

ISSUE 03

AN AIRSPRINT PRIVATE AVIATION PUBLICATION

# Gateways



**AirSprint**  
PRIVATE AVIATION

your possibilities are endless  
**WHEN YOU OWN A PRIVATE JET**





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Embraer Legacy 450 poised and ready for departure from Valdez, Alaska.



# Two Decades of AirSprint

AN INTIMATE CONVERSATION WITH  
JAMES ELIAN, PRESIDENT OF AIRSPRINT

By Natasha McKenty



Falcon Field Airport located in Maricopa County, Arizona.

It would be impossible to tell the story of AirSprint without one of its main characters, James Elian. After nineteen years with the company, the narratives intertwine so closely it's hard to tell them apart. When the current President joined AirSprint, it had three airplanes, seven pilots, and a maintenance person. The company was one year old, and every day was a mission for these pioneers to prove themselves.

Our virtual interview begins with small talk. To my relief, Elian isn't as intimidating as his credentials would imply. His wittiness and charisma encourage easy conversation. As my limited knowledge of private aviation becomes evident, he humours me with the story of how he decided to become a pilot. "I didn't know what I wanted to be," he says. "Then the last month of high school, we had a Career Day. For whatever reason, when they asked if there were any jobs that I wanted to see, I said, 'Hey, can you bring in a pilot?'"

So, they brought in a pilot.

"I had never been in a small airplane," he laughs. "I had been on an airliner four times in my life, but everything about the profession itself just kind of appealed to me."

He and the pilot talked for the better part of an hour, and later that night, he announced to his mom and dad that he, too, saw a future in the skies. While his parents were wondering if they had another doctor in the family, Elian's discomfort at the sight of blood would lead him straight to flight school.

His college roommate was AirSprint's first-ever co-pilot, aka First Officer. One day his roomie said, "Hey, the Chief Pilot was asking about you. He wants you to give him a call."

"He completely lied to me," says Elian. "The CP never summoned me whatsoever, but in my calling and asking to meet with him, I ended up getting hired about a month later."

And AirSprint history took off.

"Many in the Canadian aviation industry thought that we would not survive, and we'd just go away," Elian remembers. "We believed that we could bring all the benefits of private aviation to more people through this revolutionary model."

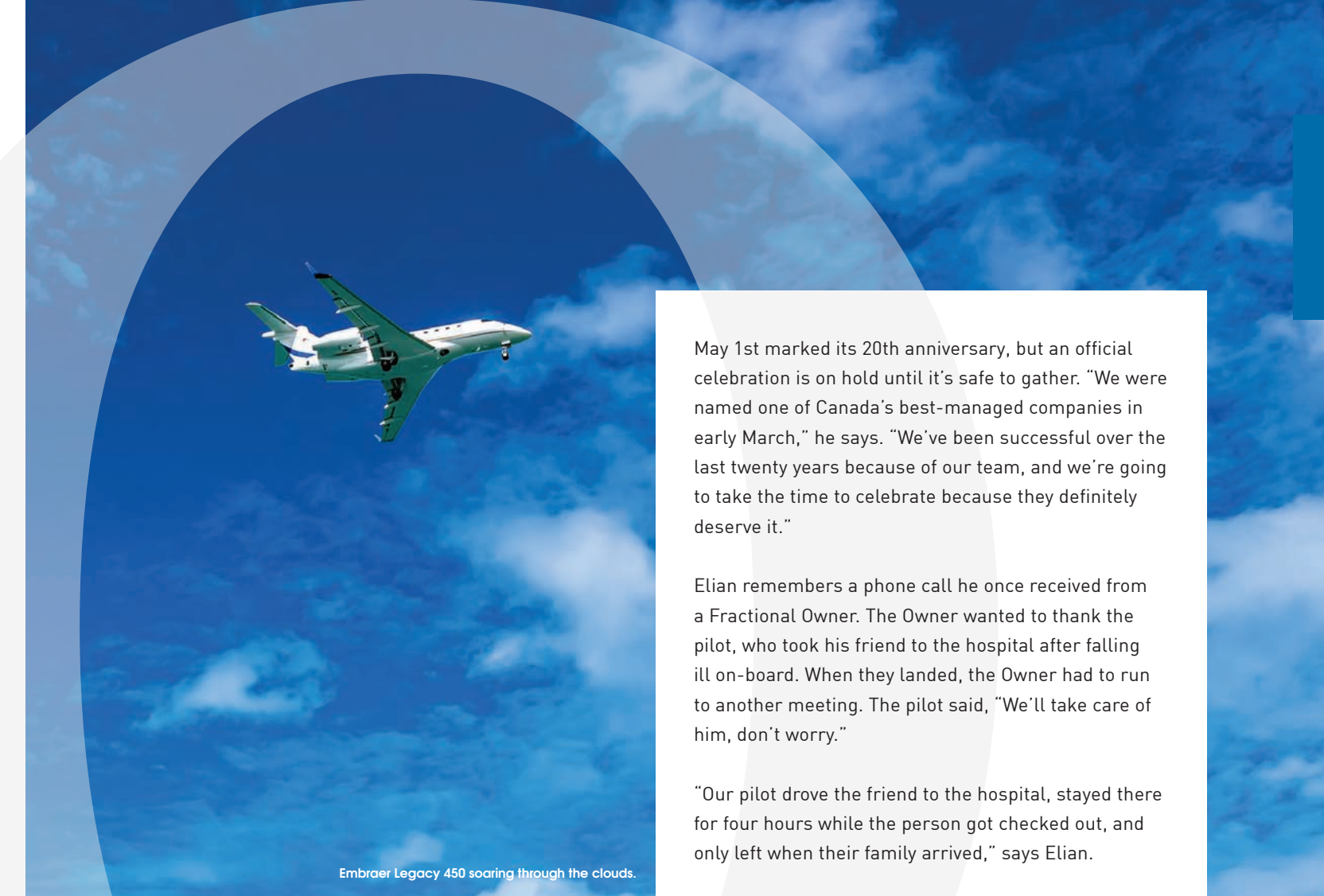
With fresh eyes, he was able to identify simple changes that would elevate the company. "From a training perspective, we could do more, we could be better," he says. So, he put together a training course in his spare time.

"I brought it to my boss at the time, and I said, 'Here you go. I don't know if you need it or not, but I think this could be beneficial for us,' and he said, 'Great; you're teaching it tomorrow.'"

And so began Elian's rise.

The goal has always been to improve the Owner experience. Most recently, he created a new department whose mission is to overlook all the other departments. Keep in mind that at this point, Elian has personally experienced pretty much every angle of this company. From Pilot to Chief Pilot, and Flight Coordination to Director of Flight Operations to Chief Operating Officer – no one knows the workings of this organization as well as he does.

Every AirSprint team began measuring customer experience. "It was everything from the smell in our hangar lobby, to how bright it was, the amenities aboard the airplanes, the quality of interaction on email, and the messages on our phones. You name it – even the type of chips we have on-board and the quality of water. We looked at everything," explains Elian.



Embraer Legacy 450 soaring through the clouds.

Then, along came COVID-19.

He admits that the challenges associated with a pandemic were unlike any that AirSprint had faced before.

"There's probably been more change since March 15th than in the last five years combined." He turns his computer screen towards me, displaying a graph that skyrockets in early spring then plummets swiftly. "In March, when our government said, 'You should get home,' we did 500 flights for our clients in two weeks, bringing them home from all over the world – and then our flying went down to basically zero," he says.

Since early February, the team has been focused on proactively responding to the Covid-19 challenge and has been a Canadian leader in ensuring continued safe operations. AirSprint's flight operations have rebounded since then, and demand for new fractions has never been stronger.

May 1st marked its 20th anniversary, but an official celebration is on hold until it's safe to gather. "We were named one of Canada's best-managed companies in early March," he says. "We've been successful over the last twenty years because of our team, and we're going to take the time to celebrate because they definitely deserve it."

Elian remembers a phone call he once received from a Fractional Owner. The Owner wanted to thank the pilot, who took his friend to the hospital after falling ill on-board. When they landed, the Owner had to run to another meeting. The pilot said, "We'll take care of him, don't worry."

"Our pilot drove the friend to the hospital, stayed there for four hours while the person got checked out, and only left when their family arrived," says Elian.

It was months before the President would hear this story. The humble pilot had kept it to himself.

"The values of AirSprint were more informal when I first joined," Elian says. "You just learned them through doing and working, but the core of who AirSprint is today is not that much different from where it was back in 2000. It looks a lot different, but from a value standpoint, what's important to us now is what was important then."

So, how did this ambitious pilot rise through the ranks to become President? Elian modestly admits, "There was never a goal to be President. There was never a goal to be anything more than a pilot. I just thought that I could help AirSprint realize its potential."

The success of AirSprint's Fractional Ownership model lies squarely on the wings of every AirSprint team member. Their leader's business foresight will continue to ensure that the sky will be their only limit for another twenty years to come. ✈



# Gateways

An AirSprint Private Aviation Publication

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# Dreams Do Come True

## HELI AND SNOWCAT SKIING

By Mike McPhee

The unparalleled ski experience.

**There is a simple yet addictive feeling to skiing or snowboarding backcountry powder. The weightless feeling and freedom from the normal sensations of gravity seems to get amplified the deeper the snow.**

The place is a big part of that feeling: mountain tops, dramatic geography, expansive views and perfectly gladed trees. The smell of coniferous forests and clean mountain air stirs the senses further. These sensations and memories linger in the mind long past the trip itself. For many skiers and snowboarders, it is the ultimate life changing experience.

Both heli and snowcat skiing in Canada were born in the Kootenays of British Columbia. In the late 1960s and '70s, ski guides and powder enthusiasts realized the possibilities of using these machines to access “the goods” in remote high places. The industry slowly gained steam and an international reputation. Though people often think they need to be an expert skier, the reality is that if you are a strong intermediate skier and can get down a black diamond run at your local hill, you will be able to heli and snowcat ski.

In British Columbia, Mica Heli Skiing north of Revelstoke and Island Lake Lodge near Fernie, have both gained a reputation as two of the world’s best lodge-based ski experiences. Island Lake Lodge became a ski media mecca in the 1990s, with top athletes in the industry becoming shareholders and shooting countless magazine articles and videos. Scot Schmidt and Craig Kelly pioneered big mountain skiing and snowboarding respectively at Island Lake. Mica Heli Skiing, under the same ownership, came on the scene in the early 2000s and quickly gained a reputation for unparalleled ski terrain and lodge experiences.

At Island Lake Lodge, they use modified snowcats to transport guests to the top of each run. The interior of each cat is as comfortable as can be with bucket seats, a stereo system and heated windows to see the views. On the slopes, groups are guided with a lead guide in the front and tail guide in the back. The terrain is varied

The snowcat will get you to that perfect spot.

Island Lake Lodge is situated in the middle of the ski terrain.

Wine and dine in rustic luxury.





Majestic mountain ranges at your fingertips.

and encompasses high alpine, big bowls and perfectly gladed trails. Did I mention they get over thirteen meters of snow per winter? They have also perfected the lodge side of the experience and are well known for an exceptional and creative culinary program. The four log lodges sit within a valley in the middle of the ski terrain, with dramatic mountain views out the windows, a roaring fire and an exclusive small group atmosphere. The experience is sure to leave skiers and snowboarders wanting more and fully addicted. The Cranbrook airport is just an hour away and handles private jets easily.

At Mica Heliskiing, they welcome you to their luxury lodge that sits cantilevered above the beautiful Kinsbasket Lake. Floor to ceiling windows provide astonishing views along the lake with glaciers and peaks aplenty. A rooftop hot tub is a great ski après to take in the views with a cold beverage. Not to be outdone by their sister company, they too have a creative culinary and wine program. Mica's ski program uses agile A-Star helicopters, transporting small groups of four skiers at a time. Boasting over 320,000 acres of ski terrain, the run options are literally



The joy of fresh powder.

endless. With storm skiing terrain just a five-minute flight from the lodge, they average only one down day per season, which is unique in the ski industry. The lodge itself accommodates up to 16 skiers and is perfect for an exclusive, and customizable, private experience.

Though the world seems full of unknowns of late and travel is harder, these unique, world-class Canadian experiences are within reach. Perhaps it is time to revisit the bucket list and explore your Canadian backyard. ✈

**Do you prefer a summer adventure?** Explore everything from hiking to relaxing in the serene environment of a mountain spa or private hot tub while indulging in acclaimed food & wine. Summer activities showcase the best that Island Lake Lodge has to offer.

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The view from Mica Lodge is picturesque.



The best of backcountry.



Your ride is here.



# THE FRACTIONAL EXEMPTION

IMPROVED ACCESS FOR AIRSPRINT FRACTIONAL OWNERS

By Jared Williams

**The year 2012 was a very special one for AirSprint. It was the year that saw AirSprint's first aircraft, the Pilatus PC12, replaced with the Cessna Citation CJ2+. Just as significant however, was AirSprint receiving Canada's first formal fractional exemption.**

Aviation regulations historically have been different for those who operate aircraft for commercial reasons compared to those who operate aircraft for private transportation. In general, commercial operations are more restrictive, resulting in reduced access to smaller airports. Foreign commercial operations can also be greatly reduced to protect the local industry from foreign competition. This foreign protection is called "cabotage".

When AirSprint introduced Fractional Ownership to Canada in 2000, the only option was to do so using the commercial regulatory system. This was different than in the United States where Fractional Ownership was invented and deemed to be private: a significant difference in regulatory environments between the two countries.

After a decade of operating under commercial regulations, AirSprint contacted Transport Canada and proposed that they work together to develop a set of regulations that more closely aligned the Fractional Ownership industry in Canada with that of the United States. AirSprint's knowledge and experience was unique in Canada in that they were the only Canadian company approved by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration to operate U.S. based aircraft under their defined Fractional Ownership regulations. Due to this reason, and the independently proven safety record of both AirSprint and the fractional industry overall (which far exceeded that of commercial charters), Transport Canada agreed to work together to develop a new regulatory environment.

In 2012, after much collaboration, AirSprint was granted a fractional exemption from the commercial section of Canadian aviation regulations. This deemed AirSprint's operations to be private due to AirSprint Fractional Owners having ownership in the fleet of aircraft. AirSprint Fractional Owners would now have the ability to fly into significantly shorter runways, have more flexibility on the daily use of an aircraft due to pilot duty improvements, and be able to access more foreign airports with their family, friends, and professional teams due to cabotage restrictions not being applicable to private flight operations.

Today, AirSprint remains one of a very select number of operators who benefit from the fractional exemption and is seen as the Canadian benchmark for professional flight operations. Although the fractional exemption permits much greater flexibility compared to commercial operators, additional safety considerations exist for these situations. AirSprint continues to maintain its commercial operating certificate while operating at a level which meets or exceeds the commercial regulations in every regard. ✈



# The Anything-But-Ordinary

2021 BUCKET LIST

By Jennifer Hubbert

Too often, the ubiquitous travel bucket list falls victim to obvious, look-and-see recommendations. We don't need to tell you about America's national parks or Canada's northern lights. Instead, we've got the prescription for your passion, be it rare vintage spirits, out-of-the ordinary accommodations, breathtaking tee-offs, or historic flights.

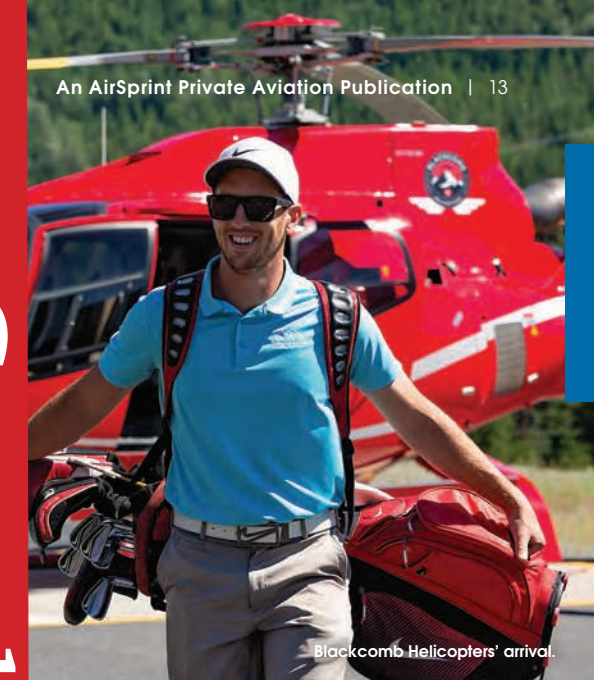
## ELEVATE YOUR ROUND PEMBERTON, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Eagles and birdies take on a whole new relevance when golfing the Pemberton Valley thanks to a 19th "hole" that sits sky-high at 6,500 feet. From Big Sky Golf Club, take flight in a three-rotor golf cart (ahem, helicopter) operated by Blackcomb Helicopters, for a scenic flight above the glacier-studded Coast Mountains before being deposited onto a lip of Mt. Currie. Ready your driver and then tee-off into an awe-inspiring panorama enveloped by mountain peaks. The unobstructed valley views are certain to distract but worry not, every swing from this perch is a hole-in-one. Heli-golf excursions are available as soon as the snow clears (typically June to mid-October); equipment and biodegradable balls are supplied. The experience can be done as a warm-up or a 19th hole cool down. Group maximum: five golfers; \$1,195 CAD.



## Canada

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Blackcomb Helicopters' arrival.



Teeing off from the 19th hole.

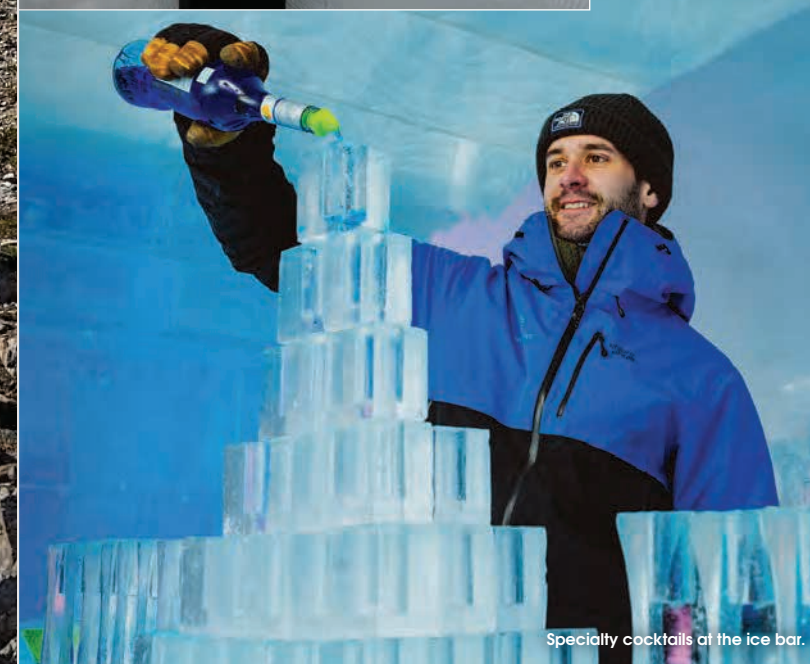
## CHILL ON ICE

### VALCARTIER VACATION VILLAGE, QUEBEC

You'll want to cozy into your Canada Goose puffer for this once-in-a-lifetime experience (seriously, one night will be enough): an evening at Hôtel de Glace, one of two full-service ice hotels in the world. But to describe Hôtel de Glace as simply a hotel would be a mistake. It is a work of art; it is a passport to a winter wonderland cast in a spell of Nordic-meets-Narnia whimsy. Get checked in, attend a brief orientation, and then warm up with specialty cocktails at the ice bar. Next, soak in your private hot tub before bundling into a thermal sleeping bag you will unfurl upon an elaborately carved ice block bed, at the foot of a fireplace that's more for ambiance than heat. Hôtel de Glace operates January through March. The Premium Deluxe Suite starts at \$779 CAD per night.



Premium deluxe suite, Hôtel de Glace.

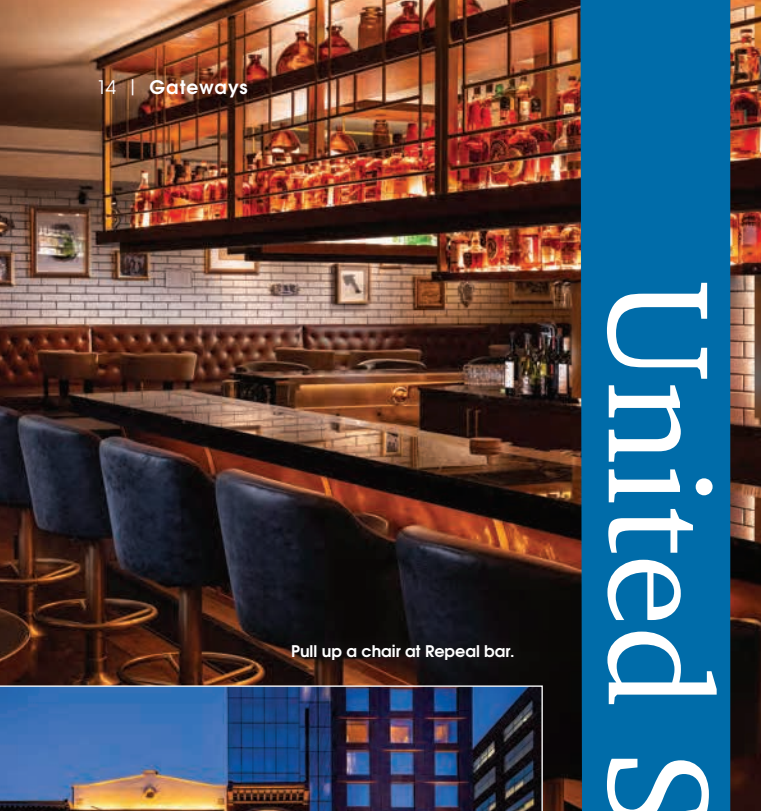


Specialty cocktails at the ice bar.

Panoramic views from Mount Currie.



# United States



Pull up a chair at Repeal bar.



Whiskey Row, Louisville, Kentucky.

## STOCK YOUR BAR LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

Situated on Louisville's historic Whiskey Row, booking a weekend stay at Hotel Distil's elegantly appointed Connoisseur Suite would satisfy any bourbon enthusiast's thirst for the quintessential American spirit. But why just sip the top shelf spirits of the in-room bourbon bar cart when you can literally imbibe history? Hotel Distil's "Exactly Like Nothing Else" package leads guests through an exclusive tasting onsite at Ashborne Farms with a master distiller: twelve vintages of bourbon, each blended in a different decade, starting in 1900. Suffice it to say, these are some of the last remaining bottles of their vintage—and cheers, guests get to take them home. This three-day, two-night package for two costs \$75,000 USD and includes chef-prepared meals, a farm-to-table picnic, private transfers, Bluegrass entertainment and other lush perks.



## DESERT TRIP CANYON POINT, UTAH

Set amid 600 acres of ancient sandstone, the thirty-four suite Amangiri resort has been an ultracontemporary enclave for reclusive travellers since it opened in 2009. Unadorned by design, concrete minimalism complements an extraterrestrial landscape that seems to vibrate at its own frequency, leaving space for mindfulness and respite. Meditate atop a 700 foot butte, listen to your thoughts echo off the walls of a slot canyon or indulge in Navajo-inspired treatments at the 25,000 square foot Aman Spa.

The property's newest addition is Camp Sarika, just a five minute drive from the resort. A collection of ten ultra-stylish tented pavilions complete with private plunge pools and fire pits, Sarika places guests upon the desert's doorstep and beneath a sky ribboned by the Milky Way. Amangiri suite rates start at \$1,900 USD; Camp Sarika pavilion standard daily rate starts at \$3,500 USD.



Camp Sarika tented pavilion.



Soak in the desert landscape.

## FLY IN A VINTAGE WARBIRO PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

If Boeings are buses and Embraer Legacy 450s are Cadillacs, then without a doubt, vintage warbirds are the hot rods of the sky. And who doesn't want to ride in a lovingly restored, rumbly-engine vintage aircraft? Get your thrills over the Coachella Valley where heritage biplanes, historic bombers and iconic fighter jets lift off from the Palm Springs Air Museum. Choosing will be the hard part. Will you earn your wings in a P-51 Mustang—emblematic of WW2 and Korean War air combat—or while riding top speed in a T-33 Shooting Star, the trainer version of the US Air Force's first jet fighter? One-hour scenic flight experiences range from \$195 - \$4,995 USD per person.



Pair of P-51D Mustangs.



Soaring T-33 Shooting Star.

# Mexico

## SWIM ALONGSIDE WHALE SHARKS LA PAZ, MEXICO

In the shallow waters that lap up against La Paz, a city tucked away on Baja California Sur's eastern coast, sentinel whale sharks mingle among the dolphins. The protected waters are increasingly attracting these spotted, truck-size, filter-feeding fish thanks to concerted government initiatives at all levels. From October to April, travellers can swim alongside the visiting whale sharks, staring into their unblinking, sand dollar-size eye.

Swimming with whale sharks can be enjoyed as a half-day excursion, or cruise further out to Isla Espíritu Santo (part of a UNESCO biosphere reserve) to snorkel with sea lions and then enjoy lunch on a deserted beach. Full-day private charters with Baja Adventure Co. start at \$140 USD per person.



Snorkelling with sea lions.



Swimming alongside whale sharks.





# FIRST FLIGHTS

## BC AVIATION HISTORY

By Matthew Beauchamp

AirSprint Fractional Owners are part of a long Canadian aviation legacy. Its history is one steeped with persistence, determination, grit and innovation – a history that we continue to benefit from today. For more than 110 years, Canadians have been taking to the skies, and in that time, the aviation industry has grown by leaps and bounds. Impressive, right? So, ponder this... with ten major mountain ranges, how did this history play out over beautiful British Columbia?

Sunset view from Stanley Park, Vancouver, British Columbia.

One of AirSprint's most popular destinations is Kelowna, BC and the surrounding area. In 2019 alone, there were more than one thousand flights booked in and out of this sunshine destination. And while flights in and out of Kelowna are now comfortable and fast, it wasn't always that way. In the west, the first aviation pioneers faced challenges that pilots further east did not. For example, in the first two decades of aviation, aircraft did not possess the power to fly over the mountains nor the ability to pass blindly through the cloud cover.

increasingly frequent as the demand to deliver mail and packages increased.

With the increase in demand, there also became a need for regular airfields. The first licensed airfield in



On March 25, 1910, stunt pilot Charles K. Hamilton took to the air over Lulu Island near Vancouver as residents looked on. Charles pushed his tiny Curtiss pusher biplane to the limit, and the next day flew 20 miles to New Westminster and back in a flight that took 30 minutes. This exhibition of 'feats' also featured Charles racing his airplane with a car and then, in a separate race, a horse. He would lose both of those races!

By 1914, aircraft were becoming more and more familiar in the skies of British Columbia. The beginning of World War I quickly increased aviation technology and the need to train pilots, leading to the creation of flying schools across Canada, including a school at the Aero Club of British Columbia at Minoru Park in Vancouver.

It wasn't long after flight became possible that aircraft's commercial use became apparent to enterprising business people. Boeing Canada started building seaplanes in the lower mainland in 1929 when they purchased a Coal Harbour shipyard in downtown Vancouver. Soon, international flights between Seattle and Vancouver, as well as Seattle and Victoria, became

British Columbia is also the spot of the first scheduled passenger service in the province – a field on Lansdown Road in Victoria. The field was purchased in 1927 by British Columbia Airways. This airfield saw heavy use and became the location for one of the province's first flying schools.

In 1938, the BC Aviation Council was formed to shape and grow the aviation sector in BC. After World War II, the airplane era boomed as many ex-Air Force pilots started their own companies, and the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) sold some of their planes privately. To this day, the RCAF remains a large provider of pilots to the country.

Today, AirSprint can access many private, remote, and shorter airstrips in British Columbia, utilizing several airports that commercial airlines cannot. This enables AirSprint Owners to travel to more areas within this beautiful province, as well as across the country and internationally. The next time you embark on a flight, we invite you to take a moment to think back on how far we have come in aviation history. ✈





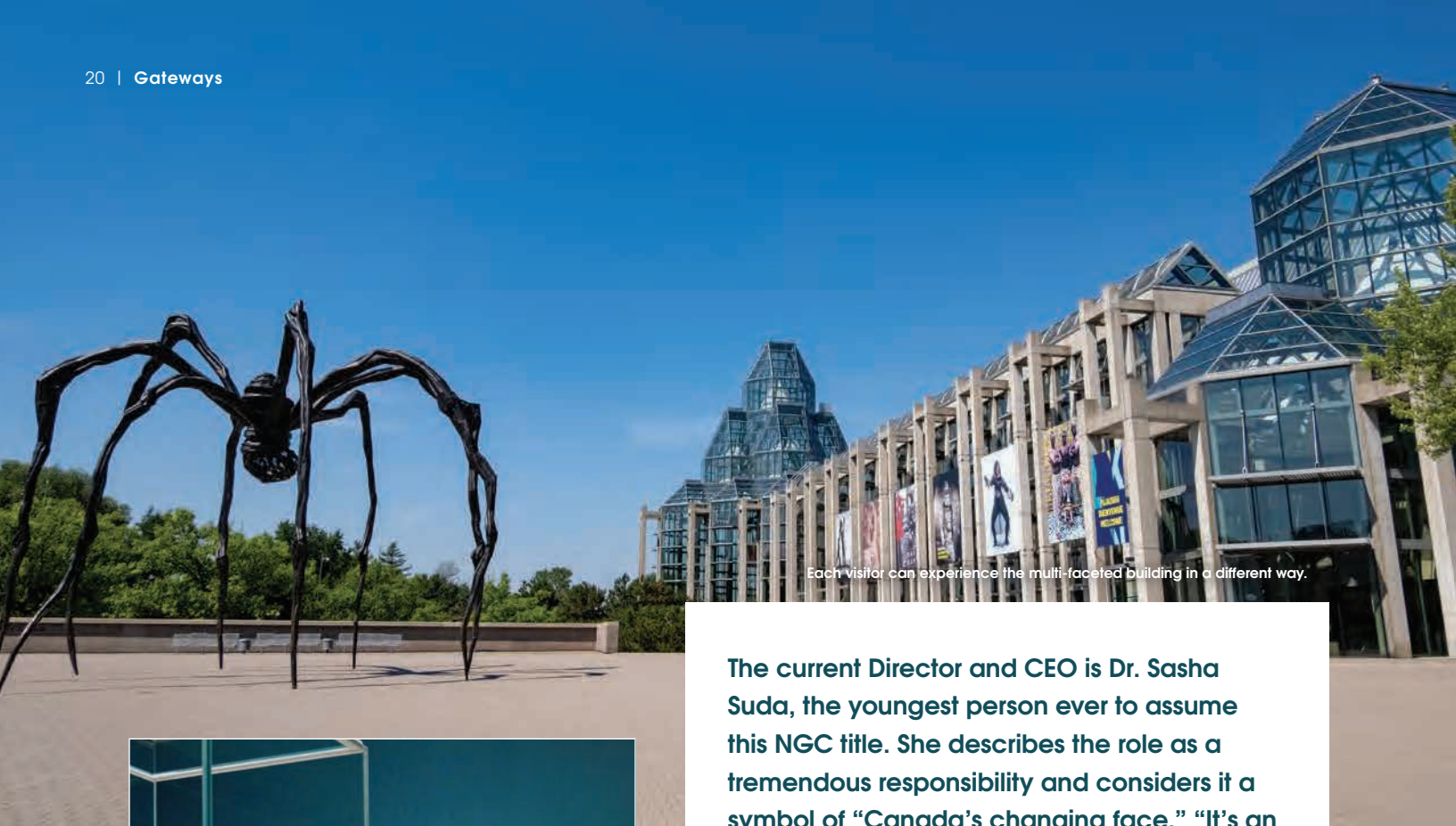
## A DIVERSE CANADIAN EXPERIENCE

By Natasha McKenty

Parliament Hill, cruising or skating on the Rideau Canal and seven national museums - Canada's capital offers unlimited entertainment and enlightenment. A must-see museum to visit in Ottawa is the National Gallery of Canada (NGC), which resides on Sussex Drive at St. Patrick Street, in a large glass and granite building.

# The National Gallery of Canada





Each visitor can experience the multi-faceted building in a different way.

The current Director and CEO is Dr. Sasha Suda, the youngest person ever to assume this NGC title. She describes the role as a tremendous responsibility and considers it a symbol of “Canada’s changing face.” “It’s an indication that we as a society are looking for new ways to change and evolve big cultural institutions that have a lot of authority within the cultural landscape,” she said.

The National Gallery houses an extensive collection of Canadian and Indigenous art, helping to place it among the world’s most respected art institutions. The museum’s galleries highlight artists such as James Wilson Morrice, Tom Thomson, the Group of Seven, Emily Carr, Paul-Emile Borduas, Alex Colville, and Norval Morrisseau. In 2017, the Canadian and Indigenous Galleries were opened to critical acclaim. An objective of the 2017 redesign was to create greater inclusion and diversity. An Indigenous advisory committee provided guidance in representing Indigenous art, including adding Indigenous languages.

Alexandra Kahsenni: io Nahwegahbow, the Associate Curator of Historical Indigenous Art, joined me for a virtual interview along with the Acting Senior Curator of Canadian Art, Adam Welch. Nahwegahbow and Welch share their passion for their perspective collections, converging on a commonality; a commitment to sharing female artists’ work, often overlooked in history.



NGC is home to more than 75,000 works of art.



Elegant events are held in the Scotiabank Great Hall.



Unknown (Naskapi Artist)  
*Hunting Coat*, c. 1840  
Caribou hide, paint, thread, wool and glass beads, overall measurements on mannequin:  
95 x 80 x 50 cm  
National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa  
Photo: NGC

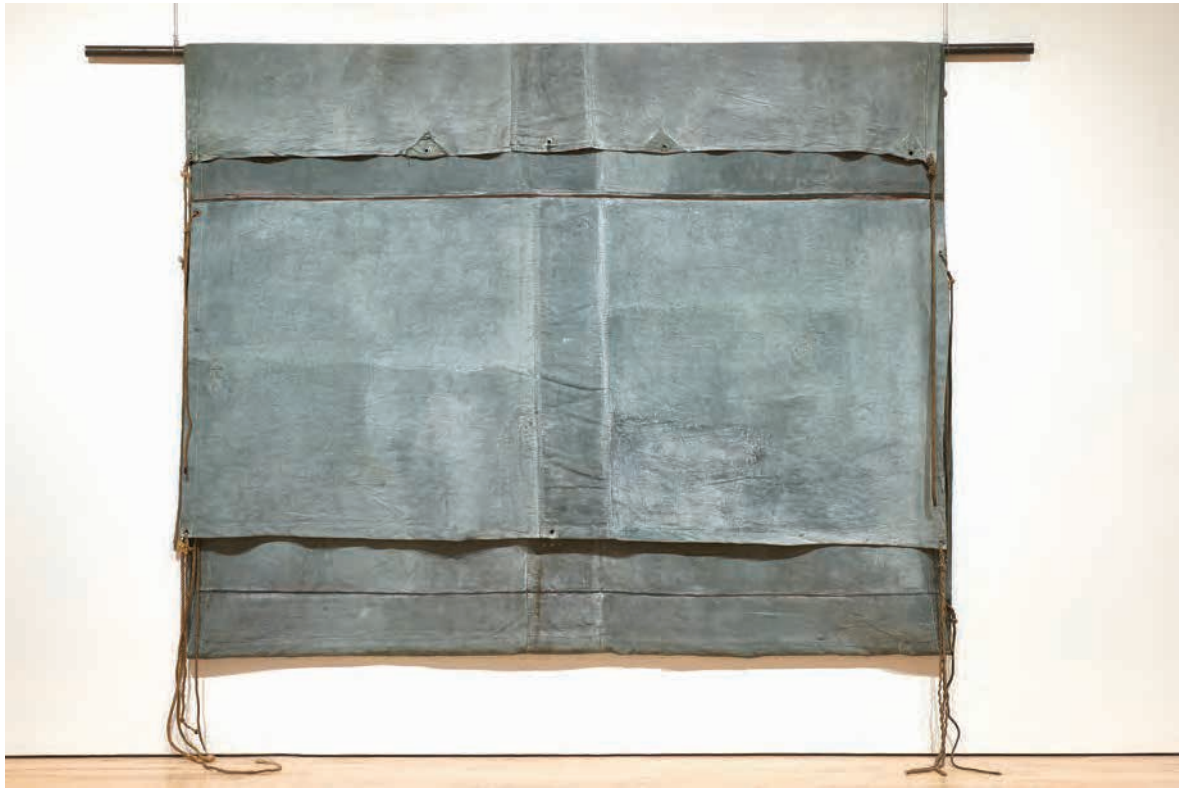




**Antoine Plamondon**  
*The Last of the Hurons (Zacharie Vincent)*, 1838  
Oil on canvas, 114.7 x 97 cm  
Gift of the Schaeffer family, Thornhill, Ontario, 2018  
Photo: NGC

“We thought, how can we more prominently feature work by women?” said Welch. Today, a third of the works in the Canadian and Indigenous galleries were made by women artist, broadening the scope of what is defined as art to include basket weaving and textiles, and allowing for the presence of meaningful works created by Indigenous people. “It also bears remembering that these are collection galleries. We’ve been building the Canadian collection since our founding in 1880, so we have a lot of historical systemic sexism that was built into the collection.”

Nahwegahbow adds, “We just hope people walk away having rethought something about Canadian art, maybe learned new things, especially from the Indigenous perspective.” We don’t often realize that Indigenous women were creating works of art at the same time as the Group of Seven. “We hope that people feel



**Betty Goodwin**  
*Tarpaulin No. 3*, 1975  
Gesso, pastel, chalk, and charcoal on canvas with metal grommets and rope, 231 x 293.5 cm  
National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa  
© Gaétan Charbonneau / Estate Betty Goodwin  
Photo: NGC

encouraged and empowered to rethink the standard narrative of Canadian art. Our aim is to broaden the scope to tell a more robust and truthful history of art made on this land that is now called Canada,” she said.

I ask how important these narratives are, and we talk about how Indigenous presence can often be “...rendered invisible. Thankfully, that’s changing now in history books. As an Indigenous person, when you see yourself represented in those [gallery] spaces, it makes a big

difference because you begin to build an empowered self-awareness,” Nahwegahbow said. “My people created these beautiful things from what they found on the land. They were created during some of what must have seemed like apocalyptic times during the culture ban. It’s really important that Indigenous peoples go into that space and see themselves and feel empowered.”

“We’re very fortunate,” added Welch, “that we have an amazing restoration and conservation laboratory,

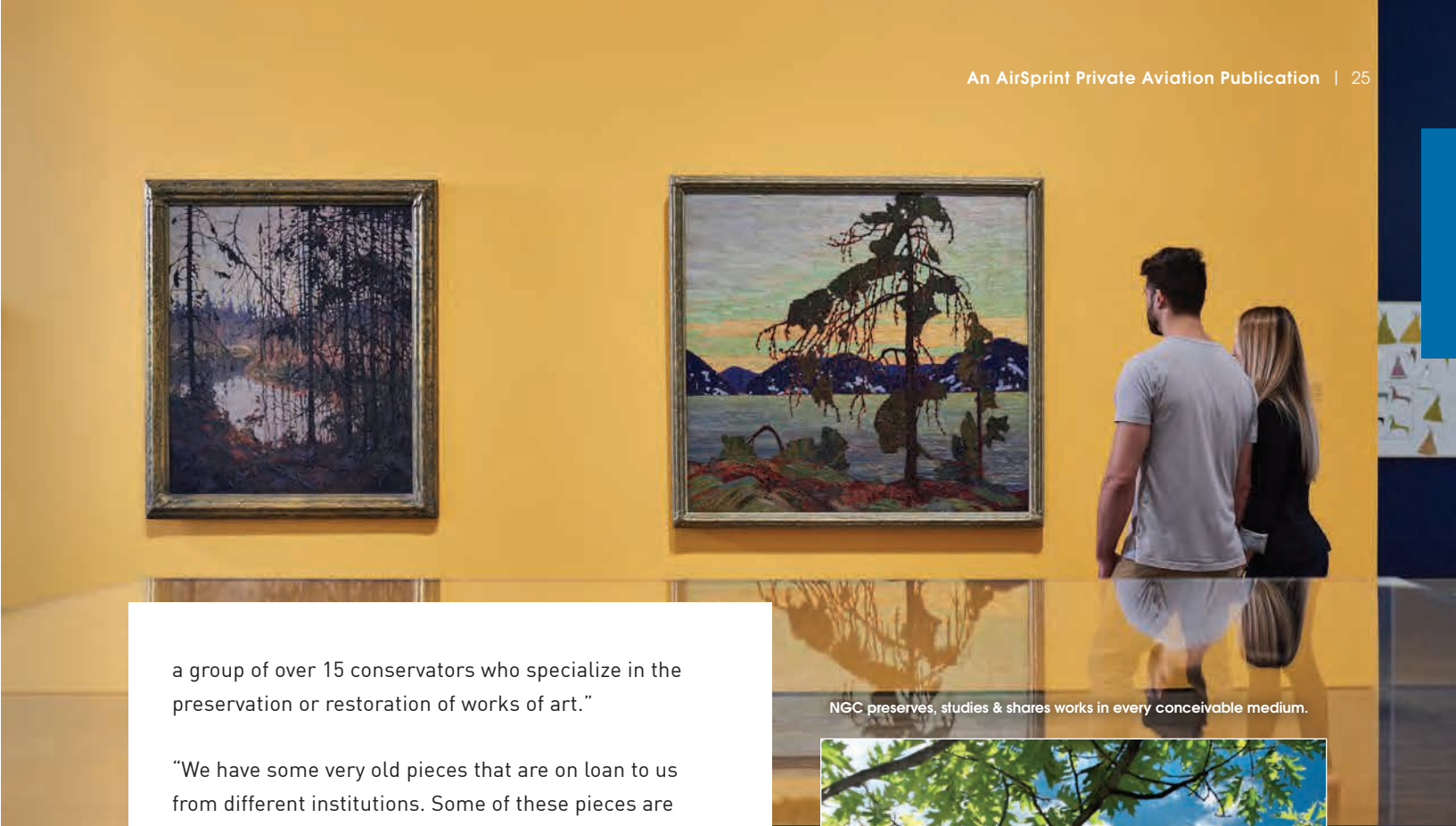


**Claude Tousignant**  
*Chromatic Accelerator*, 1967  
Acrylic on canvas, 244.7 cm  
National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa  
© Claude Tousignant  
Photo: NGC





**Thomasie Qamugaaluk**  
*Hunter*, c. 1955  
Black and white stones, ivory and sealskin, 53.2 x 20.2 x 15 cm  
National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa  
Gift of the Drache Family, Ottawa, 1997  
© Estate of Thomasie Qamugaaluk  
Photo: NGC

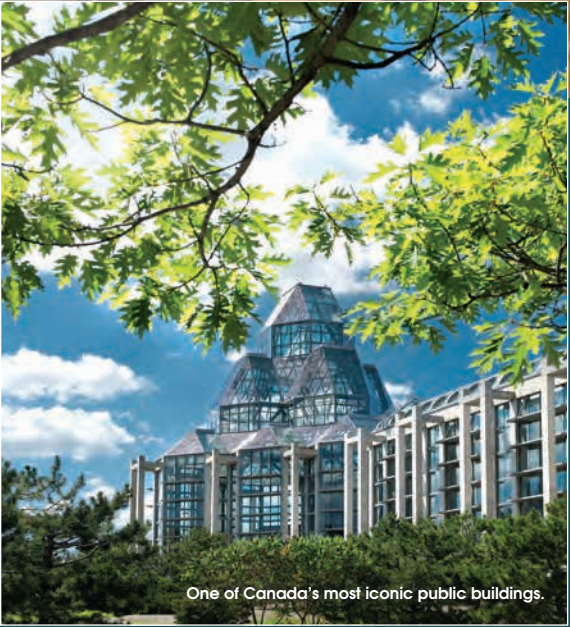


a group of over 15 conservators who specialize in the preservation or restoration of works of art.”

“We have some very old pieces that are on loan to us from different institutions. Some of these pieces are archaeological, and they’re viewed as being elder or ancestral objects, so they’re considered to be alive by the communities that they come from and require cultural care,” said Nahwegahbow. Protocols include smudging before touching an object and other community-determined considerations. “It’s a big part of their job that I’m really grateful for,” she adds. “I think our conservators are these superhumans. They’re art experts and scientists. The remarkable thing about going into the conservation lab is that sometimes you get to see how something was made.”

The Canadian and Indigenous Galleries are just some of the outstanding collections on display at the National Gallery of Canada. Spend a few hours or a day wandering the galleries on your own or participate in a guided tour. Dining options provide inspiring views of the surrounding area and the boutique gift shop offers a variety of merchandise and unique gifts inspired by the NGC’s collection. New exhibitions make revisiting the gallery a rewarding experience. Visit [gallery.ca](https://www.gallery.ca) to participate in a virtual tour of the museum and to learn more about current and upcoming exhibitions. ✈

NGC preserves, studies & shares works in every conceivable medium.



One of Canada’s most iconic public buildings.

**In the late 60s**, many Canadian artists worked with large areas of colourful, geometric shapes; really brightened palettes. *Chromatic Accelerator*, by Claude Tousignant (page 23), is one example in the Canadian collection. “It looks like a kind of amazing bullseye target with great bands of colour spiraling around,” said Welch. “I have to say it’s one of the works that we struggle with preventing kids from approaching because it’s just so visually pleasing—so joyful and happy—that kids are just drawn to it. It’s magnetic.”



# SHAPING WINE'S Next Frontier

THESE OKANAGAN VALLEY VINTNERS ARE RAISING THE BAR  
FOR CANADIAN WINES

By Ken Rivadeneira

If you were to ask sommeliers in 2021 which wine region they're most excited about, there's a good chance many would single out British Columbia's Okanagan Valley. Long overlooked by oenophiles, this narrow area surrounding the stunning Okanagan Lake has been turning heads as of late by producing world-class wines that rival even esteemed Burgundies—and its popularity is about to explode.

Though grape-growing and winemaking in the Okanagan date back to the 19th century, its quality fell well beneath most connoisseurs' expectations until relatively recently. At best, oenophiles regarded it as passable table wine; at worst, undrinkable. It was not until the early '80s when experimentation with old-world *vinis vitifera* vines and different varietals began in earnest in this area, which enjoys numerous microclimates and rich soil diversity.

Comparisons abound to Napa Valley in the '70s or Oregon's Willamette Valley in the '90s in terms of the energy and potential to be the next "It" region. Over the last decade, more ambitious and experienced vintners have raised the bar here, dabbling with various techniques and grapes—and obtaining eyebrow-raising results. Meet three of the vintners and wineries that are charting the future of this region.

View overlooking Mission Hill Family Estate vineyard.



JIM WYSE

BURROWING OWL ESTATE WINERY

burrowingowlwine.ca

"The whole idea was not to make a winery, just to grow grapes and sell them," says Jim Wyse when looking back on how he founded Burrowing Owl Estate in 1993. Formally trained as an engineer whose primary business was real estate development in Vancouver, Wyse purchased a vineyard in Oliver that he saw for sale in the newspaper, and expected to enjoy a tidy profit from grape sales. "This was going to be a fun thing," he recalls. He replanted the vineyard with European vines and had relative success as a grape grower. But when he noticed that the local prize-winning wineries were all producing wine with his grapes, "that gave us a pretty good clue that we had a good raw material." In 1997, he officially became a vintner.

Today, Burrowing Owl is a family-run business, with Wyse's children leading the executive team. Besides being one of the Okanagan Valley's leading premium wineries, Burrowing Owl is also distinguished by its focus on environmentally sustainable practices—a passion born out of Wyse's background as an engineer. Designed on three levels, the gravity-flow cellar uses substantially less electricity than traditional wineries to move grapes and keep the wine cool underground. The estate also implements extensive use of solar energy, with two buildings achieving a net-zero carbon footprint. "If we can show leadership or set an example, then that's a good thing," Wyse says.

**Personal favorite wine:**  
2017 Meritage, Burrowing Owl's flagship wine, a red blend of 59% cabernet sauvignon, 20% merlot, 18% cabernet franc and 3% petit verdot.

*"I think the blends bring out the best,"*  
Wyse says.





## SANTIAGO CILLEY

PHANTOM CREEK ESTATES

### Personal favorite wine:

2017 Phantom Creek Vineyard Cuvée, a red blend of mostly cabernet sauvignon and petit verdot, which are not traditional to Canada.

*“It’s always good to demystify our perceptions,” says Cilley. “This wine does that very well.”*

“Go big or go home” seems to be the mantra behind Phantom Creek Estates, the latest estate winery to debut in the Okanagan Valley. With Santiago Cilley at the helm as CEO and general manager, this ambitious project located in Oliver—estimated to have cost more than \$100 million—opened in the summer of 2020, and potentially offers a glimpse of the Okanagan Valley’s future. In addition to developing its award-winning organic and biodynamic wines with big industry talent like Philippe Melka and Olivier Humbrecht, Phantom Creek will eventually offer an extensive culinary and artistic program with a restaurant that will open in April 2021 as well as a 500-seat outdoor amphitheater.

“There’s a very unique energy here that I haven’t seen in any other place,” remarks Cilley. The Argentine-born wine industry veteran led strategic winemaking projects in California and Chile before taking over the reins of Phantom Creek, and he is quick to point out the uniqueness of the Okanagan Valley. “There is a certain Okanagan style. I would put it between Napa and Bordeaux,” he explains. While every producer has their own process and terroir varies tremendously in the valley, the region’s output “has very distinct markers of acidity and ripeness—a very balanced combination I haven’t seen anywhere else.”

And at the end of the day, it’s this excellence that visitors, producers, and consumers are all after in wines. “It’s a small valley. The growth is going to be in terms of quality, not volume.”



## DARRYL BROOKER

MISSION HILL FAMILY ESTATE

### Personal favorite wine:

Mission Hill 2018 Vista’s Edge Cabernet Franc.

*“It’s the best representation of the Okanagan Valley,” Brooker says.*

Like many people, Australian native Darryl Brooker had never considered British Columbia—or Canada in general—a serious winemaking region. “All I knew of Canada was ice wine,” he recalls. Brooker worked in Australia’s Barossa Valley and Hawke’s Bay in New Zealand before coming to Canada 17 years ago on a lark. “I got into the Canadian wine industry just as things were starting to change and people were focusing on quality and what it could be.” After a stint in Ontario, he arrived in the Okanagan Valley in 2010.

“It was quite exciting to arrive in a region that had all this potential that hadn’t been realized yet. And it still is not all realized by any means,” says Brooker, who now heads one of the region’s oldest and most architecturally impressive wineries, Mission Hill Family Estate, as president and chief winemaker. Founded in 1981 by entrepreneur Anthony Von Mandl, Mission Hill has some of the oldest old-world vines in Okanagan, allowing for the production of some truly elegant and collectible wines. “Winemaking is a game of inches,” Brooker says, “you never make this big leap in one year—it’s just continually building and building on top of what you did the year before.”

In the last five years, the vineyards have been converted to fully organic, which Brooker credits for improving the quality. Global expertise and investment have helped elevate the wines here, but “vineyards that are planted are getting older as well,” he says. “When you’ve got 30- and 40-year old vineyards you can do a lot more.” ✈

missionhillwinery.com

### How to Visit

The remoteness of the Okanagan Valley—a four- to five-hour drive east of Vancouver—may help it retain much of its character, but for AirSprint Fractional Owners it’s easy to visit this unique slice of British Columbia. Airports in Penticton and Kelowna give you convenient access to every area of the valley.

While wine discovery is one of the biggest reasons to visit the Okanagan, it’s far from the only one. The pristine Okanagan Lake, surrounded by mountains and rolling hills, is an ideal spring and summertime destination. Hotels and guest houses dot the valley, providing access to extraordinary opportunities for hiking, mountain and water sports, spa retreats, golf and tennis, birdwatching, outdoor concerts, and even Formula 1 racecar driving at Area 27 Motorsports Park.





# Iceland

D E S T I N A T I O N

By Matthew Beauchamp

For such a tiny country, Iceland truly packs a punch when it comes to jaw-dropping scenery. Whether it's towering waterfalls, ice blue lagoons, the stunning coastline or epic glaciers, Iceland is home to many natural wonders. Easily accessible roads make trips around the island a breeze and link you with outdoor adventures like golf, glacier hiking, whale watching and even - if you're brave - scuba diving.

If you were flying commercial, a trip to Iceland would be an all-day affair, complete with long airport lines and cramped seating. As an AirSprint Fractional Owner, flight times out of Toronto are as little as 4 hours and 45 minutes, giving you the gift of more time to explore Iceland.



Iceland is the island where adventure is calling. Here are some highlights of the vibrant cities, towns and outdoor experiences that await you.

## ICELAND'S FAMOUS LAGOONS

Geothermal lagoons dot the entire island and can often be found just off the highway. The Blue Lagoon is the most famous and is one of Iceland's top attractions. Located about 45 minutes outside of Iceland's capital city Reykjavík, the Blue Lagoon can make for an easy day trip.

Recently, it was announced that a competitor to the Blue Lagoon is being built: the new Sky Lagoon is set to open in the spring of 2021. It will be located in Kársnes Harbour, Kópavogur, minutes from Reykjavík city centre. Its ideal location will make it perfect for watching sunsets, dark sky viewing and catching a glimpse of the Northern Lights.

## ICELAND ADVENTURE

If you're looking for adventure and don't mind the cold, exploring Silfra Fissure is the experience for you. Located in Þingvallavatn Lake in the Þingvellir National Park, Silfra Fissure is a rift formation between the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates. Here you can strap on a drysuit and snorkel or scuba dive this geological wonder.

If swimming in frigid waters isn't your thing but you're still looking for adventure, then the Raufarhólshellir lava tunnel might be just for you. Here you can explore the underground lava tube created by a volcanic eruption more than 5,000 years ago. This lava tube is easily accessed all-year round and is one of the longest lava tubes in Iceland.

*View of the majestic Icelandic capital of Reykjavík, from Perlan, a prominent landmark perched on top of Óskjuhlíð hill.*

## EXPLORE REYKJAVÍK

The capital of Iceland is a young, vibrant city full of culture and music and is a jumping-off point for many of the country's outdoor pursuits.

While in Reykjavík, check out Hallgrímskirkja (Iceland's largest church and ever-present feature on the city skyline), the National Museum of Iceland, the geothermal beach or any of the world-class restaurants and bars that line the 101 area in the city centre.

Finally, no trip to Reykjavík is complete without a stop at the corner of Aðalstræti and Suðurgata. There you will find the oldest relics of human habitation in the city at The Settlement Exhibition. Be ready to step into the Viking Age!

## HÚSAVÍK

Located six hours from Reykjavík along the northern coast of Iceland, sits the small town of Húsavík. Known as the whale town of Iceland, Húsavík is a scenic spot and perfect for whale watching. Whales have been spotted in 98 percent of all whale watching trips.

Húsavík is conveniently located as a day trip to many of Iceland's major attractions. It is part of the Arctic Coast Way and the start of the Diamond Circle. It is also home to the first house built in Iceland, dating back to the year 860 CE.

With so much to explore, you could spend an endless amount of time in Iceland. As an AirSprint Fractional Owner, this is what you have more of - time. ➔

# What's on for 2021

## JANUARY

Dark Music Days Festival  
Þrettándinn Celebration

## FEBRUARY

Winter Lights Festival  
Þorrablót Celebration  
Icelandic Fun and Food Festival

## MARCH

Annual Icelandic Beer Festival

## APRIL

Reykjavík Blues Festival

## MAY

Festival of Electronic Arts  
Rites of Spring Festival

## JUNE

National Day of Iceland  
Reykjavík Art Festival  
Arctic Open (Golf)

## JULY

Reykjavík Fringe Festival  
Siglufjörður Folk Festival

## AUGUST

Þjóðhátíð í Eyjum Music Festival  
Reykjavík Marathon and Culture Night

## SEPTEMBER

Reykjavík Jazz Festival  
Reykjavík Literary Festival

## OCTOBER

Reykjavík International Film Festival

## NOVEMBER

Iceland Airwaves

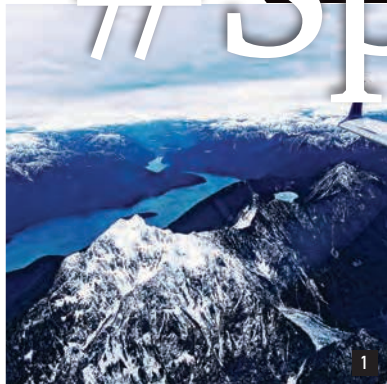
## DECEMBER

Hafnarfjörðu Christmas Market

**Did you know...** Over 1,100 years ago, Vikings from Norway discovered Iceland. Known as one of the youngest landmasses on the planet, it was one of the last places on earth to be settled by humans. Today, Iceland is one of the eco-friendliest countries globally, as almost all of the electricity produced in Iceland uses renewable energy sources.



# #Spotted Across The Globe



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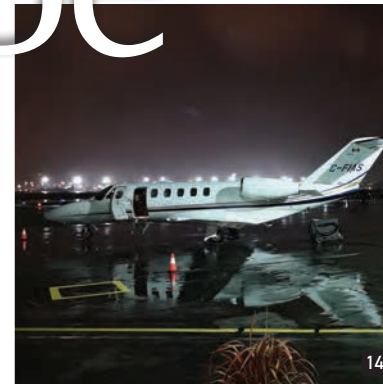
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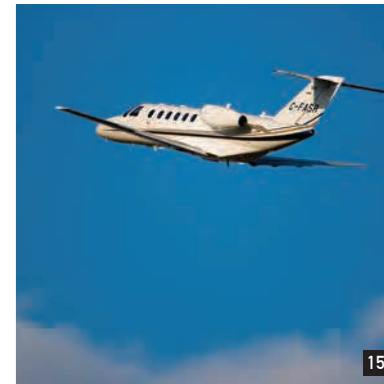
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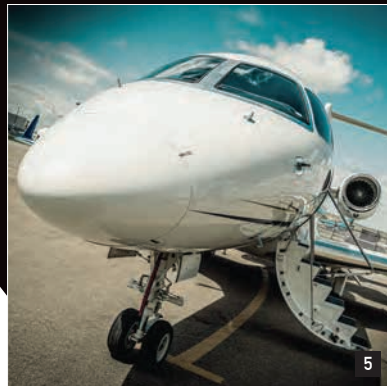
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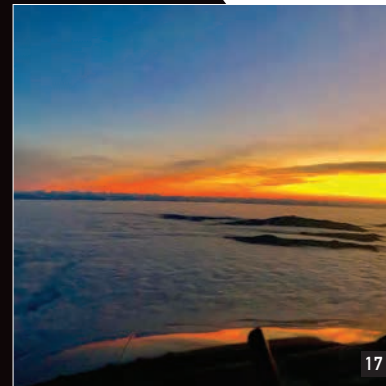
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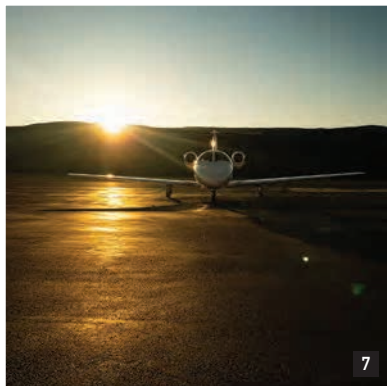
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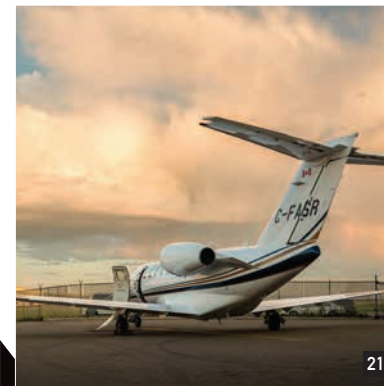
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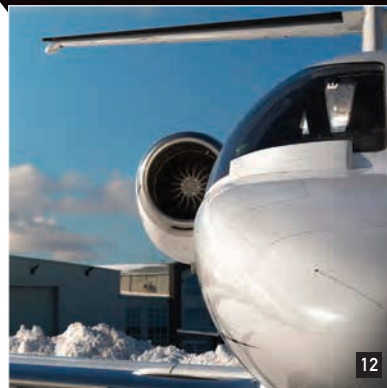
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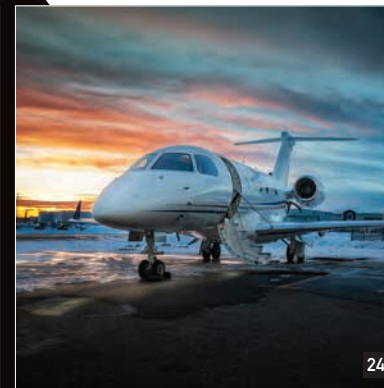
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1. Jack Wambolt | Not Your Everyday View; 2. Ivo Dekker | Palm Springs We Are Ready; 3. Karen Smiley | Riding Off Into The Sunset; 4. Mike Hennessy-Daza | Colorado Dreams; 5. Adam Fallwell | Ready For My Close-up; 6. Ryan Croteau | Red Sky Over The City; 7. Ryan Croteau | Hello Sunshine; 8. @del\_kohnke | Under Colour; 9. Ethan Larson | Watch It Soar; 10. Justin Raymond | Sunrise Over Houston; 11. Adam Fallwell | Valdezzzz; and 12. Adam Fallwell | Let It Snow.

13. Adam Fallwell | Three's Company; 14. Ivo Dekker | Goodnight Vancouver; 15. James Kelly | Big Blue Sky; 16. Adam Fallwell | State Of The Art; 17. Ryan Croteau | I'm Up Here; 18. @yyj\_aviation | Here I Come Victoria; 19. Adam Fallwell | Red Deer Departure; 20. Albert Bos | Arrival In Great Falls; 21. Adam Fallwell | Follow The Leader; 22. Adam Fallwell | Rock Star Parking; 23. Ryan Croteau | It's Going To Be A Great Day; and 24. Adam Fallwell | Crisp Morning.





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