

FAIRMONT EMPRESS CELEBRATES LANDMARK YEAR OF AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- A year marked by prestigious accolades places 'Canada's Castle on the Coast' as one of the most magnificent hotels in the world -



VICTORIA, BC (December 16, 2025) – As the year draws to a close, [Fairmont Empress](#) proudly reflects on an extraordinary year of recognition, reaffirming its position amongst the world's most magnificent hotels. From national to international awards to continued innovation in sustainability and guest experiences, 2025 stands as landmark year for Canada's Castle on the Coast.

Each achievement underscores the property's commitment to providing elevated, memorable experiences while advancing sustainability, preserving heritage, and modernizing its historic infrastructure. The hotel's accolades this year include:

2025 Achievements

- **#1 City Hotel in Canada – Travel + Leisure World's Best Awards**
Fairmont Empress earned the top spot among all city hotels in Canada in *Travel + Leisure's World's Best Awards 2025*, a recognition based on global traveler surveys evaluating service, design, and overall guest experience.
- **Travel + Leisure Top 500 List – 2025 T+L 500 Best Hotels**
The property was also featured on *Travel + Leisure's* prestigious *Top 500 list*, placing it among the world's most exceptional hotels for quality, consistency, and guest satisfaction.
- **#2 Hotel in Western Canada – Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards**
Readers of *Condé Nast Traveler* ranked Fairmont Empress as the second-best hotel in Western Canada, highlighting its blend of historic grandeur and contemporary luxury.
- **2025 Michelin One Key Hotel**
Fairmont Empress received a Michelin One Key designation for the second consecutive year



of the award program. The accolade recognizes hotels that deliver outstanding comfort, service, and design—placing it among an elite group of properties worldwide.

- **Best Historic Hotel in the Americas – Historic Hotels Worldwide®**
Honoured by *Historic Hotels Worldwide*, Fairmont Empress was named the Best Historic Hotel in the Americas, celebrating its architectural heritage, preservation efforts, and cultural significance.
- **Green Key Global Certified & Double Green Key Certified – Green Key Meetings**
The hotel achieved 4 *Green Key Global Certification* for sustainable operations such as reducing food waste with the introduction of AI-waste monitoring tool Orbisk, water conservation efforts, and the elimination of single use plastics. The *Double Green Key Certification* is for its eco-conscious meeting and event practices, underscoring its leadership in environmental stewardship.

"We are incredibly honoured to receive this level of recognition from our loyal guests and industry partners, whose trust and support make these achievements possible," said **General Manager, Dan McGowan**. "This year's accolades are a reflection of the dedication and passion of our entire team, supported by the vision and continual investment of our owner, Nat Bosa. His commitment to making Fairmont Empress an internationally acclaimed bucket-list hotel is instrumental in ensuring the property remains an iconic destination in our community for generations to come."

Looking ahead to 2026, Fairmont Empress continues its journey of transformation, refinement, and timeless luxury with a contemporary touch. The year will see the reopening of **The Bengal** with a refreshed concept offering breakfast and dinner service, followed by a renovation of **Q at the Empress**, enhancing the restaurant and bar with renewed sophistication and vibrancy. Complementing these updates, the hotel will also introduce **Dash** a new grab-and-go located next to the shops and Mountain Galleries, offering guests specialty coffees, teas, pastries, and the hotel's famous golden raisin scones.

To learn more or stay up to date on the latest developments 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 2025 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 this [link](#).

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