

Vancouver wins world accolade as most livable city

Joe Couture

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A handful of new studies has given glowing reviews to Vancouver's quality of life, ranking it among the top cities in the world in which to live.

The second annual MasterCard Worldwide Centers of Commerce Index ranks Vancouver as the world's "most livable city."

Toronto and Montreal also make the list of top-20 cities for livability. Evaluation criteria included personal freedom, climate, leisure activities and other quality-of-life factors.

Vancouver is ranked No. 4 among 215 cities around the world in the Mercer "Worldwide Quality of Living Survey," released today.

That study considered political, social, economic and environmental factors, as well as personal safety and health, education, transportation and public services.

Vancouver also is ranked No. 8 by London-based Monocle magazine on its list of best cities for quality of life.

Copenhagen is No. 1 on that list, replacing Munich, which held the top spot last year. Monocle's criteria went "beyond the usual metrics that only look at housing costs and schools" and considered such things esthetics and where one can get a good drink.

Vancouver also made the *Food & Wine* magazine list of top-10 restaurant cities in the world, coming in at No. 10 amid company such as New York, Paris and No. 1 city Tokyo. Vancouver is the only Canadian city to make the list.

"These accolades play a big role in attracting international media attention," said Emily Armstrong, manager of travel media relations with Tourism Vancouver.

"I think Vancouverites have a lot of pride in their city, but it's always neat to see that we're getting the recognition abroad. Being seen as one of the most livable cities is a nice feeling when you're living here."

jcouture@png.canwest.com

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