



*YOUR TIMELESS HOLIDAY TRADITION BEGINS *HERE**

FAIRMONT EMPRESS

Welcome to Canada's Castle on the Coast,
a celebrated destination for more than a century.
At Fairmont Empress, the season unfolds against
a backdrop of coastal beauty, storied heritage,
and quietly remarkable moments.

Within these pages, you will find a curated guide
to our Christmas events and seasonal experiences,
thoughtfully designed to help you make the
most of your time with us.



— F E S T I V E —
CELEBRATIONS

AT CANADA'S CASTLE ON THE COAST

In the heart of the city, at the edge of nature, Fairmont Empress transforms into a place of festive wonder, where timeless elegance meets the magic of the season. From fireside s'mores and warm libations on The Veranda to twinkling lights and beautifully adorned interiors, each moment is thoughtfully designed with one purpose in mind: **Making Special Happen.**

Whether you are gathering with loved ones, celebrating cherished traditions, or creating new ones, we are honoured to be part of your experience.

Thank you for choosing us as your home away from home. We look forward to creating unforgettable memories with you this holiday season.

Warmest holiday wishes,

Dan McGowan
General Manager





*Eat, Drink &
BE MERRY*



CHRISTMAS DAY BUFFET IN THE CRYSTAL BALLROOM

Experience Christmas Day in the iconic Crystal Ballroom with a lavish buffet featuring chef-attended carving stations, fresh seafood, holiday favourites, and festive desserts.

Seatings at 2:30pm & 5:30pm
\$279 per adult and \$70 per child plus taxes.

TURKEY TO-GO

Bring the magic of Fairmont Empress home with a chef-prepared Christmas feast featuring a whole herb-brined, slow-roasted free-run turkey and classic holiday accompaniments. Add a festive Holiday Yule Log from our pastry team. Serves 10 guests. **Order by December 18. Pick up December 24 & 25. Price: \$599 plus taxes.**

Dining at Fairmont Empress is a celebration of seasonal flavour, thoughtful craftsmanship, and timeless hospitality. From elegant dinners to indulgent holiday buffets, each experience brings loved ones together in a setting that captures the magic of Christmas at the Castle.

CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER IN Q AT THE EMPRESS

Gather with family and friends for an elegant Christmas dinner featuring festive creations alongside the signature Q at the Empress menu. **From 5:00pm. Reservations recommended.**

Reserve your holiday dining by scanning
the QR code on the back.





FESTIVE VERANDA

Overlooking the sparkling Inner Harbour, The Veranda transforms into a cozy winter retreat where guests can gather around the fire to roast marshmallows, sip seasonal hot beverages, and enjoy indulgent cheese or chocolate fondue. With outdoor heaters, plush blankets, and sweeping waterfront views, the space offers a warm and relaxed setting for festive connection.

Open weekends beginning November 14.

Open daily December 18 through January 3.

Walk-ins welcome. The Veranda does not accept reservations.

COCKTAILS IN Q AT THE EMPRESS

The holiday season comes to life through a thoughtfully curated cocktail menu inspired by classic festive flavours and modern mixology. Crafted by the talented bar team, each drink offers a creative twist on seasonal favourites — perfect for toasting to the holidays in a vibrant and stylish setting. **Open daily from 11:00am - 12:00am.**

Reservations recommended.

DASH

Our newly opened coffee grab-and-go experience, DASH, brings a convenient and elevated way to enjoy your favourite Fairmont Empress flavours throughout the festive season. Guests can start their day with seasonal beverages or indulge in a festive scone. Perfect for a morning coffee, a quick treat, or a thoughtful gift to enjoy at home.

Open daily from 6:00am - 3:00pm.

The holiday season at Fairmont Empress is best experienced through its spirited gatherings and elevated seasonal pours. From inventive festive cocktails crafted by the bar team to cozy outdoor moments overlooking the Inner Harbour, each experience is designed to bring warmth, celebration, and a touch of Fairmont Empress elegance to winter evenings in Victoria.



— *Get into the* —
HOLIDAY SPIRITS

FESTIVE TEA AT THE EMPRESS

Our signature Tea at the Empress is reimagined for the holiday season — a beloved tradition dressed in festive elegance.

Served in the historic Lobby Lounge, this seasonal experience brings together the warmth of Christmas and the timeless ritual of Afternoon Tea beneath sparkling décor and soft seasonal ambience.

On each tier, guests will discover a festive interpretation of Fairmont Empress classics: warm, freshly baked scones served with house-made clotted cream, delicately crafted Christmas sandwiches inspired by seasonal flavours, and an indulgent selection of holiday sweets designed by the pastry team.

To complete the experience, a curated selection of premium loose-leaf teas is served in fine china — a nod to the Fairmont Empress tradition dating back over a century. For those wishing to elevate the occasion, Champagne service is also available.

\$114 per adult, \$70 per child. Available daily.
Reservations can be made online
at teaattheempress.com



INSIDE THE *RITUAL*

A Conversation with Mik Melnyk
General Restaurant Manager, Tea at the Empress

► How does the festive version of Tea at the Empress differ from the rest of the year?

We don't try to change what people already love, we build on it. The experience stays familiar, but our pastry team brings in seasonal flavours and holiday inspiration. You'll notice warmer spices, richer textures, and small festive details throughout. It still feels like Tea at the Empress, just with a little more sense of occasion.

► What is something about Tea at the Empress that guests might not realize has a story behind it?

The china is probably one of the best examples. The pattern we use today was originally associated with the Royal Family. In 1939, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth visited the Empress and selected the pattern for a dinner they hosted here. The original china was later gifted to the hotel.

Years later, the pattern was rediscovered in a Victoria antique shop, and we were able to have it reproduced exclusively for the Empress. Even today, the gold detailing on each piece is hand-painted with 22-karat gold. So when guests lift their teacup, they're holding a small piece of the hotel's history.

► What detail do guests often overlook but shouldn't miss?

I would say the tea itself. We put a lot of care into our loose-leaf selection, and every tea is chosen to pair with the food. Many guests focus on the tiered tray, which is beautiful, but the tea is what really ties everything together.

I always encourage guests to try more than one tea, or even choose different teas for the table to share. And don't hesitate to ask questions—our team is very knowledgeable and happy to guide you to something you might not expect.

► What do you hope guests take away from the experience?

I hope guests leave with a sense of slowing down. The holidays can be busy, but this is a moment to pause, connect, and enjoy something simple and meaningful.

It's also special to think that when you sit in this room, you're becoming part of over 100 years of history, joining so many others who have shared tea here before you.



TEA AT THE EMPRESS

SIGNATURE RAISIN SCONES

Our gift to you



DIRECTIONS

Preheat your convection oven to 325°F

In a large bowl, mix the flour, sugar, and baking powder

Cut the cold butter into the flour mixture using your fingers, a pastry cutter, or two knives until it resembles coarse crumbs

Stir in the raisins

In a separate bowl, whisk together the egg and the heavy cream

Pour the wet mixture into the dry ingredients and stir just until a dough forms. Do not overmix

Turn the dough onto a lightly floured surface and gently pat it until 3/4" thick

Cut into circles, squares, or wedges

Place on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper

Whisk together 1 egg, 2 tbsp heavy cream, and a pinch of salt

Brush the tops with the egg mixture for a golden finish

Bake for 12–15 minutes, until the tops are lightly golden

Cool for a few minutes before serving

INGREDIENTS

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour

1/2 cup heavy cream

1/4 cup granulated sugar

1/4 cup cold butter, cubed

1/4 cup golden raisins

1 large egg

1 tbsp baking powder

BRUSHING MIXTURE

1 egg

2 tbsp heavy cream

pinch of salt

KIDS AT *THE CASTLE*

CHILDREN'S FESTIVE ROYAL-TEA AT THE EMPRESS

Our Festive Royal-Tea puts a whimsical twist on the classic Tea at the Empress, specially designed for tiny travellers with big imaginations. Experience the grandeur and elegance of the famous Lobby Lounge over the holidays and be made to feel like young royalty while participating in this coveted tradition.

KIDS AT THE CASTLE

This season, young guests are invited to discover the magic of the Castle in their own way—from festive activity books and scavenger hunts to glowing garden lights and cozy family movie nights complete with in-room dining treats.

Our kids' menu makes dining easy (and delicious), with plenty of favourites and healthy options to choose from. Plus, children aged five and under dine free from the kids' menu, while those aged 6–12 enjoy half price from the regular menu in our restaurants.

Because at Fairmont Empress, every detail is designed to make special happen, for every member of the family.



PHOTO CREDIT: JON MARK PHOTOGRAPHY



— N Y E — Q AT THE *EMPRESS*

Welcome the New Year with an evening of elegance at the newly renovated Q at the Empress. Indulge in a sophisticated celebration featuring Veuve Clicquot Champagne paired with thoughtfully curated seafood and caviar experiences, all set within a beautifully elevated atmosphere.

Curated experiences for two include:

Veuve Clicquot & Caviar Service - \$450

Veuve Clicquot & Seafood Tower with Lobster - \$490

Veuve Clicquot, Oysters & Prawns - \$370

Additional cocktails and culinary selections are available to enhance your evening.

One seating | Arrivals from 7:30pm – 9:00pm

RESERVE TODAY

Scan QR code on the back to reserve your table.



— N Y E — THE BENGAL

Begin the final evening of the year with an unhurried dinner in one of Fairmont Empress' most storied rooms. From 5:00pm to 9:00pm, The Bengal offers a warm and intimate setting for those looking to savour the occasion at their own pace.

Enjoy a refined à la carte menu featuring bold, globally inspired flavours, followed by a festive dessert buffet created by our pastry team. With its distinctive character and timeless atmosphere, The Bengal is an elegant choice for a quieter New Year's Eve, shared over good food, thoughtful hospitality, and a little something special.

RESERVE TODAY

Scan QR code on the back to reserve your table.



WINTER WELLNESS



FAIRMONT SPA

FAIRMONT SPA

Fairmont Spa is a serene oasis in the heart of Victoria. This winter, step into a sanctuary of warmth and renewal, where elevated, results-driven treatments are thoughtfully tailored to restore balance and rejuvenate the senses.

PEPPERMINT MOCHA SCRUB

60 min | Midweek \$200 | Weekend \$230

Embrace the magic of the season with this indulgent full-body ritual, inspired by the comforting aromas of peppermint and rich mocha. An invigorating exfoliation is paired with warm stones and a soothing massage to ease tension, smooth the skin, and restore a sense of deep relaxation, leaving you softly radiant.

RADIANCE FACIAL

60 min | Midweek \$240 | Weekend \$270

Reveal luminous, holiday-ready skin with the Nelly DeVuyst Radiance Facial. Featuring the signature Keratolyse Peel, this illuminating treatment gently exfoliates while replenishing hydration and enhancing natural radiance—resulting in a smooth, revitalized complexion and a healthy festive glow.

Reserve your holiday treatments by scanning the QR code on the back.





THE HOLIDAY SEASON IN *VICTORIA*

From holiday lights on the Parliament Buildings to the jingle of horse-drawn carriages making their way along the cobblestone streets, the festive season in Victoria is truly magical.

BUTCHART GARDENS

While the flowers sleep, they dress the gardens with boughs of greenery—and lights galore! The gardens come to life with a colourful display of lights. Bundle up and stroll through the Twelve Days of Christmas display, and sing along to the sounds of the season with traditional carolers.

MARVEL AT THE HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Add Christmas lights to an already beautiful city, and you have something exceptional. Take an evening stroll along the iconic harbour to see historic landmarks, including the British Columbia Parliament Buildings twinkle and shine.

SANTA CLAUS PARADE

The annual Santa Claus Parade will make its way through downtown on November 28 at 5:00pm, complete with lit-up floats, music and entertainment for the whole family to enjoy!



FAIRMONT EMPRESS' *HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE*

This Christmas, the Fairmont Store has a treasure trove of new and thoughtfully curated gift ideas filled with inspiration and meaning for all the special people in your life.

FAIRMONT SIGNATURE SLEEP EXPERIENCE

“Bring Fairmont Home” means just that, with our Fairmont Sleep Experience. You get everything you need to make your bedroom and bathroom just as it was during your memorable stay at Fairmont Empress. This experience includes: Fairmont Signature Bed, duvet (all season), Fairmont linens (sheet set, duvet cover, pillow sham), pillows and towel set.

TEA AT THE EMPRESS

Meticulously sourced from the world’s finest tea estates, Fairmont’s Lot 35 tea transforms teatime into an international journey. Offered as loose leaf, pyramid tea bags and oversized bags for iced tea, Lot 35 teas are colourful, aromatic and flavourful. Choose a tea to meet your mood, from fruity and invigorating to spicy and soothing.

Find these gifts for purchase at the Fairmont Store or canada.fairmontstore.com to purchase online.



FAIRMONT SPA'S *HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE*

This holiday season, give the gift of radiant self-care. From restorative spa rituals to luxurious skincare experiences, Fairmont Spa offers thoughtful gifts designed to inspire moments of calm and indulgence long after the holidays.

CÉLA NORTHERN FACIAL COLLECTION

\$98

Uncover the secret to youthful, luminous skin with the Céla Northern Facial, a rejuvenating treatment inspired by the restorative power of nature. Featuring Céla's signature skincare formulas enriched with revolutionary Red Maple Bark extract and bakuchiol, this facial helps nourish, hydrate, and restore skin's natural radiance.

NELLY DEVUYST THE FROSTED GLOW KIT

\$145

A perfect pairing for luminous, winter-ready skin. The Frosted Glow Kit features Nelly DeVuyt's Radiance Oil and Radiance Cream, working together to deeply nourish, hydrate, and restore a natural glow. Ideal for combating seasonal dryness, this duo leaves skin beautifully radiant.

**Find these gifts for purchase at
the Fairmont Spa.**

