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by Alison Malone



SWEET ESCAPES

It's no little secret that B.C. has become a mecca of first-class travel destinations, and with the month of romance upon us, what better way to celebrate than by highlighting some of the province's finest offerings for intimate winter getaways.

THE OKANAGAN

Boasting award-winning wineries, powder-cloaked mountains and crystal-clear lakes, the Okanagan is one of British Columbia's crown jewels. In February, the region is a winter wonderland, catering to snow sport enthusiasts as well as those preferring to be pampered on a luxurious spa getaway.

Nestled in the village of Naramata just outside Penticton, the Naramata Heritage Inn & Spa exudes romance. Charming and newly restored, the hideaway features elegant decor and in-room clawfoot bathtubs, perfect for late night soaks *à deux*. The highlight of this cozy inn is the Aveda Concept Heirloom Spa, which boasts everything from Reiki treatments to the Rosemary Mint Awakening Body Wrap. For an intimate evening

meal, dine at the Inn's Cobblestone Wine Bar and sample from the selection of world-class Okanagan wines.

Take in the serene beauty of Lake Okanagan and its surrounding hills by booking a stay at Kelowna's El Dorado Hotel. Inspired by the beach-house style of the Hamptons, the hotel exudes a timeless touch, capturing the essence of the original structure that first opened its doors in 1926. Catering to romance, the new luxury suites boast grand, freestanding bathtubs, while hotel packages include chocolate dipped strawberries, bedtime turn down service with rose petals, gourmet cuisine and couples' massages. For an evening out, head downtown to Fresco, a restaurant located in a brick heritage building that showcases a collection of original Canadian art and serves up wine martinis and sumptuous dishes like honey lacquered duck breast. Get a taste of the winery scene (which doesn't fully bloom until spring), with a visit to Quail's Gate Estate Winery and sample an award-winning dessert wine or pick up



a bottle of Riesling Ice Wine to take back to your room for a private after-hours celebration.

For those longing to wake up to the sparkle of the sun bouncing off fresh powder, check into the Sundance Resort at Big White, a true ski in/ski out lodge. After a day on the sun-drenched slopes, wind down in a saltwater hot tub, prepare an intimate dinner in your suite's modern kitchen, or take the gondola to Happy Valley and dine at the Kettle Valley Steakhouse. Later in the evening, enjoy the simple pleasures that nature has to offer by skating on a frozen pond.

