

Peter Duncan, TV Ski Commentator-Mont Tremblant, Que.

The Tremblant royalty shares his favourite runs and dining spots



TV World Cup and Olympic alpine skiing commentator Peter Duncan, known as the man with the voice, walks through the village of Tremblant, Que., as if he was raised in the place.

Actually, he was raised in the place. Through summers in the 1940s and '50s,

Duncan lived in a little cottage at Tremblant's main base where a collection of luxury condos stands now. In the winters, he was transplanted to Tremblant's north side, to an inn run by his mother while his father, Charlie Duncan, managed operations at the massive ski hill.

The Duncan family is the closest it gets to Tremblant royalty: in the village, there's a road named Chemin Charles-Duncan; up on the mountain, a north-side chairlift is called, simply, Duncan Express.

As we ski, Duncan talks of his days racing alongside Nancy Greene (1960-1970); his heady 1970s sojourn as a racer alongside Jean-Claude Killy; and his jet-setting as a TV commentator. Despite all this, it's obvious that today, Duncan is happy to be home on Mont Tremblant, his first love.

Here's why:

Tell me something people don't know about Tremblant.

My father shaped the ski runs at Tremblant to follow the water flow—that's why many of them are narrow and meandering. They take the path water would flow if you dumped a bucket of it down a hill. It used to be that the trick to shaping a good ski run was in finding that "flow." Many ski areas don't do that any more. They simply bring in bulldozers and plough down large swaths.

When the weather is too terrible to ski, what can visitors do?

My wife [Boutique TVA host Louise Josée Mondoux] and I put on our headlamps and cross-country ski on the trails around Mont Tremblant. We stop along the way and have a little lunch. I highly recommend it... the experience is very romantic.

Any weird rituals that locals perform?

It was a bit weird, perhaps, that during my World Cup racing career I always had a pair of skis in my ski bag that was blessed by our local priest. I would never use that pair; I just carried them around.

Best time to ski here?

February. If it's windy, stay on the bottom of the Versant Nord... and ski La Griffe. If it's sunny, head to Versant Soleil.

How many days did you ski last year?

About 40 days in total.

What's your top pick for first run of the day?

Beauchemin. It's long and easygoing and perfect to warm up on. I build my ski day from there.

What are your favourite runs?

[The] Duncan run, of course, because my dad cut it. Come to think of it, he cut most of the runs!

When you dine off-mountain, where do you go?

For Beaver Tails—look for a little booth in the village. These pastries are the perfect end to every meal. Le Shack in Place St-Bernard is the place to be if you want to be social. If it's peace you're after, stop for a drink at Hotel Quintessence. Try the glühwein; it's very traditional.
