

NIGHT+DAY AMSTERDAM

Ins and Outs

Noteworthy Additions, Changes and Closures
from publication date through December 31, 2008

Key to Night+Day Symbols

Restaurants

Singles-friendly

- Communal table
- Food served at bar

(G) Gourmet destination

Nightlife

Includes bars, clubs, and entertainment

- Cover or ticket charge (otherwise, entry is free)

Restaurants + Nightlife

Prime-time noise levels

- Quiet
- A buzz, but still conversational
- Loud

Venues followed by an asterisk (*) are those we recommend as both a restaurant and a destination bar.

Key to Pricing

Hotels

Best deluxe room

- € €100–€199
- €€ €200–€299
- €€€ €300–€399
- €€€€ €400 and up

Restaurants

Main course

- €– less than €10
- € €10–€19
- €€ €20–€29
- €€€ €30–€39
- €€€€ €40 and up

Attractions

Entry or service

- €– less than €10
- € €10–€19
- €€ €20–€29
- €€€ €30–€39
- €€€€ €40 and up

The Night+Day promise

Night+Day writers and editors use the same high standards in selecting and researching venues to be included in our Ins and Outs updates as we do for our books. Our local correspondents determine which new hot spots are the real deal and which are simply hype—just as you'd expect from **Night+Day**—to provide the kind of reliable information you need to make the best possible choices.

NightandDayGuides.com

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Underline indicates entry made in most recent calendar quarter.

The critics are talking about Night+Day’s Cool Cities series ...

“Extraordinary detail, itineraries organized by theme, and a unique up-to-the-minute black book of what’s hot provides readers with the ultimate guide.” —**Forbes.com**

“Opening chapters set the spirited tone ... a host of food-focused entries accommodate all tastes.” —**Travel + Leisure**

“Focus[es] their information to attract vacationers who don’t want cookie-cutter itineraries.” —**Wall Street Journal**

“Well-written, cleverly organized ... remarkably comprehensive.” —**Passport Magazine**

“The most enjoyable feature may be the various three-day itineraries ... I don’t know that I’d want a manicure and a martini at the Beauty Bar around 10pm on a Friday night, but I’m delighted to know it’s possible.” —**New York Times**



“Perfect for the business person or jet-setter who’s in town for a few days and has little time to research a visit. But area residents can pluck a few gems from its pages, too.” —**Sacramento Bee**

“Numerous three-day itineraries to mix and match to your heart’s delight.” —**Chicago Tribune**

“Your one-stop guide to shopping, nightlife, restaurants, hotels and other attractions in the city.” —**DC Style Magazine**

But it’s your opinion that counts.

Let us know what you think at NightandDayGuides.com

a modern makeover aimed at luring the city's fashionable and well-to-do. The interior—think Italian Baroque—meets—contemporary design—features a mix of old and new elements. Vintage furniture teams up with Bissazza mosaics, leather sofas, large mirrors, eye-catching Murano chandeliers, and gold accents, creating a chic and stately air. That luxurious approach translates well onto the plates, where items such as salmon served with warm potato salad, spit-roasted chicken, and escargots in herb butter compete with the chef's plat du jour. *Sun–Thu 10:30am–1am, Fri–Sat 10:30am–3am.* €€   Ruyschstraat 15 (Swammerdamstr.), 020.663.5366, villaruysch.nl

Changes (Please make a note in your Night+Day guide.)

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Cool Amsterdam Restaurants

Cineac* • Rembrandtplein • International

For as long as Cineac has been one of Amsterdam's hottest venues, it has also seemed cursed; to the dismay of the city's scenesters (and a revolving door of deep-pocketed investors), the all-in-one restaurant, lounge, and club was sometimes open and oftentimes not. Enter DJ Tiesto. The global superstar has put his money and considerable creative talents behind the latest concept, and the results—a marriage of live music and high-energy dancing to tracks spun by big-name DJs—looks to be a success. The multilevel space boasts a gorgeous modern décor that's punctuated by plush red seating and chic space-age lighting. Just as attractive are the modern pan-Asian tapas-size bites—think crab spring rolls, baked scallops, and soy-infused ox steak. Dress up, and arrive early on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays when the club space shines and DJs hold

court, spinning their discs in a golden booth. If you've eaten elsewhere, arrive before midnight, or prepare to line up before hitting the dance floor. *Wed–Sat 6–11pm*. €€ [Reguliersbreestraat 31-33 \(Regulierssteeg\)](#), 020.530.6888, [cineac.nl](#)

The Colour Kitchen • Beyond the Center • International

If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, then Jamie Oliver ought to be pleased. Following in the footsteps of Fifteen, Oliver's feel-good restaurant where troubled youth learn the ropes, the Colour Kitchen also has a mission. Here, the concept looks beyond Holland's borders, recruiting potential chefs from around the world, inviting them to learn the trade while encouraging them to "color" the menu according to their countries of origin. The menu—available à la carte or as an eight-course tasting menu—celebrates global cuisine, but while the dishes are diverse, there is a single chic current running through the restaurant's décor. The former school building boasts high ceilings, exposed industrial elements, a massive tree, and monochromatic tiling on the floors and low walls, setting the stylish mood for the cutting-edge clientele while keeping the wanna be peace corps crowd at bay. *Mon–Fri noon–9pm, Sat 6–9pm*. [B](#) [B](#) [B](#) [Jan Evertsenstraat \(Jan Tooropstr.\)](#), 020.448.6616, [thecolourkitchen.com](#)

Dauphine • Off-Map • French Brasserie

Named for a '50s-era Renault automobile, and located in a former Renault dealership, Dauphine looks like a sleek-chic hangar. Sure, some might find it slightly impersonal, but the soaring ceilings, 240-seat room, and cavernous-yet-contemporary décor by local designers Heyligers ensure that the city's newest and arguably coolest brasserie never feels crowded. Not when the media types descend for lunch. Not when the after-work cocktail crowd shows up. And certainly not when the city's trendsetting table-hoppers arrive to dine on noteworthy French brasserie classics. A lengthy wine list, boasting many selections by the glass, further tempts stylish oenophiles. *Sat–Thu 10am–1am, Fri 10am–2am*. € [B](#) [B](#) [B](#) [Prins Bernhard-plein 175 \(Wibaustr.\)](#), 020.462.1646, [caferestaurantdauphine.nl](#)

Diga • Zuid • Italian

When a restaurant tries to moonlight as a bar, or when a bar tries to deliver the goods nightly to a crowd of discerning diners, it often fails at both. Kudos to the folks at Diga, who manage to do each very well. *Diga* is the Italian word for "dike," in a nod to Holland—and its Italian-centric menus, comprised of seasonal ingredients that change weekly, are offered in three-, four-, five-, and six-course form, each available with a precisely chosen wine pairing. Plush orange seats, lighting from Dutch design firm Moooi, hyper-stylish art on the walls, an open kitchen, and acres of cool grays and creams set a modern tone as you dine or sip cocktails ordered from an exhaustive list, which boasts over 250 eye-popping selections and more than atones for the sometimes lengthy wait for your table. *Mon–Fri noon–1am, Sat 6pm–1am (kitchen until 11:30pm)*. €€€€ [B](#) [B](#) [Amsteldijk 137 \(Waverstraat\)](#), 020.404.43.60, [restaurantdiga.nl](#)

Cedars • Beyond the Center • Middle Eastern

Dutch contact with Middle Eastern food tends to be limited to cheap eats such as falafel and shwarma, so it takes ambitions as tall and noble as the restaurant's namesake trees to open Amsterdam's first and only Lebanese fine-dining restaurant. At Cedars, three distinct and refined spaces, all contained in a waterside glass cube, offer visitors a choice of experiences: drinks in the lounge, à la carte dining in the brasserie, and excellent three-course dinners in the restaurant proper. Join the 30-something locals at the lounge to nosh on a selection of *mezze* modestly described as an embarrassment of riches, or take a more formal seat in the restaurant to enjoy a three-course tour de force. Acres of glass, and two large terraces mean everyone dines waterside, while the décor, a stylish combination of contemporary seating, crisp white linens, and Near Eastern accents, makes for a sophisticated foray into the finer side of Middle Eastern fare. *Sun–Fri noon–3pm and 6pm–1am, Sat 6pm–1am*. €€ [B](#) [B](#) [Heemstedestraat 80 \(Delflandlaan\)](#), 020.482.0874, [cedars.nl](#)

Gartine • City Center • Continental

The folks behind this breakfast, lunch, and high-tea spot have a passion for food and the strictest of standards, guaranteeing the loyal regulars what may be the freshest meal in town. Vegetables come to the table straight from the restaurant's own kitchen garden, and Gartine boasts its own orchard as well. In a nod to Dutch inventiveness, it even virtually farms its own chickens, partnering with a Dutch "chicken adoption" agency to ensure the organic laying hens get first-class treatment. Second only to a love of food is a love of antiques, and the owners have scoured Europe's markets to set the right classical-meets-clean mood. Touches such as a Portuguese chandelier, a Lancret reproduction, a small terrace, and antique china used for meal service give it a dignified yet funky air. A commitment to the Dutch slow-food movement and the delicious breakfasts make it the perfect midday spot for visiting and local foodies. *Wed–Sun 8am–6pm; high tea 2–5pm daily*. € [B](#) [B](#) [B](#) [Taksteeg 7 \(Kalverstr.\)](#), 020.320.4132, [gartine.nl](#)



Silex • De Pijp • French

While Silex is technically not a new restaurant, a change of address placed it within walking distance of Amsterdam's hotels and extended its popularity beyond style-savvy locals. The well-executed meats and seafood prepared in traditional Continental style are served à la carte or in three-, four-, or five-course "surprise menus" that feature items such as poached shellfish with vongole, black pappardelle in a Noilly Prat sauce, and braised pigeon with wild parsnip and turnip. The rather spare room—white linen-covered tables, wood floors—is warmed up by dark textured wall coverings and softly lit, chocolate-colored walls. Candlelight adds a touch of romantic flair, making Silex a cozy place to impress your date or your fashion-conscious friends looking for a sophisticated, low-wattage night out. *Tue–Sat 6–11:30pm*. €€ [B](#) [Daniel Stalpertstraat 93-95 \(Ferdinand Bolstr.\)](#), 020.620.5959, [restaurantsilex.nl](#)



Villa Ruysch • East • French Bistro

With two trendy successes—Chocolate Bar and Bond—on their resumé, the owners of Villa Ruysch have planted their flag in the city's East. And oh, what real estate! Located in a grand period villa, natch, Villa Ruysch has been given

Nevy • West • Seafood

Bert van der Leden owns Envy, a gorgeous dining hot spot, and Vyne, the city's trendiest wine bar, so you can't fault him for employing the same recipe for success in his newest endeavor, the waterside fish house Nevy. Bert might be lacking in creativity when it comes to names—someone should remind him there are 22 other letters at his disposal—but when it comes to building a menu and setting the mood, he hits the mark time and time again. The kitchen, under the guidance of Michelin-starred Chef Robert Kranenborg, serves sustainable fish with the promise that your meal will travel from sea to plate in less than 48 hours, ensuring the highest quality and freshness on the quirky menu; in a departure from tradition, diners select a fish and a method of preparation from a list of options. A raw bar promises oysters, sashimi, and cocktails, but it's the main dining space, designed by Concrete Architectural Associates (who were honored with our Amsterdam Urbie), that steals the show. A contemporary black-and-white motif with flourishes in blue (for the sea) and gold (for its riches), complement the panoramic water views, while stunning X-ray photos of fish remind you that you've come for some serious dining. *Daily noon–1am.* €€   [Westerdoksdiijk 40 \(Barentszstr.\), 020.344.6409, nevy.nl](#)

Open • West • International

Industrial-chic spaces draw the coolest crowds in Amsterdam, so it's no surprise that a converted railway trestle reimaged by Architecten CIE and designer Studio Van Vliet would pack 'em in. "Open" refers to the kitchen, the glass walls, and the ability of the structure to gape open to offer alfresco dining in fine weather, though the term could also be applied to the dining concept: All dishes on the French brasserie-goes-international menu can be ordered in whole or half portions, making Open a great place to drop in for drinks and a small but good-looking bite. *Daily 11am–late.* €   [Westerdoksplein 20 \(Westerdoksdiijk\), 020.620.1010, open.nl](#)

Red • Canal Belt • Continental

Large, black, baroque mirrors that could have been bought in the nearby antique shops, and a massive, sexy, ceiling-mounted photograph, seemingly stolen from the pages of *Vogue*, are the only style flourishes in this beautiful monochromatic space—unless you count Amsterdam's fashion-forward professionals and their gorgeous dates. And when it comes to main courses, you won't find much variety here either. Guests have only two options: tournedos of beef or lobster, both done to perfection. If you love making choices, save them for the exquisite desserts. Ask for the one front-of-house table that offers prime canal views. *Daily 6pm–midnight.* €€  [Keizersgracht 594 \(Nieuwe Spiegelstr.\), 020.320.1824, restaurantred.nl](#)

Sophia • Oude Zijde • International

From the moment Sophia opened its inviting doors, a who's who of style and sophistication has held court. Under the consultation of two-star chef and local culinary superstar Ron Blaauw, Edo Kamping has created a destination restaurant catering to the fine tastes of discerning locals drawn from the nearby, historically moneyed "Old South" neighborhood. It's possible to order à la carte, but those in the know splash out for the six- and eight-course tasting menus that feature exquisitely prepared fare such as calf carpaccio with old cheese and truffles, mackerel sashimi, tartare of tuna steak with apple, and lamb cutlet

Tommy'z Toko • West • Hair Salon/Art Gallery

Tommy Hagen so wants his salon to become a "canvas" for emerging artists that it's easy to forget you can get a fabulous new hairstyle, too, at the city's hippest boutique. Ambitious art exhibitions rotate bimonthly, while the interior gets a twice-yearly renovation from invited designers, keeping things fresh. And Tommy? He's a bit of an artist himself: His resumé includes styling for clients such as Diesel, G-sus, Viktor & Rolf, Frans Molenaar, and local editions of the world's sleekest fashion mags. \$\$ *Wed–Fri 10am–9pm, Tue 10am–7pm, Sat 10am–5pm.* [Admiraal de Ruijterweg 85 \(Jan Evertsenstr.\), 020.638.7872, tommyztoko.nl](#)

Vovnjau • Zuid • Store

In this design-obsessed city, it was only a matter of time until the trends in gorgeous lifestyle products would filter into the domain of cats and dogs. Enter Vovnjau. The upscale pet-accessory boutique brings a Scandinavian-chic aesthetic (the name is Swedish for "woof meow") to Amsterdam's furry family members and is conveniently located in one of the city's toniest neighborhoods, suggesting they certainly know their market. Sure there are value-priced items such as organically produced chew toys, but it's the glam items, such as llama-fur-lined jackets, plush cowhide dog beds, and a cat house that wouldn't look out of place on the cover of *Architectural Digest*, that have local pet owners acting out their Paris Hilton fantasies and dropping their jaws in disbelief in equal measure. *Mon 1–6pm, Tue–Wed 10am–6pm, Thu 10am–7pm, Fri–Sat 10am–6pm.* [Willemsparkweg 68 \(Jacob Obrechtstr.\) 020.772.0825, vovnjau.nl](#)

Classic Amsterdam Hotels

Grand Hotel Amrath Amsterdam (151 rms) • Oude Zijde • Timeless

The city's newest five-star luxury hotel is housed in a stylish Art Nouveau building that served as the headquarters of six shipping firms for more than 100 years. Elaborate brickwork, sculpture, and wrought iron, all meant to evoke images of the seven seas, characterize the building—both inside and out—and the stunning common areas include architectural gems such as a staircase with a stained-glass ceiling, a gorgeous wood-paneled boardroom where shipping barons used to have their meetings, and a lobby with Art Nouveau touches and marble floors. All guest rooms boast oversize king beds, a complimentary minibar, Nespresso coffee machines, free wireless Internet, a 32-inch flat-screen TV, free morning newspapers, and pampering Lanvin bath products. Downstairs, the Seven Seas Restaurant beckons with a French-Mediterranean menu and a luxurious high tea, while those looking for something lighter can retire to the nautical-theme bar. A wellness center offers guests the opportunity to unwind in a Jacuzzi, swim laps in the pool, or work out in the gym. Ask for a city-view room on a higher floor to enjoy a panoramic view of the storied canals. €€€€ [Prins Hendrikkade 110 \(Binnenkant\), 020.552.0000, amrathamsterdam.com](#)

Hip Amsterdam Nightlife

Caffé Milo • Plantage • International

Caffé Milo is the latest trendy offering from those behind the successful Chocolate Bar. Milo attracts a bustling crowd of attractive local hipsters with decent food and the promise of DJ music late into the night. Milo's low-key interior features earth-toned seating, cream walls, and large reflective globe lamps. Although Milo has a menu of tasty Italian classics, a smoky atmosphere and erratic dinner service that descends into chaos as the bar crowd arrives means that this café might best be saved for after-dinner drinks when the room really shines. *Sun–Thu 9am–1am, Fri–Sat 9am–3am.* ☒ [Linnaeusstraat 71H \(Wijtenbachstr.\)](#), 020.463.8027, [caffemilo.nl](#)

Sing Sing* • Oude Zijde • Restaurant Lounge

Sing Sing serves delicious Asian fare and great cocktails in a stylish setting. Try the famous Sing Sing Royale with Champagne and lychee. *Mon–Thu 11am–1am, Fri–Sat 11am–2am, Sun noon–1am.* €C ☒ [Cornelis Krusemanstraat 15 \(Okeghemstr.\)](#), 020.470.4475, [sing-sing.nl](#)

Hip Amsterdam Attractions

Das Wella Warenhaus • Canal Belt • Store

Local and visiting fashionistas head straight to the source: At the designer-owned and -operated Das Wella Warenhaus, unique handmade pieces from the collections of Amsterdam's up-and-coming designers get pride of place. Vanessa Melzer's Nes T-shirts, the calendar-girl-inspired Cherry Sue, Nobel handmade scarves, and designs by upstarts Bimbeau Delux and Boulogne—the latter being the family name of the three brothers who collaborate to make retro-vintage must-have pieces—are the most coveted garments. In-store wares seem to change weekly, warranting return visits by those wanting to stay one step ahead of the colorful local fashion curve. Downstairs, hipster vintage clothing and accessories are on display, while occasional events such as fashion shows, aimed to launch new brands, draw out the city's style-conscious. *Fri–Wed 1–6:30pm, Thu 1–8pm.* [Keizersgracht 300 \(Berenstr.\)](#), no phone, [wellawarenhaus.nl](#)

Kunststad • North • Art Center

That Kunststad (“Art City” in English) is the largest breeding ground for the arts in the Netherlands is no small feat. While the city is chock-full of arts initiatives, gallery spaces, and performance spots, the optimism, energy, and sheer size of Kunststad sets it apart from the rest. With 100 studios shared by more than 240 artists, designers, animators, musicians, and architects, the aim is to foster interdisciplinary creativity through close exchange of ideas. Early draws to this former shipyard-turned-counterculture epicenter have included art exhibitions, open studios, film screenings, and a skating park. Check the website to find out what's currently on. *Hours vary.* [NDSM-werf, Neveritaweg 15, Amsterdam Noord](#), 020.330.5480, [ndsm.nl](#)

with eggplant and silver onion. Taupe wallcoverings and black tables clad in black linens create a sober backdrop that is warmed up by funky star-shape lamps, oversize photos of film stars, and a huge open kitchen. If you can't score a reservation, consider dropping by for cocktails paired with mouth-watering tapas-size bites. *Sun–Fri noon–1am, Sat 3pm–1am.* €€€ ☒ [Sophialaan 55 \(Waldeck Pyrmontlaan\)](#), 020.305.2760, [restaurantsophia.nl](#)

Sucre • Zuid • International

Touting itself as the Netherlands' first “dessert restaurant,” Sucre offers stylish diners a chance to indulge their taste buds in a way that mom would never allow. Four-course set menus (a main and three desserts) or five-course menus consisting of a main course, two desserts, and two cheese offerings mean dinners are leisurely-paced affairs designed to indulge the senses. Curious but delicious—and sweet—takes on fish and meat will surprise, while standouts such as chocolate caviar, apple bread and butter pudding, and Tahitian cheese cake are merely delicious and will satisfy the most demanding sweet-toothed foodie. Brickwork, grand chandeliers, and contrasting contemporary seating in earth tones create a sexy boudoir-chic atmosphere. Designer Erik Kuster, of Jimmy Woo fame, claims to have been inspired by lingerie superstar brand Agent Provocateur. After all, if you're going to indulge, you might as well do it in style. *Daily 6–10pm.* €€ ☒ ☒ [Amstelveenseweg 152 \(Tweede Schinkelstr.\)](#), 020.470.1910, [sucrerestaurant.nl](#)

Vinkeles Restaurant • Canal Belt • French Contemporary

The name may have changed and the focus shifted from Asia to France, but visiting A-listers and the city's most fabulous locals still flock to this gorgeous room located in the chic Dylan Hotel. Soft hues in cream fabrics and dark wood play off the building's original architecture of exposed beams and brick, creating a dark and elegant décor and setting the mood for one of the city's most reliable culinary bets. Executive Chef Dennis Kuipers artfully employs seasonal ingredients in a sophisticated and delightful menu that includes main courses such as roast Anjou pigeon with five spices and preserved young carrots, and monkfish with a gratin of Pata Negra ham and oregano. And the name? It's a nod to Reiner Vinkeles. The 18th-century engraver, famous for portraits and cityscapes, captured the hotel's entryway in one of his works. *Mon–Sat 7–10:30pm.* €€€ ☒ ☒ [Keizersgracht 384 \(Runstr.\)](#), 020.530.2010, [dylanamsterdam.com](#)

Vyne • Canal Belt • Wine Bar

The impresarios behind the city's legendary Supper Club have teamed up with their design team at Concrete Architectural Associates to create another gorgeous hot spot with instant cool cachet. This time it's a wine bar—complete with a backlit wall of bottles, glass-fronted coolers, chrome bar stools, and leather bench seating—that attracts the city's most stylish patrons. Wines are served in two sizes (“taste” and the larger “glass”), and all are intelligently paired with gourmet tapas offerings such as quail with red-onion chutney, foie gras terrine with Muscat jelly, and pan-fried black pudding. Call ahead to attend monthly tasting events arranged around vintners, regions, and grapes, or simply dress to the nines, and drop by for a stylish tippie. *Sun–Tue 6pm–midnight, Wed–Thu 6pm–1am, Fri–Sat 5pm–1am.* €€ ☒ [Prinsengracht 411 \(Reesstr.\)](#), 020.344. 6408, [vyne.nl](#)

Cool Amsterdam Nightlife

Cineac* • Rembrandtplein • International

Offering a marriage of live music and high-energy dancing to tracks spun by big-name DJs, the multilevel space boasts a gorgeous modern décor that's punctuated by plush red seating and chic space-age lighting. Dress up and arrive early on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays when the club space shines and DJs hold court, spinning their discs in a golden booth. *Thu–Sat 11pm–4am.* ☞ Reguliersbreestraat 31-33 (Regulierssteeg), 020.530.6888, cineac.nl

Plan C • Rembrandtplein • DJ Bar

The backlit, latticed, red-and-white wall that dominates Plan C ensures that the 30-something Euro-casual crowd—think guys in trendy sneakers, brand-name jeans, and blazers—cuts an attractive silhouette. Avoid the limited menu of finger foods, but do order one of the well-executed cocktails before snagging one of the prime low-slung seats near the front window; from here you can watch the world go by and keep an eye on the DJ at the same time. The atmosphere, a cozy hybrid of modern lounge meets shabby-chic basement rec room, appeals to both the trendy after-work drinks crowd and those warming up for a night of serious clubbing. *Wed 8pm–2am, Thu 7pm–3am, Fri–Sat 5pm–3am, Sun 5pm–2am.* ☞ Reguliersdwarstraat 13-15 (Koningsplein), 061.504.2550, barplan-c.nl

Cool Amsterdam Attractions

Code Gallery Store • Oude Zijde • Art Gallery & Store

Like the art spaces of Redlight Fashion Amsterdam, a local initiative for the city to purchase brothels and lease them out to upstart artists and designers, Code Gallery Store occupies a reclaimed space and offers wares intended to beautify both the neighborhood and Amsterdam's fashion-forward crowd. Collections of clothing, watches, shoes, accessories, photographs, and art, both in limited editions and larger runs, are judiciously selected from Amsterdam's rising stars, while a handful of overseas artists also contribute to the stylish mix. Beds and lighting may hint at the space's former use, but it's homegrown labels such as IGNOOR and EnD, and creations from designers such as Conny Groenewegen and Jan Taminiau that provide the sex appeal. A quarterly magazine and annual Amsterdam Fashion Week event solidify Code's place on the local hipster map. *Wed–Sun noon–9pm.* Oudezijds Achterburgwal 121 (Koestr.), 020.408.5511, codegallerystore.com

Loup • Canal Belt • French

Brown leather bench-style seating and golden-hued wood-paneled walls sound like the makings of the Amsterdam classic brown bar. Here, in the heart of the trendy Negen Straatjes (Nine Streets), it means dining and drinking in style. As popular for after-work drinks as for dinner, Loup sees fashionable shoppers and other locals drawn from nearby canal houses dropping in for traditional cocktails and wines by the glass, both at the long bar and at the street-front tables outside, as others retire to the two-level restaurant for something more hearty. There, black and chrome accents complement the warm brown and gold décor, and French dishes such as confit of duck, *côte de boeuf*, and *coquille St. Jacques* please sophisticated palates. *Sun–Wed 6pm–midnight, Thu–Sat 4pm–1am.* €€ ☞ Wolvenstraat 22–24 (Keizersgracht), 020.330.7470, barloup.nl

Restaurant de Kroonluchter • Canal Belt • International

On a street known for trendy shopping and dining, de Kroonluchter—Dutch for “the Chandelier”—has quickly built a reputation as one of the best in a new wave of hip fancy-meets-casual eateries. The restaurant's namesake, a blue Murano behemoth, dominates the otherwise subdued two-story open room, giving it a touch of stylish elegance. Other flourishes, such as cowhide seat coverings and funky background tunes, do little to distract from the subdued cream décor, allowing guests to focus on their meals, which can be ordered à la carte or in menus of three, four, or five courses. Confit of duck, venison with red cabbage, and octopus with curry typify the ever-changing menu. Sit upstairs for a view of the action or at the front of the house for views of the bustling street. The place is known for its fabulous steak tartare. *Tue–Sat 5:30pm–1am.* € ☞ Utrechtsestraat 141 (Utrechtsewarstr.), 020.428.1074, restaurantdekroonluchter.nl

Sing Sing* • Oude Zijde • Restaurant Lounge

Those on the forefront of Amsterdam's dining-lounging scene have been quick to praise Sing Sing, though nitpicky critics might argue it's hard to tell whether this is a design bar with delicious Asian fare or a modern Asian tapas restaurant with a knack for mixing great cocktails: Luckily, it's a great choice for both. In a nod to local taste buds and Dutch colonial history, the Asian menu offers a number of Indonesian dishes, alongside more familiar fare such as Peking duck, cucumber with a hoisin glaze, and tandoori tournedos paired with seasonal Asian greens. Just be sure to show up on a weekend night when DJs set the mood with trendy tunes. Whether you're after dinner or drinks, dress fashionably if you want to fit in; the good-looking 20- and 30-somethings are here to see and be seen and consistently upstage the somber though modern gold, brown, and white interior. *Mon–Thu 11am–1am, Fri–Sat 11am–2am, Sun noon–1am.* € ☞ Cornelis Krusemanstraat 15 (Okeghemstr.), 020.470.4475, sing-sing.nl

CTaste • Zuid • International

Whether “dining blind” is the next big thing, or merely a passing fad, remains to be seen, but foodies who like to indulge their senses have welcomed CTaste to Amsterdam’s vibrant culinary landscape. Europe’s latest “Dining in the Dark” restaurant, where guests—professionals and the corporate crowd during the week, trendsters on weekends—eat their meals in total darkness, is staffed by blind waiters who “guide” diners through their set-menu three-course meals and encourage patrons to focus on their senses of touch, hearing, smell, and taste. Commenting on the restaurant’s décor or food presentation would be impossible, but what is lacking in visuals is made up for in atmosphere, as well as the menu; CTaste’s kitchen is staffed by a nightly rotating cast of chefs drawn from established Amsterdam eateries, and their individual styles include Continental, French, Italian, Asian, and local cuisines. *Wed–Sun 5:30–11pm. €€€* [Amsteldijk 55 \(Rustenburgstr.\), 062.233.5366, ctaste.nl](#)

In de Keuken • Canal Belt • Continental

You’ll certainly feel like you’re in *de keuken*—Dutch for “the kitchen”—at this foodie favorite. Guests can watch the skilled staff prepare their meal in the wide-open kitchen, or take in the other features that show off the restaurant staff’s reverence for food. A blackboard with recipes and shopping lists adorns one wall, while shelves of cookbooks provide decoration on the other side of the room. All diners choose from only two mains to construct a three-, four-, or five-course menu that changes weekly and is organized around a foodie fantasy destination such as Catalonia, Piedmont, or Burgundy. Dishes such as wild pigeon in red-wine sauce with cherries, pasta graced with a simple soft-cheese sauce, and a highly recommended cheese plate will appeal to those with discerning palates. *Tue–Sat 7–10pm. €€* [Utrechtsestraat 114 \(Prinsengracht\), 020.616.7414](#)

Looks • Oude Zijde • International

Looks is a gorgeous restaurant. Modern design aesthetics such as an illuminated bar, bold red seats, a textured white leather wall, and a collection of locally crafted artwork create a stylish interior, and mirrors and creative lighting give the illusion that the two-level restaurant is larger than it is. And though the hipster crowd is populated by attractive locals, the beauty of Looks is more than skin-deep. It takes a confident kitchen to offer a mere four main courses, but freshness and quality permeate each mouth-watering creation. Three of these—a fish, a meat, and a vegetarian option—are refreshed weekly, while the crowd-pleasing, classic grilled entrecôte with potatoes Pont Neuf and salad remains constant. The small terrace proves popular come fairer weather, but the prime seating is above the open kitchen, offering the best vistas of the restaurant and the attractive clientele. *Mon–Sat 6pm–1am; kitchen until 10pm. €€* [Binnen Bantammer-straat 5 \(Geldersekade\), 020.320.0949, restaurantlooks.nl](#)

Museum of Bags and Purses—Tassenmuseum Hendrikje • Canal Belt • Museum

Pardon the pun, but while a purse museum won’t be everyone’s bag, traveling fashionistas and style setters of every ilk will adore the latest addition to the city’s ever-growing museum scene. On display in an elegant canal house is nothing less than the history of the Western handbag from the Middle Ages up to the present day, and—giving the display an intellectual bent—the focus is on form, function, decoration, and material. Standouts include pieces from the 14th and 15th centuries, items from the Golden Age, and examples from a list of designers that reads like a who’s-who of 20th-century design. The museum has a cafe offering light bites and refreshments, and a shop hawking bags from leading contemporary and international designers. *Daily 10am–5pm (cafe until 4:30pm).* [€ Herengracht 573 \(Reguliersgracht\), 020.524.64.52, tassenmuseum.nl](#)

Nukuhiva • East • Shop

Named after an idyllic Polynesian island, this hip concept clothing outlet is dedicated to offering “fashion with a mission.” Owner Floortje Delsing has traveled to the ends of the earth in her role as presenter of Holland’s most popular travel television show, giving her a unique opportunity to source some of the planet’s most stylish fair-trade clothing. Unique labels such as Intoxica, Made By, Kuyichi, Loomstate, and Edun, the fashion line from Ali Hewson (wife of U2’s Bono), prove that clothing with a conscience has moved beyond baggy hemp pants and into the realm of contemporary fashion. Perhaps best of all, a portion of the store’s profits are pledged to aid third-world education initiatives. *Sun–Mon noon–6pm, Tue–Sat 10am–6pm. Haarlemmerstraat 36 (Binnen Vissersstr.), 020.420.9483, nukuhiva.nl*


Hip Amsterdam Hotels

Black Tulip Hotel • Oude Zijde • Modern (9 rms)


Although the truth may be slightly milder than the rumors, Amsterdam comes by its sin-city reputation easily, and if you’re looking to add a naughty—if gritty—element to your holiday, it has plenty of attractions. But if you want your sinfully indulgent Amsterdam experience to also be a sophisticated one—that’s a bit trickier. Enter the gay-oriented but straight-friendly Black Tulip Hotel, which touts itself as “Europe’s most luxurious leather and art hotel”. After you finish wondering how much competition the Black Tulip truly faces, consider that the combination of art (most of it gay-themed) and kink—sometimes subtle and sometimes overt—works to create a unique and wonderful home away from home. The hotel, situated in a 16th-century canal house, contains two Classic and seven Leather rooms, all appointed to provide a delightful dose of luxury and, in the case of the Leather rooms, more than a helping of lust. All guest rooms boast gorgeous canal views, private bathrooms (some with whirlpools), LCD televisions, and free WiFi. While the Classic rooms offer a smartly decorated and spacious place to lay your head, it’s the Leather rooms that set this place apart. Most come equipped with leather bedcovers, a sling,

Hip Amsterdam Restaurants

5th • Rembrandtplein • International

5th is very popular with trendy gays and straights about to hit the clubs, and judging from the buzz that builds on weekend evenings it's clear that this is where the party really starts. The three-story space features a subdued décor with pale walls and dark wooden accents. If you like people-watching, dine on the first floor where tables have views of both the door and the open kitchen; otherwise head upstairs to either the second or third floors where the smart-casual scene is a little less hectic. The small but crowd-pleasing menu consists of inventive mains, often with Asian-fusion accents, but vegetarians beware: The token herbivore dish seems like an afterthought and doesn't show the creativity that characterizes the rest of the menu. *Tue–Sat 6pm–2am.* €€  [Reguliersdwarsstraat 41 \(Sint Jorisstr.\)](#), 020.330.0939

AS • Oude Zijde • French

Opening a restaurant in what is arguably Amsterdam's most forward-thinking arts and design space is a daring prospect: Traditionalists would find fault with something too avant-garde, while progressive-minded gallery-goers and diners would demand a concept. Thankfully, the creative forces behind successful restaurant and club space 11 have found a hip middle ground, balancing a subdued but progressive design décor that plays off the unusual round room, with wholesome and hearty cuisine. Casual visitors dine on Burgundian-inspired organic dishes that pay homage to the slow-food trend, such as nettle risotto or line-caught local fish. Sophisticated out-of-towners dine shoulder to shoulder with stylish locals—everyone is seated at long wooden communal tables—allowing creative exchanges started inside the building's exhibition spaces to continue over dinner and drinks. Call ahead to dine with the chef: At €14 per person, it might be the best deal in town. *Wed–Sun noon–11pm.* €  [Prinses Irenestraat 19 \(Beethovenstr.\)](#), 020.644.0100, [restaurantas.nl](#)

Contrast • De Pijp • Continental

De Pijp's reputation as a stylish dine- and lounge-about neighborhood has been rising for years, and Contrast is just the latest hot spot to attract the city's young professional crowd with a beautiful room and dishes to match. The name is a nod to the interior: It's predominantly black and white, with natural woods, cork, brown-hued accents, and a solitary striped wall to warm things up and ensure the atmosphere is as inviting as the France-meets-Holland dishes. Menus change daily and reflect a commitment to seasonal ingredients; most wines are served by the glass, and each dish is offered with a wine pairing. It's possible to dine à la carte, but regulars wisely opt for tasting menus of three, four, and five courses composed of mouth-watering crowd-pleasers such as venison with wild mushrooms, chestnuts, and wild berries, or roast duck with salsify, caramelized parsnips, natural juices, and chocolate. *Sun–Thu noon–midnight, Fri–Sat noon–2am.* €€  [Ferdinand Bolstraat 176–178 \(Rustenburgstr.\)](#), 020.471.5544, [restaurantcontrast.nl](#)

and bondage equipment, and each room contains unique pieces of bondage furniture, ranging from steel cages and whipping benches to a host of other unmentionables meant to please aficionados and newbies alike. Is it everyone's cup of tea? Of course not. Will a stay at the Black Tulip leave you with some vivid memories of your time in Amsterdam? You bet!. € [Geldersekade 16 \(Oudezijds Kolk\)](#), 020.427.09.33, [blacktulip.nl](#)

Citizen M Hotel • Off-Map • Trendy (230 rms)

Airport hotels don't often factor into discussions about a city's most stylish crash pads, but then Citizen M Amsterdam, the first property in a planned global network, is unlike any other airport hotel. Guests use a self-check-in system to access contemporary-cool rooms designed by local superstar firm Concrete Architectural Associates, where they'll find an LCD TV, king-size bed, rain shower, Frette linens, Zebrano wood flooring, and a wall-to-wall, floor-to-ceiling window. Included in the price of each stay are value-added freebies including on-demand movie channels, WiFi, and the use of a "Mood Pad"—a gadget-head-favorite touch-screen device to control everything in the room, from the television to window blinds, temperature, colored atmospheric lighting, even wake-up-alarm themes. In other nods to technology, guests are issued RFID cards that tweak lighting and music to suit personal tastes, and each of the hotel's 230 rooms is completely assembled off-site, allowing for speed and customization. Canteen M, a 24-hour cafe, serves freshly prepared dishes by day and cocktails by night, while the ultrachic lobby, decorated with beautiful furniture from Vitra and Eames (and local designer Hella Jongerius' elegant Polder Sofa), becomes the center of the action. The hotel is only a minute from Amsterdam Schiphol Airport's gates, but should you want to join the action in the city center, a 20-minute train ride will take you to the heart of Amsterdam. (Citizen M can only be booked online.) € [Citizen M, Janplezierweg 2 \(Schiphol Boulevard\)](#), 085.580.1111, [citizenm.com](#)

Hotel V Frederiksplein • Canal Belt • Modern (48 rms)

Amsterdam's original Hotel V ranks among the best budget-oriented crash pads in the city and, like its older sibling, the second edition—this one better situated near funky and bohemian neighborhood De Pijp—offers a well-priced, low-key, design-inspired experience. Each smoke-free room boasts a "rain shower," plush bed, and flat-screen TV, making rooms comfortable. Guests nonetheless congregate in the cozy lounge, where funky tunes set the mood while a coterie of visiting hipsters chills out on a sprawling fireside sofa, sipping cocktails, noshing on finger foods, and browsing the hotel's small collection of magazines. Free breakfasts and WiFi sweeten the deal for those on a budget; Apple computers are on hand for those who choose to leave their laptops at home. €€ [Weteringschans 136 \(Huiderkoperstr.\)](#), 020.662.3233, [hotelv.nl](#)