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Celebrating inclusive communities

## Renowned comedian Brad Williams will take to the stage at this summer's *Nasty Show* at the Just For Laughs Festival

The **Just For Laughs Festival** has announced the return of *The Nasty Show* this summer, with six performances from July 18 to 21 at MTELUS in Montreal, with additional shows added from July 24 to 28.

*(Read more on page 6)*

### Inside this edition

- *The Shalva Band visits Montreal* ..... Page 2
- *Vanessa Grimaldi continues to give back* ..... Page 3
- *Margarita Studios on the Greek islands* ..... Page 6
- *Saddlebrook Resort near Tampa, Florida* ..... Page 8
- *The Don CeSar Resort in St. Pete Beach* ..... Page 9
- *Finding your way through Singapore* ..... Page 11



Brad Williams  
(Photo source, Internet)





# A return visit to the historic Don CeSar Resort in St. Pete Beach

By *Mike Cohen*



*One of the pools at the Don CeSar.*

## ST. PETE BEACH

Just over a year ago my family and I made our first visit ever to St. Pete Beach, Florida and stayed at the extraordinary and historic Don CeSar ([www.doncesar.com](http://www.doncesar.com)). It was a Loews property at the time. Soon after Host Hotels & Resorts purchased it and engaged Davidson Hotels & Resorts to manage the main locale and the Beach House Suites down the street.

The new management is in place just in time to mark this historic hotel's 90th anniversary. This hotel features 277 luxurious guest rooms, including 36 suites, six restaurants and lounges, two deluxe heated pools, more than 38,000 square feet of event space, the 11,000 square foot Spa Oceana, fitness center, Camp CeSar Kids Camp, The Shoppes of The Don, and access to beach rentals and water sports. We were very fortunate to be invited back for a lavish day on the beach and let me say for certain that the Don has not lost any of its charm!

The poolside concierge provides everything from cucumber hydration to tropical smoothies. For those who are physically disabled, the pools and whirlpools at both complexes have special lifts.

The Don CeSar Hotel partners with the award-winning Boucher Brothers Management to pamper guests during their day on the beautiful St. Pete Beach. Take a walk from the pool deck and have some fun on the Gulf of Mexico, seeing the beautiful pink castle from a different view while cruising on wave runners or exploring on ocean kayaks. We got to spend our day lounging in private daybeds and chilling out on a chaise for a luxurious take on fun in the sun. Jimmy from the Boucher Brothers team could not have been nicer in setting us up like kings. He in fact came back several times over our seven-hour stay to adjust the umbrellas and make sure everything was okay.

Lunch and drinks were available right at our chairs via the Beachcomber. Here you can enjoy frozen drinks, mojitos, fresh seafood, salads, burgers and other traditional dishes. We started off with some drinks, an Iguana Smash, a Blueberry blast and a Pina Colada followed by our lunch selections of tortilla chips, fish tacos, a Beachcomber burger and chicken quesadilla. The orders turned around quite quickly and were delivered in large plastic containers, with serving plates and cutlery inside. I have never felt so comfortable dining on a beach chair before.

In terms of beach rentals, run by the Boucher brothers and its BouYah Watersports Division ([www.bouYahWaterSports.com](http://www.bouYahWaterSports.com)), there are full and half day rates for chaise lounges, sand chairs, umbrellas, cabanas and luxury queen and king beds.

We also took advantage of the Jet Ski rentals. It is \$120 per hour or \$60 for a half hour after lunch time. The staff will sit you down in the Jet Ski in the water, provide a series of guidelines and then allow you to start the motor and go on your merry way. This was a real "rush" for my family. The one hour went by very quickly. BouYah also rents out banana boats, kayaks and paddle boards. You can book your choice experience right at the hotel or call in advance and ask to be connected to someone from the Boucher Brothers team.

**ACCESSIBILITY:** The hotel has several ADA (American Disability Act) sanctioned rooms. There are eight at the main resort, including one of the Penthouse suites, and four ADA sanctioned rooms at their Beach House Suites property down the road. These rooms include roll-in showers and in the Beach House Suites the washer and dryer units are next to each other, rather than

stacked on top of each other.

Hearing impaired guests can take advantage of written materials that they receive upon check-in, including the Daily Resort Activities guide and reading boards that are on the lobby floor next to the elevators. The hotel also provides notepads and pens for speech and hearing impaired guests who would prefer to communicate in writing. The bell desk employees offer to escort guests with vision and hearing impairments to their rooms and other hotel outlets. Those with hearing disabilities receive a TDD phone, closed caption decoder and a devise that flashes and vibrates the bed when the phone rings, door opens and alarm is activated. These services are demonstrated to guests upon arrival. Visually impaired people are offered a team member's arm if that person prefers to be guided. Team members offer assistance with pushing wheelchairs and thoroughly explain wheelchair accessible routes. If someone has a hand coordination disability and is dining in one of the restaurants, an offer is made to cut their food for them.

