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Over the years, decades would reveal our age, we have travelled the globe to faraway places with unique highlights, story worthy content and more so well chosen epiphets, which are just as exotic as difficult to pronounce. And, by all means, we adore the darling hotels in unexpected corners of an inner city, the hidden gems in the shape of make-believe homes of landlords and ladies or the quaint hotel in a picture-perfect setting where everybody knows your name. And by all means, that's a good thing.

In its earliest days, Amsterdam has been a bustling hub of commerce that welcomed other cultures with open arms. This lovely canal-side city, with its rich history and development of its tolerant society is home to many luxury hotels, each with their own elegance and style. Yet, behind an unexpected facade we find a boutique hotel—with an allure within a Dutch historic stature.

Denmark, the most southern land of Scandinavia, is home to a new collection of hotels. Boutique ones with their own style, local interior design wisdom and back-to-nature spirit. All the while, making their art of relaxation (known as Hygge) part of their daily routine. It is here where we mix contemporary with vintage—both with names to remember and menus to crave.

In New York City, we could name a few fine names to add to the list. Yet it is The Beekman demanding the attention with its charismatic interior and striking presence. Here in this whirlwind of styles and romantic notions, the past becomes the present all the while telling its story of time through the fine art collection, carefully placed around in the beautifully restored structure.

Thus, why not get acquainted with the places we all know by name? They might even remind us of our own abodes or personalities at times—the ennobled Tom, Dick and Harrys—those as dapper men, with pocket watches, silken lining jackets and handmade Italian loafers. Here's our pick of those you want to know by name.



It's all in a name

Urban winter hotels to get acquainted with

By Laura Brown

kind creative

The Dylan, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

In the midst of the canal belt Amsterdam is famous for, a 26-room boutique hotel carries the name The Dylan. Ancient buildings as neighbours, cobbled streets along the wrought-iron gated facade and bicycles passing by make for a postcard-perfect setting. In winter, the lit fireplace welcomes guests in a snug setting. The exposed brickwork and ancient timber beams of Michelin-starred Restaurant Vinkeles create an intimate and historic setting in the former 18th century bakery. Here, exciting and deliciously refined dishes are being prepared, while making sure guests feel at home and exceptionally welcome. When night falls, the boutique hotel buzzes with locals and tourists alike. Those who stay the night, retreat to their urban abodes under The Dylan's historic roofs. Refashioned as a series of generously proportioned rooms set in four different ambiances from a muted palette to a striking Amsterdam-style loft with minimalistic furniture. dylanamsterdam.com



Sanders, Copenhagen, Denmark

Only one year ago this December, the doors of this boutique hotel in Copenhagen opened to the public. The subdued theatrical aesthetic of the interior and the ideology to the property—only a stone's throw away from the Royal Danish Theatre—have fared in perfect harmony. Deeply rooted is the creative history of its owner. Renowned Danish ballet dancer Alexander Kolpin his fine savoir faire and taste for the good things in life shine through every meticulously renovated nook and cranny. The rooms are created as a cosy refuge for travellers, somewhat subdued yet filled with luxury detailing. The pale-coloured walls, a splash of colour here and there, and specially chosen vintage furniture pieces as well as beautiful finishings add to the perfect harmony one wishes to establish in one's own private den. Food is orientated around comfort yet with a desire to dictate the senses in a subtle, friendly way—think private dinner party in a chef's kitchen. hotelsanders.com

