



The grande dame of Niagara-on-the-Lake: the Prince of Wales Hotel.



The view from the spa at the Fairmont Pacific Rim.



And you thought Birks was just for baubles.

# Mom's the word

A cross-country roundup for those looking to put a special spin on Mother's Day

**WEST**

**Victoria** is the land of afternoon tea, and Mother's Day is the definitive outing. Although sumptuous experiences are available all around the city, Silk Road Aromatherapy and Tea Company, a tasting and aromatherapy emporium whose business practices are as green as its tea, may be the most unusual spot as it rolls out its "Mother's Day afternoon tea and tasting," including instruction on the customs and rituals of the loose-leaf beverage ([silkroadtea.com](http://silkroadtea.com)).

Start Mom's special day atop **Vancouver** with a local fave that always sells out: Grouse Mountain's "Mother's Day brunch" ([grousemountain.com](http://grousemountain.com)), then head down to Willow Stream Spa ([fairmont.com/pacificrim](http://fairmont.com/pacificrim)), the city's most luxe pampering spot, for anything from a soak in a Zen tub to a maple sugar scrub followed by a cocoa butter wrap. At night, how can she resist stirring things up at The Dirty Apron Cooking School's "Mom's night out" class ([dirtyapron.com](http://dirtyapron.com)).

Take a "perfect pies and pastries" class together at **Calgary's** The Cookbook Co. Cooks ([cookbookcooks.com](http://cookbookcooks.com)) or head out to Spruce Meadows for the final day of the annual May Classic

equestrian event. It's also when newborn foals are on hand to remind you of younger days ([sprucemeadows.com](http://sprucemeadows.com)).

Is Mom an animal lover? Have her join you at the local zoo in **Saskatoon** for a Mother's Day "keeping up with the keepers" tour and breakfast ([tourismsaskatoon.com/events](http://tourismsaskatoon.com/events)).

**CENTRAL**

Tea time at the Prince of Wales Hotel ([vintage-hotels.com/princeofwales](http://vintage-hotels.com/princeofwales)) in **Niagara-on-the-Lake**, Ont., can be followed by a matinee performance of George Bernard Shaw's classic love triangle, *Candida*, at the Shaw Festival ([shawfest.com](http://shawfest.com)).

In **Toronto**, MoRoCo's afternoon tea is worthy of Buckingham Palace. Think champagne flutes, china, linen napkins, cute little pastries and swish surroundings plush with velvet. The second Sunday in May also brings Mother's Day fairy cakes and once-a-year chocolate truffles ([moroco-chocolat.com](http://moroco-chocolat.com)).

In **Port Hope**, Ont., The Hillcrest Valenova Spa's "Mother and daughter retreat" includes Cleopatra's milk and honey pedicure, Indian head massage, all meals plus afternoon tea and cozy accommodation ([thehillcrest.ca](http://thehillcrest.ca)).

After gazing at Birks' baubles in **Montreal**, take Mom for afternoon tea at the store's café. Side of diamonds with your Darjeeling, perhaps? ([birks.com](http://birks.com)).

Situated on an island 15 minutes from Montreal, L'Oasis de L'Île has a special offer for moms and daughters in a private room so you can enjoy massages, manis, pedis and lunch à deux ([oasidelile.com](http://oasidelile.com)).

Meanwhile, south of the city in the **Eastern Townships**, Spa Eastman, the oldest destination spa in Canada, has a tailor-made "Moms come first" package ([spa-eastman.com](http://spa-eastman.com)).

**EAST**

**St. Andrews** is an idyllic town set in scenic Passamaquoddy Bay, N.B. On May 8, you could simply take part in a much-loved tradition with "Mother's Day brunch" at The Fairmont Algonquin — a Tudor-style castle built in the 1880s ([fairmont.com/algonquin](http://fairmont.com/algonquin)). But why not make a day of it? Work off the morning calories on a guided mountain-bike ride to suit Mom's energy level while outfitted in special kilts designed for two-wheelers. Head across a sandbar to Ministers Island, watch for deer on the beach, then cycle back before the tide comes in. Add outdoor yoga to stretch out stiff muscles ([ripplefitness.ca](http://ripplefitness.ca)).

Having worked up an appetite, the perfect ending to your time together can be found at one of the most-renowned tables in the province: the Rossmount Inn ([rossmountinn.com](http://rossmountinn.com)).