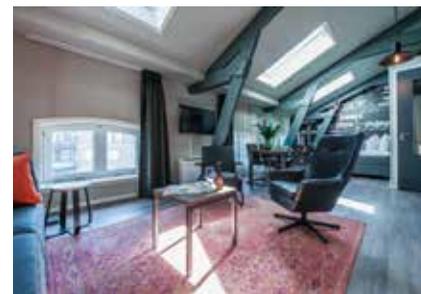


On the Continent

Mid-century meets baroque in Europe's boutique hotels and concierged apartments

Words Mary-Jane Wiltsher



YAYS CONCIERGED BOUTIQUE APARTMENTS

AMSTERDAM

Located in the hip district of Amsterdam-Oost, Yays Oostenburgergracht was converted from a 19th-century steam engine factory, its tawny brick façade and green-painted windows overlooking a stretch of canal that leads to the Eastern Docklands. The building forms one of Yays' three concierged boutique apartment blocks, all renovated from historic buildings in off-beat, characterful districts, combining the

neighbourhood setting of an Airbnb stay with the high-spec comforts of luxury accommodation. In other words, you can live like a local without surrendering your holiday perks. Apartments are slick, modern and airy, ranging from compact studios to duplex suites with a mezzanine level. Our family suite is built into the building's original rafters, with quilted leather chairs and colourful rugs lending the space a homely touch.

Yays' friendly staff, who are on-hand 24 hours, know the local area inside out, and will happily recommend any number of non-touristic gems. Visit the Brouwerij 't IJ for locally-brewed beer, take a picnic to Oosterpark, or book one of Yays' bike tours designed to uncover the authentic quirks of the city's lesser known districts. *Family suites (2 adults, 2 children) start from €150 per night* YAYS.COM. +31 (0)20 523 10 28

HOTEL GOLDGASSE

SALZBURG

With its baroque spires and imposing Hohensalzburg hilltop fortress rising above the curve of the Salzach river, Salzburg fulfils all those storybook visions of Austria, and few hotels are better located for exploring this fairytale city than Goldgasse. Part of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World Group and once a 16th-century coppersmith's workshop, the boutique home-from-home has 16 rooms and is nestled in the

Old Town, a stone's throw from Mozart's birthplace. Inside, Goldgasse's antique stone floors and crooked stairwells give the impression of stepping back in time, while its rooms meld heritage-inspired frescoes with contemporary design details: angular, block-colour chairs, miniature Smeg fridges and swish bathrooms. On the ground floor, a cosy Austrian Inn-style restaurant serves modern interpretations of traditional

dishes, matched with fine Austrian wines. Tuck into a Salzburger Nockerl – a feather-light soufflé dessert shaped like Salzburg's snow-capped peaks – before heading out along the river to a classical concert in the opulent Mirabell Palace. *Book Hotel Goldgasse with Small Luxury Hotels of the World from €252 per night in a double room (two sharing) on a room-only basis.* SLH.COM/GOLDGASSE. 0800 0482 314