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## **Koko Restaurant + Bar Opens at Opus Hotel Montreal**

### **URBAN GLAMOUR SETS THE STAGE FOR MODERN ASIAN CUISINE IN THE EXPANSIVE THEATRICAL SPACE**

(MONTREAL, CANADA) --The most anticipated restaurant and bar in Montreal is set to open its doors on Friday, May 9 in Montreal's newest boutique property - the chic Opus Hotel. Situated at the corner of the fashionable intersection of Sherbrooke and St. Laurent, Koko Restaurant & Bar blends urban glamour with modern Asian cuisine in a theatrical, 9000 square feet setting that is destined to be the venue of choice for the stylish and sophisticated crowd.

At **Koko**, a striking black and silver backdrop and glittering chandeliers set the stage for the city's hottest dining, drinking and socializing space. In tribute to its historic Art Nouveau setting, Koko's glass, steel and concrete framework is animated by a dramatic ensemble of sensuous fabrics and iconic furnishings. In the dazzling Grand Salon, an electric green runway cuts a swath through the cloud-white room while turn-of-the-century muses painted on the ceiling contemplate the action from above. Draped in black velvet, the sumptuous Petit Salon in the building's original section provides an intimate space for discrete encounters. Outside, the expansive terrace offers a sanctuary for basking in the afternoon sun or flirting in the moonlight.

"**Koko** adds an exciting new element to the dining scene in Montreal," says John deC. Evans, President of Opus Hotels. "Much as its setting integrates the classic aspects of Joseph-Arthur Godin's 1914 art nouveau structure with its adjoining contemporary concrete and glass structure, Koko blends an array of Far Eastern flavours and textures with Western culinary techniques to bring an international dining and socializing experience never before seen in this city." To set the mood, resident DJs spin with international talent to bring the latest electro-house rhythms from East and West.

Executive Chef Don Letendre of Vancouver's internationally-renowned Opus Hotel has created an innovative pan-Asian menu to be served sharing-style that's as provocative to the senses as **Koko's** fantastical setting. Letendre's culinary experience in Tokyo, including cooking at popular Soba Ni Umazake Yoshimura, left an indelible impression and influenced his style of clean and innovative cuisine. Says Letendre, "My experience in Japan taught me about balance between cooking, tasting, and seeing, and gave me a foundation for my senses. It helped me to trust in my hands." While some dishes put a Western spin on Asian classics, such as the *Hamachi Sashimi with pan-seared foie gras, barbecue eel and soy-mirin reduction*, other dishes put an Asian spin on Western classics, such as the *Asian-style Steak Frites with baby watercress, wasabi and uni butter*. Other signature items include *Bengali Blackened Salmon with mango salsa*; *Spicy Masala Lobster with curried lentil hash*; and *Star Anise Barbecue Pork Belly Bites with puffed rice and Asian slaw*. In keeping with the East meets West theme, the innovative cocktail list adds Asian twists to classic favourites and vice versa. Dining and cocktail service will be offered late into the evening.

With a name that winks at glamour [the divine Coco Chanel] and nods to its Eastern influence [Koko is Japanese for 'here'], Robert Bailey, the designer behind Vancouver's award-winning Opus Hotel, has procured iconic furnishings from local artisans and international designers to bring the building's avant-garde setting to life. Upon arrival, patrons will be greeted by a whimsical Moooi Horse Lamp from the Netherlands. The main dining room, illuminated by massive glittering chandeliers, is furnished with such iconic pieces as Flora benches, Amat Jamaica Barstools, Miss Lacy chairs and Attila stools by Philippe Starck. Custom pieces crafted by Canadian artisans include homages to the iconic Kubus K3 Feather Lamp and Baleri's Bristol sofa. The dazzling array of fabrics includes sumptuous velvets, sensuous leathers, intricate paisleys, faux furs, retro-modern jacquards, and almost a thousand yards of drapery.

The on-site presence of Katherine Evans, daughter of owner John Evans and a director in the company, will ensure all **Koko** guests receive the warmth and intuitive service that have become hallmarks of the Opus Hotels group. Evans will oversee the operation, along with the General Manager, making certain that Koko provides a memorable dining and socializing experience.

Opus Montreal provides a unique boutique experience blending modern design with a nod to history in chic Montreal style. An intimate 136 guestrooms combine sleek minimalism with luxurious comfort. Home to the theatrical **Koko** Restaurant & Bar and the sophisticated Suco Resto-Lounge, the hotel is located on the corner of Sherbrooke and St. Laurent streets, steps from the vibrant entertainment district and minutes from Old Montreal and the "Plateau" Mont-Royal. Opus Montreal is the second boutique hotel in the stylish Opus Hotels group. For more information visit [www.opushotel.com](http://www.opushotel.com).

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**URL:** [www.kokomontreal.com](http://www.kokomontreal.com)

**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

United States:  
Norah Lawlor  
Lawlor Media Group  
Tel. (212) 967-6900  
Email: [Norah@lawlormediagroup.com](mailto:Norah@lawlormediagroup.com)

Ann Flower  
Ann Flower Communications  
Tel. (310) 305-7169  
Email: [Ann@annflowerpr.com](mailto:Ann@annflowerpr.com)

Montreal:  
Maria Varvarikos Peart  
Agence ZOÏ  
Tel: (514) 282-9888  
[Maria@agence-zoi.com](mailto:Maria@agence-zoi.com)