restaurants in Bangkok, New Delhi, Dubai, Las Vegas and other cities. Bisha will feature 96 guestrooms, including 14 suites, plus 355 residential condominiums. There'll be a lobby bar with street-level patio access, a 24-hour cafe and a 44th-floor rooftop restaurant with an infinity pool and grand views. From \$C449 (\$455). More: bisha.com.



THE BROADVIEW HOTEL: Located in Toronto's trendy Riverdale district, The Broadview Hotel has just opened in a beautifully restored 125-year-old building that once housed a notorious strip club called Jilly's; some racy-looking wallpaper and other touches recall its past. The hotel features 58 guestrooms and five venue spaces that can be used for the likes of wedding receptions, seminars or corporate events. The second-floor Lincoln Hall has space for up to 240 guests for cocktail receptions, while the smaller Lincoln Terrace is an outdoor spot with fabulous views to downtown, just across the Don River and reached by the popular Queen Street streetcar. The 7th-floor rooftop bar has unobstructed views of downtown, along with a glass pyramid-shaped skylight. Expect a cool, millennial-friendly design and a colourful lobby. All guestrooms feature a record player for on-trend vinyl, minibars stocked with local produce and top-quality kingsize beds. From \$C309. More: thebroadviewhotel.ca.



HOTEL X TORONTO: This property, due to open in the northern autumn, is in the Exhibition Place district, best known for the annual Canadian National Exhibition (August 18 to September 4 this year) and conventions. It's a few kilometres from downtown, but quite close to the edgy restaurant, bar and shopping scene of the West Queen West neighbourhood. They're calling Hotel X an urban resort, with rooftop pool and bar and a grassy area that should suit sunworshippers; views of Lake Ontario and downtown Toronto will be spectacular. Dining options include one on the ground floor with plenty of natural light and another on the roof. Hotel X is part of The Library Collection, which operates branded boutique properties in New York plus Aria Hotels in Budapest and Prague. There's a massive sports complex planned next door, with swimming pools, tennis courts and other facilities. The hotel will feature cinema space, perfect for the annual Toronto International Film Festival, held every September. From \$C350. More: hotelxtoronto.com; tiff.net.