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Bob Blumer designed a hotel suite in Toronto, and it looks delicious: A tour of the celebrity chef's Surreal Gourmet Room


REBECCA TUCKER | March 7, 2014 3:34 PM ET
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Bob Blumer in his Surreal Gourmet Room at Toronto's Gladstone Hotel. [Photo: iStockphoto.com](#)

Bob Blumer has always taken an unconventional approach to foodieism, so having the cookbook author and TV personality design a hotel room doesn't seem like such a stretch – especially once you see the room.

"They gave me carte blanche," The Canadian-born Blumer said on the phone Friday from the Surreal Gourmet Room at Toronto's Gladstone Hotel. "So I designed something that would appeal to me, with the hope that it would always appeal to someone who would stay in it."



Teddybears pass in a small boat near the stricken cruise liner Costa Concordia lying aground in front of the Isola del Giglio Thursday. [FLIPPLO MONTEFORTI/AP/Getty Images](#)

The room's decor, located in room 403 and one of the Gladstone's 37 artist-designed suites, is a pop-art influenced collection of food imagery, from its caviar tin wall clock and marshmallow bag pillowcases to photos of famous food mascots shot by photographer Fausta Facciponte.

"If you look through my cookbooks, there is a particular style that I gravitate towards," Blumer, who illustrates his own work, explained of the room's bright colours and vivid shapes. "My home in Los Angeles is not that different from the feel of this room."



An armchair covered in cereal – not edible, of course. [Photo: iStockphoto.com](#)

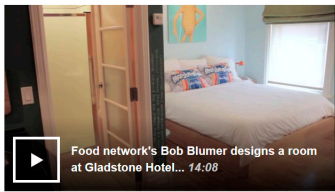
The appeal of the suite isn't completely aesthetic, however: In keeping with its theme, Blumer's room is one of three at the Gladstone that comes with a kitchenette, which in this case features a panini press, microwave and set of Shun chef knives – the likes of which Blumer reckons aren't available in any other hotel room in Canada. (Blumer also noted that he'd hoped to outfit the room with an induction burner and some pots and pans, but it wasn't possible. "There are lots of things that you wouldn't think about when designing your first hotel room, because you can get away with them in your own home," he said.)



Nigella Lawson, right, is alleged to have treated Francesca and Elisabetta Gello, her former assistants, worse than slaves. [Oli Scarff/Getty Images; Peter J. Thompson/National Post File Photo](#)

The room also includes ten bottles of wine handpicked by Blumer, which guests can purchase for a very reasonable \$39 a pop, and a small two-seater dining table.

Blumer's Surreal Gourmet Room is available for an introductory rate of \$179/night. Take a tour of the room, and hear a bit more from Bob, below.



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