

New Plaza Premium Lounge opens at YVR

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Plaza Premium Lounge has launched its fourth lounge space at Vancouver International Airport. As a part of Vancouver International Airport's Domestic Terminal expansion, the Hong-Kong based company now offers its signature lounge experience to passengers in the new A-B Connector Departures Gate.

Plaza Premium Lounges are on a pay-per-use basis and are available to any domestic passenger regardless of airline or flight class. Visits start at \$40 CAD per two hours and guests have access to all lounge, dining and bar areas and can enjoy a wide selection of beverages and hot and cold cuisine. Menus vary from signature pastas to toasted paninis, quesadillas, soups and salads. WiFi and large-screen TVs are provided, as well as a variety of international newspapers and magazines. For the weary traveller, the Premium Lounge has three spacious shower areas, and for an extra fee, semi-private resting areas.

The new Lounge makes a bold impression in the expanded terminal, with a sweeping spiral staircase at the reception and views of both the airfield and the Strait of Georgia from the upstairs open plan.

At yesterday's grand opening, CEO and founder Song Hoi-See was on hand to share his vision to expand his brand of first-class comfort to the masses. His relationship with YVR has exceeded ten years with the implementation of lounges in other terminals, and he emphasized that the domestic addition is crucial to the overall future of Vancouver International Airport.

"We see the prospects at YVR as the West Coast has become a very important hub and the domestic terminal is being used more and more for connections," he said.

"This is where we provide a total solution. Our passengers know what they want and are demanding. It's why we must innovate with our facilities, food, services and style. We pamper you here. It's one of our core values."



With 128 lounges in 31 international airports around the world, Song plans other Lounge expansions in Winnipeg and Edmonton as well as a separate food service venture at YVR, describing the project as bringing more healthy food to travellers.

Song is a 16-year pioneer in the industry, having created the world's first independent lounges ever to have been available to airport users. His enthusiasm is rooted in the inspiring story of the company's inception; Song was once an investment banker who flew business class and used airport business lounges. When he left to start his own business, he became a frugal flyer and noticed there were no services or even places to plug things in for economy fliers. His solution became his passion, and Plaza Premium Lounges were born.



"International service is in my blood," he said. "Making people happy."

The grand opening of the Premium Plaza lounge marks the completion of the \$213 million expansion of the A-B connector. Domestic travellers now enjoy new gate capacity, an expedited baggage system, seismic upgrades and a wide range of new dining and shopping options. The gates are used primarily by WestJet, Central Mountain Air, Air North, Hawkair, Sunwing and Air Transat.

The Marshall Retail Group has provided an international flavour to the terminal, with shops such as TUMI luggage and travel accessories, Flight Stop newsstand and snack mart, LICK candy and Marshall Rousso, an expansive space for women's fashion apparel.



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