

Cognoscenti magazine

Because life is short

Victoria Hotel
Amsterdam

Victoria Hotel, a lively 4-star lodging establishment, is located in a landmark 19th century building directly opposite Amsterdam's Central Station. The stellar location, just yards from trams and buses running to all parts of the city and country, works for tourists as well as business travelers.

The room occupied by visiting Cognoscenti Magazine editors, one of 305 at the hotel, was brightened by a sunny exposure over a wide canal facing Central Station. The tall period ceilings were another plus. Other amenities included a largely ineffective air-conditioner, a mini-bar, and a mini-safe (which was out of order in our room). A complimentary Herald Tribune was delivered to our door in the morning. The hotel has a swimming pool—a rarity for an Amsterdam hotel—plus a gym.

Business travelers will appreciate the trousers press in every room, the shoe-shine machines in the hallways of each floor, and the business center downstairs. There are also 10 conference rooms, and each is equipped with modern audio-visual equipment.

Directly overlooking the bustling Damrak, Vic's **Terrace and Brasserie** is an excellent place to people-

watch. Inside, the décor is charming, with track lighting, dark wood and brick, blue carpet and a large central fireplace to fend off the chill on Holland's nippy winter days. There were some delicate, briny flavors in the salmon and asparagus starter, although things quickly went downhill from there: the lamb was a definite lapse—very fatty, a poor cut, and served almost raw, and accompanied by asparagus and roasted potatoes that were drowning in a rich butter sauce. An American buffet breakfast is served in the Seasons Garden Restaurant every morning.



A practical location across from Central station. Below, the lobby.



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

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Victoria Hotel Amsterdam

Damrak 1-5

1012 LG Amsterdam

Netherlands

Ph: 31 (0) 20 52 40 0620/1

Email: vicres@parkplazahotels.nl