

Cognoscenti magazine

Because life is short

Hotel Estherea Amsterdam

If you're a leisure traveler headed for Amsterdam, you'll want to choose your location carefully—and **Hotel Estherea** has one of the best locations in the city. Just off the Raadhuisstraat and no more than 2 minutes' walk from bustling Dam Square, the hotel lies at Amsterdam's very heart, yet it seems sheltered on a surprisingly quiet section of the Singel.

During a recent visit, **Cognoscenti Magazine** editors stayed in a room (one of 70 at this family owned and operated hotel) that offered outstanding water views from three different windows. The canal itself is particularly wide and attractive here, lined on both sides with houseboats and shaded by leafy green trees.

In the evening, we watched a group of people having a leisured dinner (served by waiters in black tuxedos) on a long barge moored directly opposite—a glimpse of just one of the many cityscapes that make Amsterdam so fascinating.

Our guestroom had a bit of a split personality: the sitting area was nicely decorated in a masculine sort of way, with a fine old writing desk, carved wooden chairs, and a lamp in the design of a globe; the other section of the room seemed far more feminine, where a creaking wrought iron-bed was wrapped in an unattractive white gauze veil and the mattress was rather lumpy and thin. The bathroom was certainly too tiny

for a 4-star hotel; there was not even enough space to place a regular towel rack, so towels were clumsily arranged on a kind makeshift stand suspended over the bath—we accidentally knocked most of them into the bath while climbing in and out of it, whereupon they became soaked even before we had a chance to use them. No turndown service was provided in the evening—another amenity one would expect at most hotels in the 200 euro price range.



Great location over the canal

This article was written by contributing editors to *Cognoscenti Magazine*.

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