

CHECK IT OUT HOTEL GOLDGASSE SALZBURG, AUSTRIA



Here's one for the opera buffs. Salzburg's Hotel Goldgasse has unveiled a quirky modern makeover, featuring 15 contemporary guestrooms, each named for a different opera, housed in a 13th-century building in the mountain-ringed city's historic quarter.

Formerly the Hotel Goldene Ente, the privately owned property, and Small Luxury Hotels member, offers pared-back, albeit charming, accommodation with plenty of value-added enticements: in-room espresso machine (and organic teas), free Wi-Fi and a gratis minibar in a cute SMEG fridge.

Ideally located within walking distance of the city's leading attractions, the hotel took the famous Salzburg Festival as its "do-over" muse and each of the chambers — dubbed La Boheme, Peer Gynt, Il Trovatore and so on — is styled as a "contemporary interpretation of a tenor's home" with oversized wardrobes and walls doubling as giant canvases honouring festival operas.

Every guest is welcomed by the concierge, who is on hand to rustle up in-room breakfasts or private museum visits. Although guestrooms have a con-

temporary feel, traditional materials, notably Salzburg oak, have been used throughout while many original features of the ancient building, which once served as a coppersmith's, have been preserved including fresco fragments, stone floors and original stucco work. All the accommodation also features marble bathrooms with rain and massage showers and organic, handmade amenities by local company Maria Pieper.

The hotel's one suite, the Jedermann, has a private roof terrace offering wonderful city views.

DON'T MISS: A night in with the telly. The in-room flat screens are loaded with movies including *The Sound of Music*, celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

DINING IN: Timber beams and copper detailing in the alpine-style Restaurant Gasthof Goldgasse add a cosy but contemporary note. Chef Martin Pichler riffs on Austrian classics — wiener schnitzel, Salzburger nockerl — using produce sourced primarily in



Salzburger Land. Food is served in traditional copper pans (a nod to the building's history) and during summer there's dining on an outdoor terrace. Be sure to try the deep-fried chicken or boiled Schulterschmelz (beef) with apple horseradish and, for dessert, the Goldgasse pancake, flamed at the table and served with pears, roasted almonds and chocolate sorbet.

DINING OUT: Just a few steps from the hotel, you'll find Cafe Konditorei Furst, famous for its handmade Mozartkugel chocolates.

ASK THE CONCIERGE: Along with Salzburg's historic attractions be sure to check out the city's Museum of Modern Art Monchsberg.

CHECKING IN: Double rooms from €165 (\$238). More: hotelgoldgasse.at.

ALSO TRY: 25 Hours Hotel Bikini Berlin; Copper-smith, Melbourne; URSO Hotel & Spa, Madrid.

CHRISTINE McCABE

ACCOMMODATION BUZZ

A mock-Tudor motor inn claiming a prime position on the shores of Lake Wakatipu on the South Island of NZ has reopened as the Sherwood Queenstown following a spot of serious up-cycling to create a well-priced, food-focused and style-savvy retreat; there's a wholefood restaurant, organic vegetable garden, yoga studio and a range of accommodation that includes lakeside studios and dorm rooms for families, all decked out with reclaimed materials • On April 20, One & Only Palmilla reopens on Mexico's Baja peninsula following the complete refurbishment of all accommodation and the addition of a spa and fitness centre featuring 13 private treatment villas, each with its own garden; there's also a new steakhouse by Michelin-starred chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten, who recently opened a restaurant in the Miami Beach EDITION • All hillside and beachfront villas at Fiji's Vomo Island Resort in the Mamanuca group near Nadi have been gutted and refurbished during an intense nine-week makeover that has also delivered a new kitchen and an expanded Rocks Bar • This week, Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts takes over management of the legendary Le Touessrok resort in Mauritius; the property will close for a top-to-toe renovation with doors reopening on November 1 on 200 new-look guestrooms and suites (as well as three large villas) and a day spa.



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