

A luxurious stay for the business set

BY DAVID PARKER, CALGARY HERALD OCTOBER 8, 2010



This city continues to attract a growing number of business people who are either relocating to work here or living in Calgary for extended periods of time to consult with or market to local corporations. It has been a boost for downtown hotels and has also sparked a renewed interest in the market for furnished suites that are available for either short-or long-term stays.

Nick Livaditis has addressed the opportunity with the opening of Bedouin, two full floors of luxury extended-stay suites in Solaire by LaCaille, the new 21-storey mixed-use condominium development at the west end of Eau Claire.

Livaditis says his first love and choice of a career was in cooking. A student in the culinary arts program at SAIT Polytechnic he was selected as a member of the SAIT team to compete in the 2000 World Culinary Olympics in Germany that was selected as the top student team.

After graduation, he took off for France to expand his experience and was fortunate to be employed at the luxurious Le Taillevent restaurant off the Champs-Elysees in Paris.

From there he was offered a position at Marc Veyrat's famous restaurant and 10-room inn on Lake Annecy close to the border between France and Switzerland.

But returning home to Calgary after an exciting and rewarding 18 months he discovered a bit of a slowdown in the business of fine dining and took up a new career in real estate in the resale condo market.

The hospitality industry still has a huge interest to Livaditis and the opportunity to travel through much of Europe, the Middle East and to Argentina, where he was exposed to upscale service, helped him decide to bridge the gap between his interests in the service industry and real estate. He launched his extended suite company around the Relais & Chateaux five "C" concept of charm, cuisine, comfort, calm and character.

Cuisine isn't part of his project, but Bedouin is modelled on the other four beginning with the classy interiors by Jerilyn Wright & Associates Interior Design Consultants.

The one-and two-bedroom fully furnished suites have been tastefully decorated from the Argentineinspired chandeliers to the Napoleon gas fireplaces and made-in-Calgary custom-designed furniture. Private phone lines with voice mail connect tenants directly to the company office, management and information.

But it's the quality of service that really stands out. Renters are greeted by complimentary Epiphany chocolates, fresh flowers, lemon water and kitchen and bathroom necessities to last until there is time for shopping.

Floor-to-ceiling windows offer some spectacular views of the Bow River and mountains and from its location on 4th Avenue and 8th Street S.W. The downtown, shops and restaurants are but a few short blocks away.

Livaditis says most of his clients will be from the oil and gas, legal and financial sectors, but he has also been enjoying a good relationship with our film industry. There is obviously a need for extended stay; open only since mid-July, Bedouin is already 80 per cent occupied; the majority with six-to nine-month leases.

There is another change within the executive leadership team at the University of Calgary as Rosie Goldstein, who has served for the past three years as vice-president, research, is leaving to accept the position as vice-principal, research and international relations at McGill University in Montreal.

Bruce Graham, president and CEO of Calgary Economic Development (CED), particularly enjoyed his attendance at the Economic Developers Association of Canada's annual conference last week as he was asked to mount the stage four times to accept national awards on behalf of his marketing team.

CED won Best in Show and two other categories for www.liveincalgary.com, built in conjunction with Evans Hunt Group, and a print collateral award for its 2009 Annual Report designed by Squeeze Creative.

And Mary Moran, CED's new director of marketing and communications, tells me that this week she has been informed of two more marketing awards from the International Economic Development Council.

David Parker appears Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. He can be reached at 403-830-4622 or e-mail

info@davidparker.ca