

Cognoscenti

magazine

Because life is short

Hotel Pulitzer Amsterdam

Hotel Pulitzer is no ordinary luxury hotel—it is a beautifully networked and unique collection of some two dozen 17th and 18th century canal houses. Offering one of Amsterdam’s more delightful lodging experiences, the hotel has a number of wings connected by a series of glass-walled inner passageways, thus creating a fascinating “village” with a tranquil interior courtyard that seems far removed from the city without. The property sprawls over an entire city block; buildings on the Keizersgracht side are linked to those on the Prinsengracht by a glass corridor. There are 230 rooms in total.

The duplex occupied by **Cognoscenti Magazine** editors during their recent stay had a set of stairs leading up to the top level, where there were two more beds—a nice layout for a family of four. This tranquil and lovely 5th floor room offered fine views of other canal houses—you really felt you were in the middle of an urban Dutch neighborhood. The furniture was darkly stained, and the bathroom was done in Dutch tiles. The room fostered a great sense of privacy—very unusual in busy Amsterdam. Air-conditioning, mini-safe, a data-port and evening turn-down service rounded out the amenities package.

Art is not neglected at the Pulitzer. In its gallery are works by local Dutch artists ranging from Nick Jonk’s sculptures in the courtyard gardens to Darja Vos and others in the corridors. Although a favorite with leisure travelers, the hotel is suitable for businesspeople

as well: there are 10 meeting, conference and banqueting rooms for groups of 10-250 persons. The hotel even has its own boat, a private motor launch, which can take you on a journey through Amsterdam’s labyrinthine canal system.



A delightful experience

Pulitzers Restaurant has a stark but stylish black and white décor with checkered black-and-white marble floor, dominated by a wonderful satirical mural covering one entire wall. There we sampled a well-made vegetable terrine with a morels sauce, as well as a filling lamb dish served with potatoes and leeks in the main course. Wines from the hotel’s “wines of the world” program included a 1999 *Robert Mondavi* Australian Coastal Chardonnay that seemed sterile in the nose and showed honey and nut on the attack—thin and a little green in the finish. A rather heavily-oaked Penfold’s Koonunga Hill Shiraz Cabernet 2001 held appealing blueberry cordial, cassis, and cherry tones.

This article was written by contributing editors to *Cognoscenti Magazine*. Photos courtesy of *Leonardo.com*.

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