

FAIRMONT EMPRESS NAMED #1 CANADIAN CITY HOTEL IN TRAVEL + LEISURE'S 2025 WORLD'S BEST AWARDS

- Travel + Leisure readers crown Fairmont Empress in Victoria, BC as their favourite hotel in Canada -



VICTORIA, BC (July 8, 2025) – [Fairmont Empress](#) has been ranked the **#1 City Hotel in Canada** in the 2025 edition—and 30th anniversary—of *Travel + Leisure World's Best Awards*. In addition, the magnificent property has been named to *Travel + Leisure's 2025 T+L 500* list of best hotels in the world, earning itself an impressive placement as a standout property amongst global travelers.

Each year, *Travel + Leisure* readers cast their votes to define the very best in travel and hospitality. The [Travel + Leisure's World's Best Awards](#) recognize the top hotels, resorts, destinations, and travel experiences worldwide, as voted by readers in the magazine's annual survey. Today, the latest results revealed that nearly 180,000 people participated, casting over 657,000 votes, to rate hotels on criteria such as rooms, facilities, location, service, restaurants, and value—making the awards a definitive benchmark for excellence in the travel and hospitality sector.

Since 1908, Fairmont Empress, often referred to as 'Canada's Castle on the Coast,' has been the crown jewel of the City of Victoria and a beloved destination for travelers from around the world. With its storied history, architectural grandeur, exquisite accommodations, and iconic Afternoon Tea program, the hotel continues to charm local and international guests. These recent accolades solidify the hotel's position as a leader in global hospitality, making it a must-visit destination in Canada.

"We are incredibly honoured to be recognized as the #1 City Hotel in Canada with Travel + Leisure's readers. It is beyond rewarding to know that so many of our valued guests voted us as their hotel of choice in the World's Best Awards," said Dan McGowan, General Manager of Fairmont Empress. "This achievement is a testament to the dedication of our staff and our visionary owner, Nat Bosa, whose passion and continual investment ensure Fairmont Empress remains a source of pride for our community and beacon for travelers worldwide. We are deeply grateful to our loyal guests, our supporters, our team, and Mr. Bosa for making this recognition possible."



A pivotal chapter in the hotel's legacy began in 2014, when Nat Bosa purchased the property. With a grand vision, Mr. Bosa spearheaded the remarkable \$60+ million 'Return of the Queen' renovation, meticulously revitalizing the hotel in 2017 while retaining its heritage and introducing contemporary design and amenities. His continued investment in Fairmont Empress was exemplified by the launch of the new Fairmont Gold experience, which features 88 elegantly appointed guest rooms and suites, an exclusive spacious lounge with sweeping harbour views, and a host of elevated amenities designed to offer guests the ultimate in comfort and sophistication. In 2024, the hotel welcomed a new harbour view terrace, and the capital investment planned over the next two years demonstrates his commitment to make Fairmont Empress a top luxury hotel in the world and a source of pride for the local community.

For more information or to book a stay at Fairmont Empress, visit www.fairmontempress.com

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About Fairmont Empress

Recognized as the #1 Canadian City Hotel in Travel + Leisure's 2025 World's Best Awards and honoured as a top Western Canadian Hotel in the 2024 Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards, Fairmont Empress is located in the heart of Victoria, BC overlooking the city's sparkling Inner Harbour. The MICHELIN Key and Forbes-recommended hotel is a distinguished 4 Green Key property committed to sustainable practices—and is proud to be double Green Key certified, with its meeting space earning its own Green Key certification. The 1908 historic site offers 431 beautifully appointed guest rooms and suites, Fairmont Spa featuring signature West Coast experiences, and Q at the Empress, which serves Pacific Northwest cuisine accompanied by an award-winning wine list, all while being home to one of the world's most iconic Afternoon Tea experiences. Following a \$60+ million restoration completed in 2017, the hotel has transformed into an elegant must-visit destination where modern luxury intertwines with timeless charm. In 2023, the property introduced a reimagined Fairmont Gold Experience. 88 Fairmont Gold rooms await to be guests' home away from home, while a newly renovated lounge offers guests a cozy haven in the city and a private outdoor terrace peers over a perfectly manicured landscape. Historic Hotels Worldwide honours the property's prestigious grounds as one of the Top 25 Most Magnificent Gardens in the World, making it the perfect starting point for exploring Vancouver Island's stunning natural beauty.

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Photos: High resolution photos and video can be downloaded by visiting the [link](#).

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