PRESS RELEASE



NEW CONTEST INVITES LOCALS TO EXPLORE PATIOS THROUGHOUT TORONTO THIS SUMMER

PatioscapesTO runs for six weeks with a grand prize of free patio dining for a year

TORONTO, June 29, 2021 – A new project by <u>Destination Toronto</u> is encouraging Torontonians to safely explore patios across the city this summer. **PatioscapesTO** is a six-week <u>campaign and contest</u> that capitalizes on the local excitement of patios re-opening, and invites diners to experience patios in neighbourhoods in all corners of the city by sharing their favourite patio dining photos online.

Entering the contest couldn't be easier. Locals only need to post a photo of their patio experience on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter and include the hashtag #PatioscapesTO. Photos can also be uploaded on the <u>PatioscapesTO website</u>. The more patio photos each person submits, the greater their chance to win.

"Toronto's journey to re-opening has begun, and there is no better way to join the journey than through the diverse patio experiences found all throughout the city," said Scott Beck, President & CEO at Destination Toronto. "PatioscapesTO encourages us all to explore new neighbourhoods and patios we haven't tried before while also showing our collective excitement for reopening using #PatioscapesTO."

One lucky participant in PatioscapesTO will win **Patio Dining for a Year** – 52 gift cards, each valued at \$100 each, from diverse restaurants across Toronto. The winner will be selected through a curated list of photos shared on the <u>PatioscapesTO</u> website. Participants will then vote for their favorite photo with the top submission named the grand prize winner.

In addition to the grand prize, there will also be a weekly contest where participants can win a prize pack related to the weekly theme valued at \$100. Winners will be chosen from submitted photos by random draw.

Diners can also search the hashtag **#RoomOnThePatioTO** on Twitter, for help finding patios with space available for their dining pleasure. The hashtag will be used by Toronto's culinary community to let diners know they have space – making it easy to find a spontaneous patio experience.

In addition to using #RoomOnThePatioTO, Toronto restaurants are also taking part online and inperson by encouraging their patrons to post their experience on social media using #PatioscapesTO. For restaurants without patio space, Destination Toronto will continue ongoing promotion of direct takeout and delivery options on <u>ToGoToronto.com</u>.

"PatioscapesTO is one more way we are working to encourage residents to support restaurants. Through innovative City of Toronto programs like CaféTO, we have added hundreds of new patios and this contest will help encourage people to explore them. Whether it is CaféTO, rooftops, or popups in parking lots and laneways, there are so many places to safely enjoy outdoor dining in Toronto this summer," said Mayor John Tory. "I continue to encourage residents to support local restaurants and bars by visiting a patio today and throughout the summer."

For campaign and contest details, visit DestinationToronto.com/PatioscapesTO

ABOUT DESTINATION TORONTO

Toronto's visitor economy is a vital economic engine for the city, generating more than \$10 billion in economic activity and supporting 70,000 jobs in 2019. Destination Toronto's mandate is to reflect the breadth and diversity of Toronto's people, places and culture to inspire residents and visitors to meet, visit and explore our city. Operating in partnership with the City of Toronto, the Greater Toronto Hotel Association and the Ontario Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, Destination Toronto markets and promotes the city to global travellers, attracts and supports major meetings and events, and supports local businesses to maximize the opportunities of visitor spending. For more information please visit <u>DestinationToronto.com</u>.

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