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==CHECKING IN

How Green is Your City?

Winner of the 2010 European Green Capital Award, Stockholm walks the talk with its eco-friendly hotels. | **By LOLA AKINMADE**

Scandic Hotels

THROUGHOUT STOCKHOLM

Leading the city's green charge is the Scandic Hotel chain. Its sustainable programs began in the 1990s, and today all 18 properties in Stockholm have received the Nordic Swan Eco Label—the official certification awarded to products and services with a proven record of green initiatives. From low-energy lightbulbs to organic cuisine at all their locations, hotels displaying “the Swan” label have been vetted to meet certain environmental, health, and quality criteria. Rising next to Humlegården Park, the contemporary Scandic Anglans Hotel (www.scandichotels.com; from \$206) features IKEA-style monochrome interiors. For warmer decor, opt for the Scandic Continental (www.scandichotels.com; from \$116) just a block away



Cozy dining at Djuret.

from the central station (T-Centralen) and the imposing Klara Church. Both hotels compost organic waste, which is converted into biogas fuel and later reused at Scandic hotels.

Nordic Sea Hotel

VASAPLAN

In central Stockholm across from T-Centralen, both the Nordic Sea Hotel (www.nordichotels.se; from \$130) and its sister property next door, Nordic Light Hotel, became Swan-certified

in 2007. After a day of sightseeing, don a thermal suit and head into Nordic Sea's Absolut Ice Bar to sit on stools sculpted from Torne River ice. Among the eco-credits: hotel laundry is done on-site using biodegradable detergent, which eliminates the need for transportation and reduces carbon emissions by 50 tons annually.

Langholmen Hotel

LÅNGHOLMEN ISLAND

Check into a former cell at the Langholmen Hotel (www.langholmen.com/en; from \$206), once a 19th-century prison called Kronohuset. The 102 rooms boast original cell doors. Visit the museum, From Crime to Chains, which chronicles the hotel's transformation from a prison. Explore Langholmen Island on foot, then cross Langholm Bridge to Södermalm, Stockholm's bohemian district.

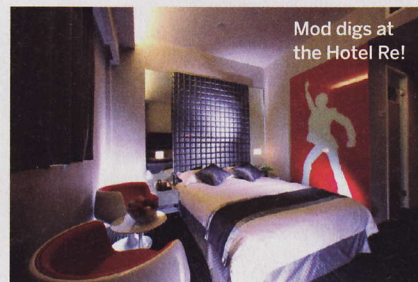
Victory Hotel

GAMLA STAN

Hearty Swedish cuisine remains the main draw for the Victory Hotel (www.victoryhotel.se; from \$260), situated in historic Gamla Stan. While the hotel's Swan certification is underway, its Michelin-starred restaurant, Leijon-tornet (built around a 14th-century tower) and its bistro, Djuret, are organic-certified and share one kitchen headed by Chef Gustav Otterberg. Dishes include braised wild boar and cloudberry desserts.



Cell time: The Langholmen retains vestiges from its prison days.



Mod digs at the Hotel Re!

[DEALS]

SINGAPORE STAYS FOR UNDER \$200

DOWNTOWN > QUINCY HOTEL

“All-inclusive” doesn’t have to mean over-the-top. The Quincy Hotel is a perfect example of affordable inclusivity in the heart of a city. Rates for this boutique 108-room property, just steps from Orchard Road’s posh shopping center, factor in three meals a day and a free happy hour, plus two laundered clothing items per night and a limo pickup from the airport. Sleek, modern design permeates the hotel, particularly in the case of the glass-enclosed pool, which juts out from the 12th story of the building and offers a gorgeous view of the Singapore skyline.

From \$190 > www.quincy.com.sg.

EMILY HILL > HANGOUT@MT. EMILY HOTEL

Tucked in the quiet Emily Hill garden district in Singapore’s city center, the hangout @ mt. emily hotel is a vibrant, fresh alternative to the traditional hostel. The color-themed, spartan guest rooms offer twin or double beds but can sleep up to five people, making them ideal for groups traveling together. On-site laundry, Internet, complimentary coffee and tea, and a roof deck are added perks, as is the proximity to the MRT metro station and the lively Little India neighborhood.

From \$58 > www.hangouthotels.com.

PEARL HILL > HOTEL RE!

Disco dancer silhouettes and mod furniture that could have been lifted from an Austin Powers set are among the retro details in the 140-room Hotel Re!, but that’s all part of the fun. Located in Singapore’s Pearl Hill neighborhood, a few steps from Chinatown’s Chin Swee Road, the modern, 12-story property includes a “Veg Out” lounge that screens classic and international films nightly and a family suite with two separate bedrooms and complimentary breakfast for four. For every overnight stay, the hotel donates one dollar to local youth charities.

From \$110 > www.hotelre.com.sg. —*Janelle Nanos*

VICTORY HOTEL (OPPOSITE LEFT), HOTEL RE! (OPPOSITE RIGHT), DORR ARQUEL/AMF/REIDUK (LOWER)