

MAGIC The Gathering **GRAND PRIX MONTREAL**

July 29-31, 2016

Judge's Travel Guide

Authors:

Robert Hinrichsen, L2

David Lachance-Poitras, L1



Source: <http://dionysosphotography.blogspot.ca/>

Contents

1.1 General Information	3
1.2 Public transit (STM)	4
1.3 A note on surviving in Quebec as a non-francophone	6
2. Tournament Venue	7
2.1 Location	7
2.2 How to get there from the airport (YUL)	8
2.3 How to get there by public transit	9
3. Accommodation	11
3.1 Staff Hotel	11
3.2 Other Hotels near the venue	12
3.2.1 Auberge Montreal Espace Confort	12
3.2.2 Montreal Central Hostel	12
3.2.3 Holiday Inn Montreal Centre-Ville	12
4. Food and drink	13
4.1 Places near the venue	13
4.2 Local specialties	15
4.2.2 Montreal style bagels	16
4.2.3 Poutine	17
5. Entertainment	18
5.1 Gaming Pubs	18
5.1.1 Randolph Pub Ludique	18
5.1.2 Le Colonel Moutarde	18
5.1.3 Nexus Smart Bar	19
5.2 Escape Rooms	20
5.2.1 A/MAZE Montreal	20
5.2.2 Trouvez la clé / Find the Key	20
5.2.3 Obsidiem	20
5.2.4 Eskapaz	20
5.3 Festivals	21
5.3.1 Just for Laughs Festival	21
5.3.2 Fantasia Film Festival	21

1. Welcome to Montreal

1.1 General Information

Welcome judges to Montreal! The following guide should help to make life easier for you as you navigate our beautiful city during the Grand Prix weekend. First, some general information and tips:

Montreal is the major metropolis in the province of Quebec, with a population of 1.6 million people. Located on an island in the middle of the St Lawrence River, it is the second largest city in Canada by population, after Toronto. Although the larger metropolitan area is quite expansive, this guide will focus primarily on the downtown core, as that is where the Grand Prix is being held, and where many of the interesting places to see can be found.

Downtown Montreal is located to the south of the mountain for which the city is named (Mont Royal). As a consequence, there is a simple and good rule of thumb to get your bearings when in the downtown core: North is uphill. At any given intersection, you will usually be able to determine North by looking for the direction which leads up the mountain.

As with most Canadian cities, if you ever find yourself lost you can always rely on our handy network of Tim Hortons coffee shops, dotted throughout the downtown core. All Tim Hortons now offer free Wi-Fi access, so if you've not got a data plan on your smartphone (or if your plan doesn't work in Canada) you can always find your bearings by connecting to their internet. This is also true for many Starbucks and Second Cup coffee shops.



Source: Google street view

1.2 Public transit (STM)

The STM, Montreal's public transit system, is relatively easy to use. Much like other metropolitan cities (London, Paris, etc.), the most reliable way to purchase transit fares is through use of a card. There are two types of card you can buy: a permanent, rechargeable opus card (pictured left), or a temporary non-rechargeable "Occasionnelle" (pictured right):



Either card can be purchased from ticket booth attendants in the metro and bus stations themselves, but to buy one you must purchase at least one transit fare as well. The rechargeable opus card costs \$6, in addition to the transit fare, and can be used to hold either individual fares or period-validity passes. The non-rechargeable card comes free with the purchase of the fare or pass, and for that reason it is the option we recommend unless you intend to stay for longer than three days.

Regarding the fares themselves, the best options are either a consecutive 3-day pass for \$18, or an unlimited weekend pass for \$13 (which runs from 18:00 on Friday to 05:00 on Monday). These will allow you the flexibility of making an unlimited number of trips over the validity period (including the 747 bus to and from the airport, see 2.2 below). If you prefer, you can purchase individual fares in groups of one (\$3.25), two (\$6.00), or ten (\$26.50). In that case, you will need to recharge your opus card when you run out of fares. The opus card can be recharged at machines like these:



Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OPUS_card

The backbone of the transit system is the underground metro. In fact, you will likely not need to use busses at all (other than the 747 airport bus), provided you stay within the downtown core, as the majority of the places in this guide are within easy walking distance of a metro station. Here is a map of the metro system:



Source: <http://www.stm.info/en/info/networks/metro>

Downtown Montreal is essentially located between the Lionel-Groulx and Berri-UQAM stations. You will therefore not need to worry about using anything other than the Green and Orange lines to get around. In Montreal when you board a metro train the direction of travel is indicated by the name of the terminal station in that direction. Therefore, when travelling East you will be going in the direction of Montmorency (Orange line) or Honoré-Beaugrand (Green line), whereas when travelling West you will be going in the direction of Côte-Vertu (Orange line) or Angrignon (Green line).

If you have a smartphone, there is a very useful app available both on Android and iOS which will help you navigate the STM system: <http://www.stm.info/en/info/advice/5-ways-view-bus-schedules/mobile-tools>

1.3 A note on surviving in Quebec as a non-francophone

One thing you will immediately notice upon your arrival in Montreal is the predominance of the French language. French is used in all public signage as a matter of law, and you may find that some Quebecers take the exclusive use of French VERY seriously. Although most public servants are usually very accommodating of anglophone tourists, you should not be surprised to find that at least a few may be standoffish, and some may (rarely) go so far as to refuse to serve you in English.

If this happens there is unfortunately little you can do. As French is the only official language of Quebec, public servants are not required to serve you in any language other than French. Your best bet is of course to be polite and try to communicate that you are a visitor and that you can't speak French. It may help if you make some attempt to greet them in French using the following basic phrases (to learn pronunciation, the google translate voice feature works pretty well):

- Bonjour! Parlez-vous Anglais? (Hello! Do you speak English?)
- Désolé! Je ne parle pas Français! (Sorry! I can't speak French!)
- Pouvez-vous me diriger vers [location]? (Could you please direct me to [location]?)

Thankfully, this is far less likely to be an issue in private businesses, where customer service is the name of the game. Still, even then you should expect that you will first be addressed in French, and it is up to you to initiate communication in English.

2. Tournament Venue

2.1 Location

The venue is the Palais de Congrès de Montreal, a major convention centre located in downtown Montreal.

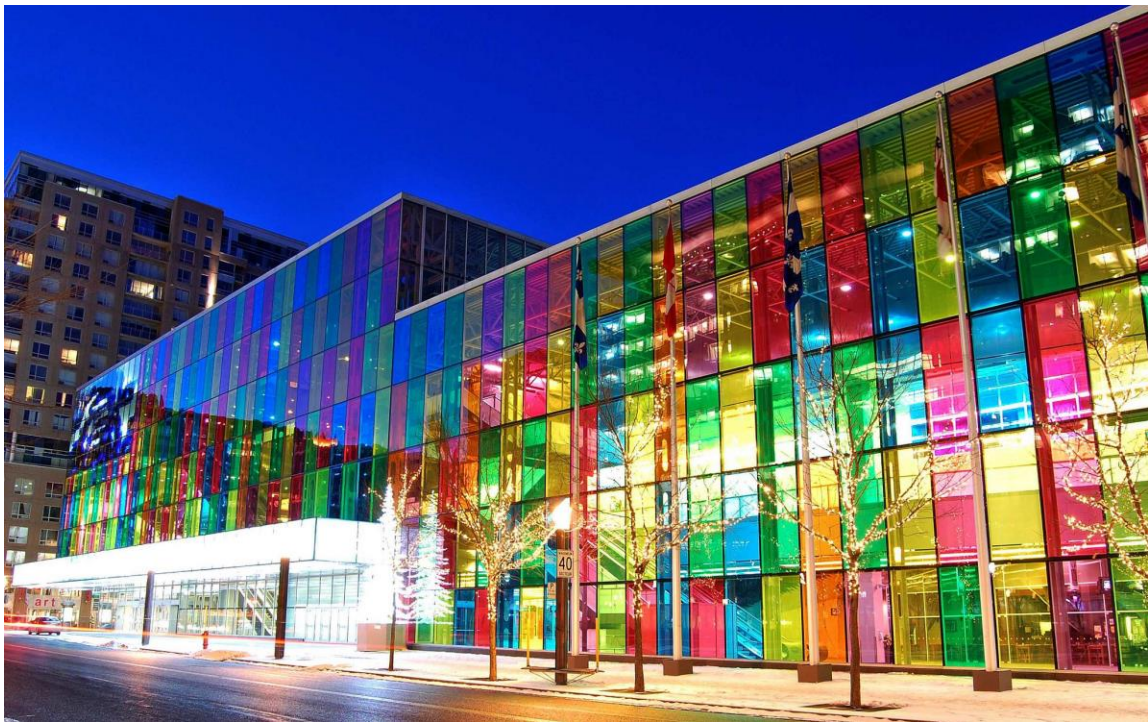
Palais des congrès de Montréal

159 St Antoine St W

Montréal, QC

H2Z 1H2

<http://congresmtl.com/en/>



Source: <http://architecturelinked.com/profiles/blogs/palais-des-congres>

2.2 How to get there from the airport (YUL)

Immediately as you leave the airport on the “Arrivals” level you will see a line of taxis and limos available for hire. The Palais de Congrès is a well-known location, so any taxi driver should be able to get you there without further directions. All the major taxi companies offer a \$40.00 flat rate from the airport to the downtown core, so it is best if you can arrange to split the fare with others. Please note that ride sharing services such as Uber are **not** an option, as they are legally prohibited from picking up at the airport.

Also available is the 747 bus service from the airport to the downtown core. As this bus is part of the general STM public transit system, the fare is included within the 3-day and all-weekend passes mentioned in section 1.2 above. If you do not opt for one of these passes, the fare is \$10.00, though once purchased the ticket is good on any STM service for 24 hours, not just the 747 bus. Tickets can be purchased from machines on the “Arrivals” level of the airport. The bus makes several stops, but the closest one to the venue is stop 7 (Jeanne-Mance) on the following map:



For more details about the 747 bus, see this website:

<http://www.admtl.com/en/access/transports/buses-747-express>

Or this PDF:

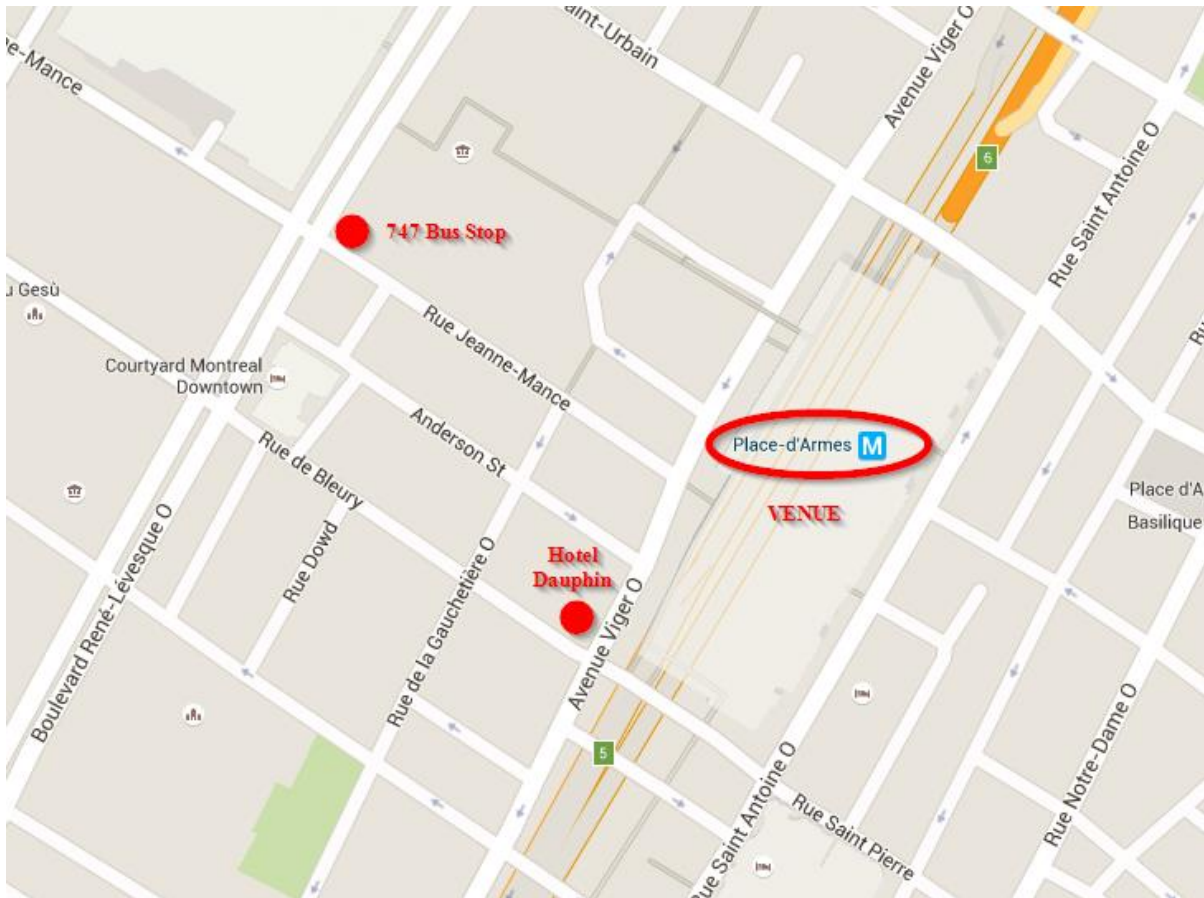
<http://www.stm.info/sites/default/files/planibus/en/747.pdf>

2.3 How to get there by public transit

The Palais de Congrès is rather conveniently situated directly above the Place D'Armes metro station on the Orange Line (the circled station on the map below; see also the metro map in section 1.2 above). Getting to the convention hall from the metro station is a simple matter of following the signs—you should not even need to go outside.

You can find additional directions here:

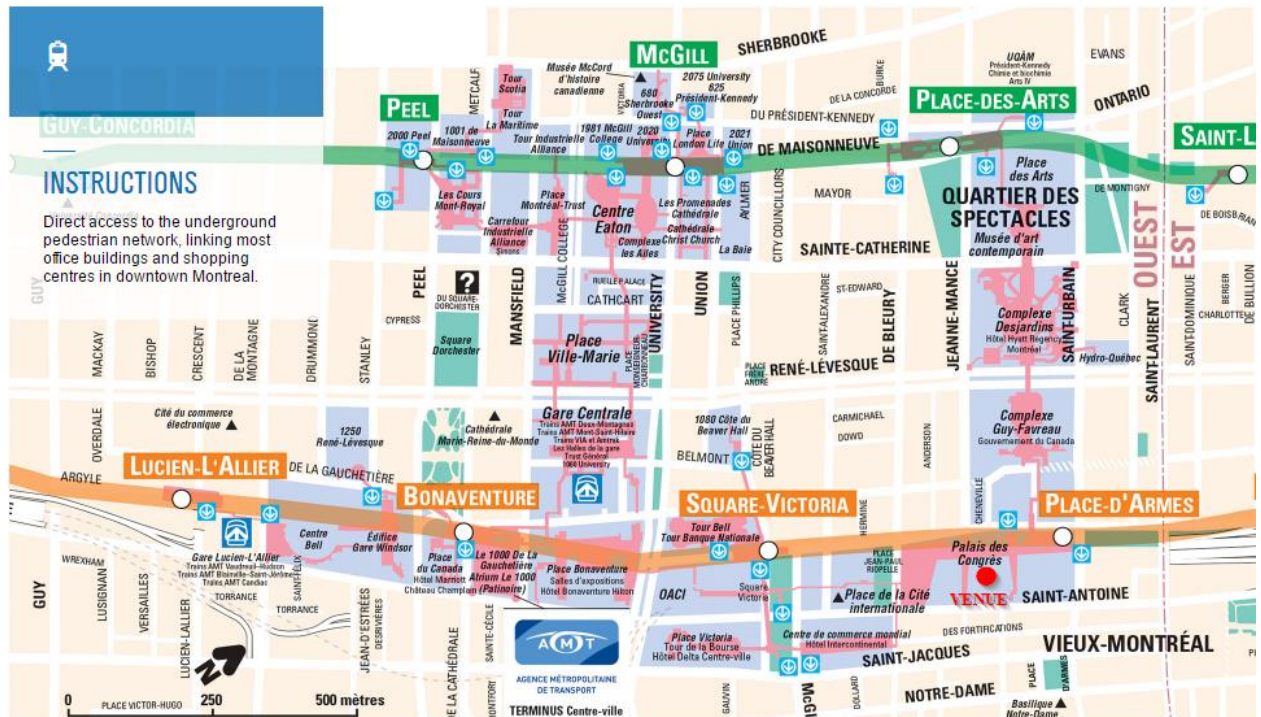
<http://congresmtl.com/en/convention-center/maps-and-directions/>



Source: Google Maps

Finally, note that the convention center is directly connected to Montreal's underground city, allowing for easy access to many sources of food, entertainment, and shopping. On the map below, the area shaded in pink is all underground and connected.

UNDERGROUND



Source: <http://placebonaventure.com/en/getting-there/underground/>

3. Accommodation

Accommodations this year will be harder to find and more expensive than normal because the Grand Prix falls on the same weekend as Osheaga, a major Montreal music festival. It is therefore highly recommended that you make your arrangements as soon as possible.

3.1 Staff Hotel

Spellkeeper has arranged for a room block to be available for judges to book at the Hotel le Dauphin, directly across from the venue.

Hôtel Le Dauphin
1025 rue De Bleury
Montréal, Québec Canada
H2Z 1M7

<http://www.hotelsdauphin.ca/>

~\$200 per night

In order to take advantage of this, you should use this google form to indicate the dates you wish to book:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1pesiaCXNVhlgZtdE4bne_OA63pO3Ghh2Aq-BsH6c7PY/viewform?c=0&w=1

There are two other options which Spellkeeper has arranged, the details of which can be found here:

http://apps.magicjudges.org/media/event_files/5244/231163/Hotels.pdf



3.2 Other Hotels near the venue

There are a number of other hotels near the venue if you wish to make independent arrangements. Here are the details for a few of them:

3.2.1 Auberge Montreal Espace Confort

2050 Saint Denis Street
Montreal, QC H2X 3K7
(514) 849-0505

5 min walk from Sherbrooke metro station, which is three stops away from the venue on the Orange line.

~\$200 per night

3.2.2 Montreal Central Hostel

1586 Saint-Hubert
Montreal, QC H2L 3Z3
(514) 843-5739

5 min walk from Berri-QUAM metro station, which is two stops away from the venue on the Orange line.

~\$200 per night for private room (ensuite)

3.2.3 Holiday Inn Montreal Centre-Ville

99 Viger Avenue
Montreal, Quebec H2Z
(514) 878-9888

Directly across from venue

~\$300 per night

4. Food and drink

4.1 Places near the venue

Within the Palais des Congrès itself there is a food court complete with several cafés and fast food options. These will, of course, be popular choices for many players, so if you have time you may want to explore some alternative options.

The venue is located not far from Montreal's Chinatown. Simply walk north along Saint Urbain Street on the East side of the venue and turn right on La Gauchetière. You will find a variety of hole-in-the-wall restaurants on each side. A little farther up St Urbain you can find **La Maison Kim Fung** on your right, which offers a Dim Sum lunch or an a la carte dinner:

1111, Rue Saint-Urbain, #M05
Montreal, QC H2Z 1Y6
514.878.2888
<http://www.restaurantchinatownkimfung.com/>

Alternatively, you could walk north along Bleury until you hit St Catherine's (10 min walk), at which point turning west will eventually lead you to **Reuben's** (high-end deli) and **Les 3 Brasseurs** (a brew pub). It is a 20 minute walk in total, so you may want to consider taking an Uber.

1116 Rue Ste-Catherine O,
Montréal, QC H3B 1H5
514.866.1029
<http://reubensdeli.com/>

732 Rue Ste-Catherine O
Montréal, QC H3B 2V5
514.788.6333
<http://les3brasseurs.ca/eng/>

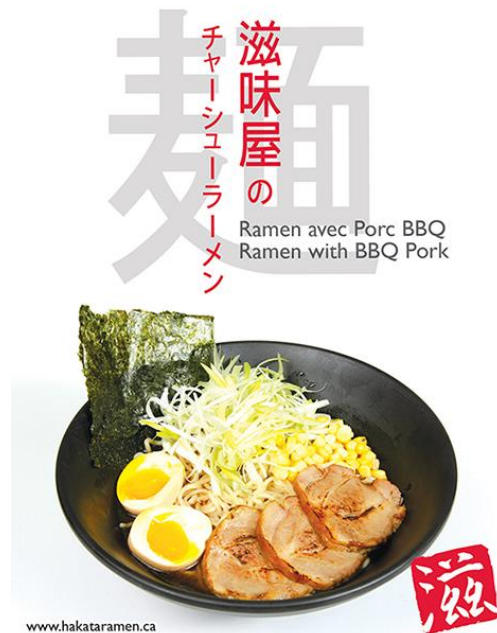


Finally, a short metro ride from the venue you can find **Hakata Ramen**, one of our personal favourite restaurants. The ramen soups are made traditionally (handmade noodles, soup base made fresh daily, great meats and vegetables) and the service is always excellent. They also offer a variety of other great dishes, so take a look at the menu on their website. (All their desserts are awesome but we strongly suggest the waffle with a ball of sesame seed flavored ice-cream, which despite its color, is very tasty.)

**1216 Stanley Street
Montreal, QC H3B 2S7
514.759.6688**

Take the metro to Bonaventure station on the Orange line, walk a short distance west on de la Gauchetiere , then turn right onto Stanley and walk north for 5 mins

<http://www.hakataramen.ca/>



4.2 Local specialties

Montreal is host to a wide variety of different cultures, but that does not mean it hasn't got a distinct culture of its own. For the more adventurous of you, we have provided below a selection of quintessentially "Montreal" foods. Please note that these places are not within easy walking distance of the venue, so you will need to make use of public transit.

4.2.1 Schwartz's Deli

This is the home of the famous Montreal-style smoked meat sandwich. Every day at lunchtime a crowd of people can be seen waiting outside—either for a spot in the deli, or to place an order for take-away. Popular with businessmen and tourists alike, we would certainly recommend this classic Montreal experience.

**3895 Boulevard Saint-Laurent,
Montréal, QC H2W 1L2**

514.842.4813

<http://schwartzsdeli.com/ca/en/>

Bus 55 North stops directly outside



Source:

<https://blogs.mcgill.ca/gradlife/2010/10/06/what%E2%80%99s-montreal%E2%80%99s-b-k-s/>



Source:

<http://www.whatquebecwants.com/whatquebecwants/foodservice/>

4.2.2 Montreal style bagels

For those interested in learning what *real* bagels should taste like (none of that New York-style hogwash), head down to one of Montreal's two renowned bagel bakeries: **Fairmount Bagel** or **St Viateur Bagel**. Although these aren't places to sit down and eat, you can't go wrong taking out an order of a dozen fresh bagels with a side of smoked salmon or cream cheese. They make for a nice light lunch, and you should have plenty to spare for breakfast the next morning.

Fairmount Bagel

74 Avenue Fairmount Ouest,
Montréal, QC H2T 2M2

<http://www.fairmountbagel.com/>



Source:

<http://thedailyeater.com/dev/2010/10/montreal-bagels.html>



St Viateur Bagel

263 Rue Saint Viateur Ouest,
Montréal, QC H2V 1Y1

<https://www.stviateurbagel.com/>

Source: <http://www.montrealfooddivas.com/st-viateur-bagel-montreal-bakery/>

4.2.3 Poutine

Of course, nothing could be more quintessentially *Québécois* than poutine. Although you can find versions of this simple food all over the world (for instance, a variant can be found at kebab vans in the UK under the moniker “cheesy chips and gravy”), nothing beats the original. Wherever you look for fast food in Montreal, you are likely to find this item on the menu. Popular fast-food establishments include **La Belle Province**, **Lafleur**, and **St. Hubert**.

If you are interested in a more unique poutine experience, try visiting **La Banquise**, where they specialize in an entire menu dedicated to nothing but variations on the classic:

994, rue Rachel Est
Montréal, Québec H2J 2J3
514.525.2415

<http://labanquise.com/en/>

*10 minute walk from Station Mont-Royal
on the Orange line*



Open 24/7, La Banquise offer a really wide range of poutines (about 30 or so) from the classical one to the more complicated ones. It also offers a variety of microbrewery beers to accompany your meal.

Word of warning: because of its popularity, expect to have to wait in line if you wish to eat on-site during its rush hours (lunchtime, suppertime, and at 3AM when night clubs close).

5. Entertainment

5.1 Gaming Pubs

5.1.1 Randolph Pub Ludique

Unlike traditional LGS businesses, this is actually a gaming pub! There is a \$5 cover charge, which allows you to sit and play any of their wide selection of available board games. They serve a good variety of Quebec-brewed beers and ales, as well as light finger food and cocktails.

<http://www.randolphpub.ca/>

**2041 St-Denis
Montréal, H2X 3K8
514 419-5001**

10 minute walk from Station Sherbrooke on the Orange Line



5.1.2 Le Colonel Moutarde

Like the Randolph, the Colonel Moutarde offers a variety of excellent drinks and great food to eat. So long as one orders food or drink, there is no additional cover charge to play the games.

Both pubs have dedicated staff who are very knowledgeable about board games and can give you advice on the best game to play, depending on your group's size and preferences. This is perfect for small groups who wish to unwind after a hard day at the Grand Prix!

<http://colonelmoutarde.ca/>

**4418 Saint-Denis Street
Montreal, H2J 2L1
438.385.4418**

5 minute walk from Station Mont-Royal on the Orange Line

5.1.3 Nexus Smart Bar

The Nexus SmartBar opened at the end of last year and has quickly become the go-to place to watch e-sports while drinking an assortment of videogame-themed drinks. If there is a big e-sport event going on that is being streamed on Twitch, it will likely be featured here for you to cheer on your favorite player/team.

There also video games consoles (Xbox One, PS4, Wii U) everywhere which you are free to use to play with or against your friends (a deposit required for borrowing controllers).

<http://www.nexus.bar/en>

323 Ontario Street East

Montreal, H2X 1H7

5-10 minute walk from Station Berri-UQAM on the Green and Orange lines

5.2 Escape Rooms

Escape rooms have become quite popular in Montreal these past two years, and there are a variety of options of varying themes and difficulties. The escape room experience is fun, challenging, and an excellent teamwork-building exercise. Considering their popularity, however, it is strongly suggested you reserve in advance as soon as possible

5.2.1 A/MAZE Montreal

3550 Saint-Jacques Street
Montreal, H4C 1H2

5 minute walk from Lionel-Groulx station on the Orange and Green lines

<http://www.amazemontreal.com/>

5.2.2 Trouvez la clé / Find the Key

1000 Amherst Street
Montreal, H2L 3K5

10 minute walk from Berri-Uquam station on the Orange and Green lines

<http://findthekey.ca/>

5.2.3 Obsidiem

2025 Parthenais Street
Montreal, H2K 3T2

5-10 min walk from Frontenac station on the Green Line

<http://obsidem.com/en/>

5.2.4 Eskapaz

3955 St-Laurent Boulevard
Montreal, H2W 1Y4

15 minute walk from Sherbrooke station on the Orange line

http://www.ezkapaz.com/welcome/#ezkapaz_en

5.3 Festivals

5.3.1 Just for Laughs Festival

July 14th to July 31st

Free access to the event site, which is located at the Place des Festivals

Place des Arts Metro Station on the Green line or a 15-20 minute walk from the venue

<http://www.hahaha.com/en/montreal-festival>



This is the world's foremost Humor and Street Art/Circus festival. There are tons of shows, both free and paid admission, in French and English, as well as various street arts/circus artists performing everywhere on the "place des Spectacles" downtown.

5.3.2 Fantasia Film Festival

July 14th to August 2nd

Box office address:

<http://fantasiafestival.com>

The Fantasia Festival is quickly becoming one of the most renowned independent Film Festivals in the world. There are a wide range of movies from across the globe offered in a multitude of genres (horror, sci-fi, anime, martial arts, etc.), many of which are exhibiting their World, North-American or Canadian Premieres.

The 2016 film schedule will be announced around the end of June with the box-office opening 1-2 weeks before the start of the Festival (tickets available online or on-site). Follow them on Facebook to get all the latest news.