

Hockley Valley: ski and hotel for the entire family 1 hour from Toronto.



Anyone who followed me on Instagram over the weekend saw that we were at the [Hockley Valley Resort](#), a super comfortable and amazing luxury hotel an hour from Toronto. We had already visited the place to lunch in 2017 and I was dying to have the experience of sleeping and enjoying everything the hotel has to offer. We were invited to have this experience and today I will tell you everything about it. It is worth mentioning that not everything went according to plan because of the bad weather (the mountain closed due to a lot of rain and freezing rain), but even so we enjoyed it a lot and will be back soon to enjoy the part that was missing.

A resort for the family

If you go to the resort website – [this one](#) - you will find a beautiful property and you can be in doubt if it is kid-friendly or if it is worth taking your children. The

answer to this question is: yes, take your children. The rooms are spacious, the pool has a shallow end where your child can play, the restaurants are kid-friendly and there are classes and many options for the little ones to ski and enjoy the mountain. I think that in our case, a place like this was ideal: the



idea was for Thomas to have a snowboard class, Juliano to accompany him on the slopes and me and Ian to be comfortable using the hotel facilities. If you have children at similar ages to mine (1 and 4 years old) I think it's ideal. Also, if someone in your group doesn't want to ski but wants to accompany you, the place can also be a great option: he can relax in the pool or hot tub, do a gym, rest and read a book in front of one of the several fireplaces or do some spa treatment.

Our room

The [Hockley Valley Resort](#) has 104 rooms of various categories and all of them can be found [here](#). Our room - Deluxe Resort Room - was extremely spacious and was great to accommodate our family, including boys who are super energetic and need space. The room had 2 queen beds, a sofa bed, a Keurig coffee maker, a TV with several channels, free internet, a super

spacious balcony, a super spacious bathroom and a minibar. It is worth mentioning that they have already made available a crib for Ian and I found everything extremely clean and well maintained.



Our amazing dinner at Cabin

The Resort has several restaurants and the most fancy option is the [Cabin](#). The name of the place honors the first structure built on site in 1865. The restaurant has an incredible atmosphere and is one of those places that you feel very good about being in. The restaurant is open-concept, which means that the kitchen is open and we have the experience of seeing our dishes being prepared in front of us - and all the magic and dedication put into this preparation. When we arrived, we had been placed on the chef's table (a table that looks directly at the kitchen) but because of the children we chose to get another one.

The menu is varied and certainly has dishes that will please everyone. Everything is done in the farm-to-table philosophy and in the hot months almost all the ingredients of the dishes come from the gardens of the place. The person responsible for all this is [Chef Iniyar Vijay](#), who came to introduce himself to us and answer some of our questions. I was impressed to know that almost everything is made on the spot: the breads, the fresh pasta, the ketchup, the ice cream ... all delicious and extremely well done.

Now let's talk about the dishes? Before we could order anything we already received a basket with locally made focaccia, tomato jam (wonderful!) and



butter. At the beginning, my husband ate grilled octopus and I had a truffled leek soup that was fantastic (one of the best soups I've ever eaten!). The boys ate chicken noodle soup and loved it - there was nothing left! As a main course, I ordered a spaguettini with buffalo mozzarella and basil, my husband had a fillet mignon with mushrooms and the boys had penne with chicken. Everything well done and extremely delicious.

Dessert ended our amazing experience! We received a board with various delicacies: truffles, ice cream, cookies, donuts, tiramisu and pies ... all made at the restaurant. I am not a culinary expert but you can see how everything is made with first class ingredients and with great care. The experience we had at Cabin was one of the most incredible we've ever had in restaurants here in Canada, not only for the food but for the service and atmosphere. It is worth mentioning that we went with two small children and we were well attended and everyone enjoyed it a lot - and ate a lot too!

The breakfast buffet

A great surprise for me was that the hotel has an incredible breakfast buffet. Most packages come with this experience but when in doubt check to be sure. The buffet is super complete and differentiated. It includes juices, yogurts, cereal, granola, breads and cakes (with gluten free options), eggs, bacon,



oatmeal, cheese, salmon, pancakes, fruits and more. I confess that I was a little lost and I didn't really know what to get, because the variety is really big. The buffet is served in one of the on-site restaurants, with beautiful views of the ski mountain. We saw that there are outside tables, so I believe that in the summer months it must be incredible to have breakfast outside, enjoying the beautiful scenery of the area.

What to do

There is a lot to do at the resort and in the region. We were not lucky with the weather and ended up being limited and we had to run back to Toronto because of the freezing rain. But I think it's cool to leave here a list of everything that can be done on site, which is really incredible and full of attractions.

Ski mountain: the first attraction that I could not fail to mention is the ski mountain. If you visit the [Hockley Valley Resort](#) in the winter, you cannot miss this experience. The mountain is not so high - it is more like a hill with a height of 430 meters, but it is worth the experience, especially if you want to learn or improve the sport. There are 2 chair lifts, 2 lifts for beginners (including a magic carpet) and 16 tracks with varying levels (green to double black diamond). The opening hours of the daytime runs from 9am to 4pm, but the cool thing is that it also works at night on some days of the week, from 5pm to 9pm. We didn't know we had this option, but here's the tip because it's worth a lot. They rent equipment and there is also the option of taking classes. All information about skiing on site - prices, times, lessons - can be found by clicking [here](#).

Spa: another activity that can be done for those who are visiting the place is the spa. They have several treatments: massages, facials, hair treatments, hands, feet, among others - you can find all services by clicking [here](#). It is worth mentioning that there is also a spa café, a restaurant with an incredible menu that you can enjoy in the comfort of your dressing gown, between treatments.

Pools and gym: the hotel has two pools - one outdoor and one indoor. As we visited during cold months we obviously only had access to the indoor pool. It is heated and has a very shallow end, which was great for children to play. The pool space is well equipped and has bathrooms, a hot tub and a sauna. There is also the gym, which is small but well equipped. After the children

went to sleep my husband took advantage of the structure and went to exercise: he loved it!

Golf: in the hot months the resort offers an 18-hole course that was designed by a Canadian golf champion. I don't know anything about golf but the space for practicing the sport is huge and the region is beautiful, so if you enjoy it it is worth checking out.

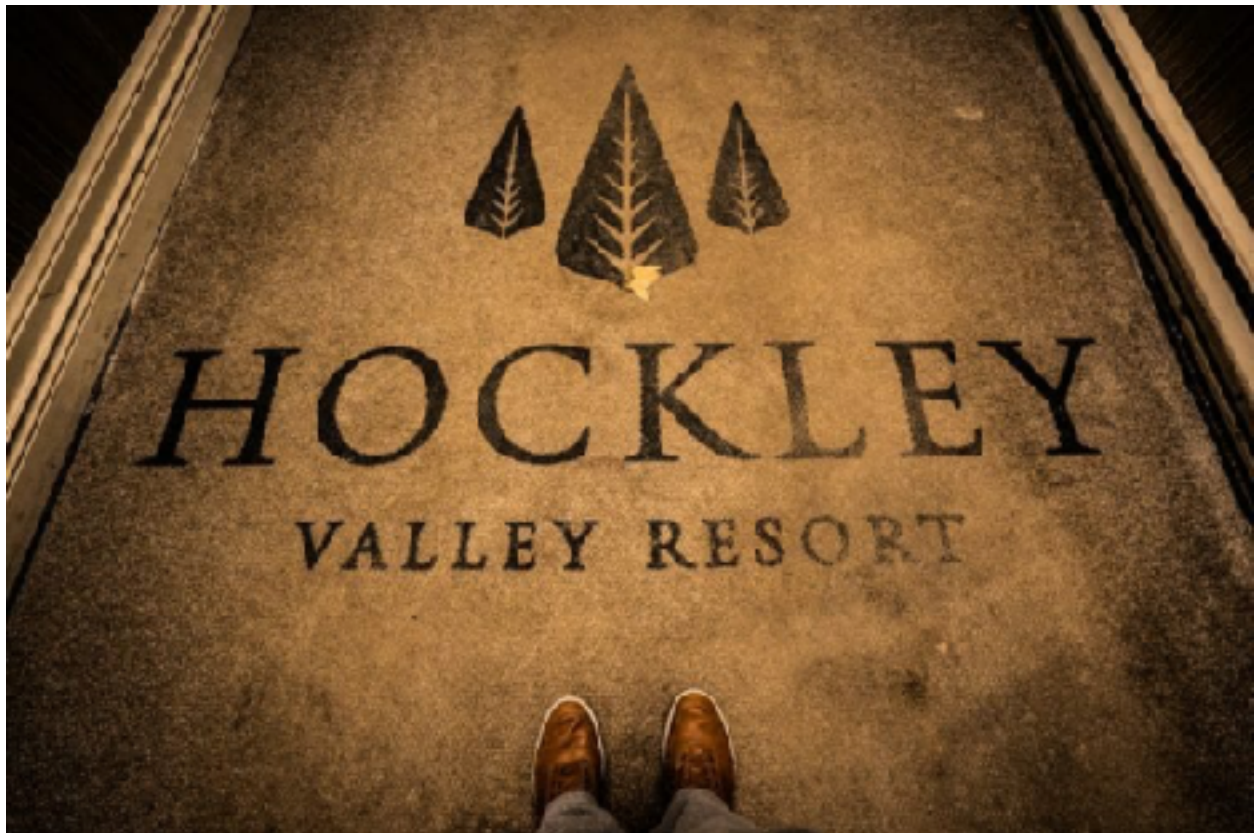


Winery: I loved that the resort has its own winery, called [Adamo Estate Winery](#). It is only 1km from the resort entrance. The place has already received awards and has a beautiful atmosphere. We only drive by the place outside but I certainly want to go back to have this experience. It is worth mentioning that inside the winery there is the [Paddock Café](#), a restaurant serving lunch, snacks, brunch on Sundays and a pasta and wine event on Fridays night (Wine and Unwind Friday Night). It is worth mentioning that there is also a wine shop - at the winery and at the Resort - and you can taste the local wines in all the Resort's restaurants. Oh, and they do wine tasting and wine tours too. To see all the events happening at the site click [here](#).

The Farm: The Resort has vegetable gardens and food plantations from which 80% of the ingredients of the dishes made in restaurants come from. You can visit this area in the hot months and more information can be found [here](#).

Restaurants: in addition to the Cabin and the Spa Café, the Resort has other restaurants. Babbo is the hotel's lobby bar that serves some dishes and is ideal for a happy hour. The Restaurant 85 is another restaurant, with windows and a patio overlooking the ski mountain. It is there that the buffet breakfast is served. It is also worth mentioning that near the entrance to the ski station they have a Ski Café with snacks and snacks so you don't have to take your clothes off and be able to enjoy more of the mountains.

Tours around the site: there is a lot to do at the [Hockley Valley Resort](#), but if you want to explore the region it is worth clicking [here](#) to see everything that can be done around the Resort.



Packages

We were invited to do a review of the resort and so our accommodation was complimentary, but I have to say that around the hotel there are advertisements for different packages for accommodation and I found the prices very good for what the hotel has to offer. There are several promotions and you can see them all by clicking [here](#). Among the ones I liked the most are the following (from January 2020):

- Stay & Ski Gateway: for CAD \$299 per couple you get one night at the hotel, breakfast (buffet) and ski tickets for one day.
- Winery Gateway: for CAD \$398 per couple you get a hotel night, breakfast (buffet), dinner at Cabin and wine tasting with cheese board at Adamo winery.
- Girlfriends 'Gateway: for CAD \$265 per person you and your friends can spend an evening at the hotel, with breakfast (buffet), dinner at the Cabin and \$75 to spend at the spa.
- March Break Promo: for CAD \$334 a family of 4 can enjoy a hotel night, breakfast (buffet) and ski for a day (2 adults and 2 children).

A day visit

Being only an hour from Toronto you may end up choosing to spend the day at the hotel. This is possible but note that you will be missing out part of the experience and will not be able to enjoy everything the hotel offers. But I couldn't help but write that yes, it is possible! Skiing and having lunch at Cabin was what we did in 2017 and we liked it so much that we repeated the dose. And we will certainly repeat it over and over again.

I hope you enjoyed this tip and be sure to include [Hockley Valley Resort](#) in your plans. The place is perfect for visiting with the family and is open all year round. Finally, I would like to thank the Resort for welcoming us and we will be back very soon to enjoy the mountain, because due to bad weather it was not possible as previously mentioned.



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You can find the Portuguese version of this blog post - and more pictures - at the following link: <https://gabynocanada.com/2020/01/13/hockley-valley-resort-ski-e-hotel-para-toda-a-familia-ha-1-hora-de-toronto/>