

Galerie



The Ultimate Art
Insider's to
Maastricht

We asked art and design insiders for their go-to hotels, restaurants, bars and boutiques when in town for TEFAF.

by LUCY REES

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Every March, well-heeled collectors and art connoisseurs from all over the world descend on the charming town of Maastricht, the southernmost city in the Netherlands for the prestigious European Fine Art Fair (TEFAF). As always, the ten-day affair held at the Maastricht Exhibition & Conference Centre presents the best in Old Masters, antiquities, ethnographic objects, design, jewelry, and furnishings. Out of this year's 279 exhibitors, 40 are new to the fair, with an exciting spotlight on modern and contemporary art. In the Modern section, expect to find 13 new exhibitors participating, a number of whom plan to present single-artist stands. Outside the fair, the picturesque city is distinguished for its medieval-era architecture, cobbled streets, and lively cultural scene. In preparation for the fair's 32nd edition, we asked a handful of in-the-know exhibitors and design talents for their tips on what to do and see, and where to stay, eat, sleep, and shop.



The Dutch Hotel
Maastricht.

Photo: Courtesy of The Dutch

Laura Kugel

Project Manager, Galerie J. Kugel

“Recently I’ve stayed at The Dutch—it’s fun and more relaxed than some of the other hotels and is located in the Wyck district right in the centre of town. My top pick for a restaurant is always Café Sjiem, where I spend many evenings during the fair. I love the bistro atmosphere—it’s always packed and since there are no reservations, small groups stand waiting around the terrazzo-topped communal table drinking and eating oysters. Drinks-wise, it’s an Old Fashioned at the Kruissherenhotel, a former monastery and 15th-century Gothic church. Don’t miss out on the Treasury at the Basilica of St. Servaas, which houses beautiful Medieval artworks. I’m also looking forward to visiting the exhibition on David Lynch at the Bonnefanten Museum.”



Interior of Axel Vervoordt's Kanaal.

Photo: Rich Stapleton

Yasmin and Christian Hemmerle

Directors, Hemmerle

“We’ve been exhibiting at TEFAF Maastricht for over 20 years. Now, we always stay at Château St. Gerlach, located on the edge of the Ingendael nature reserve, just outside Maastricht city centre. Being surrounded by nature and waking up to walk in its beautifully landscaped Baroque gardens before heading to the fair is the best start to a busy day. When the spring flowers are in bloom, it gives you a lasting tranquil feeling. The Michelin-starred restaurant Beluga, on the banks of the Meuse River, is the best place to go to for creative cuisine that is modern and experimental. For shopping, fashion boutique Kiki Niesten has a fantastic edit of international designers. Mediterraneo is a superb Italian restaurant with fresh dishes packed with flavor. Axel Vervoordt’s Kanaal is an ambitious cultural and residential project that successfully combines art, architecture, and nature. It’s about an hour and half drive from Maastricht, but well worth the trip.”



Basilica of St. Servaas in
Vrijthof Square.

Photo: Courtesy of Wikimedia

Martin Clist

Managing Director, Charles Ede Ltd

“Old Maastricht is very atmospheric, and the Cathedral is a must visit along with its treasury. Take a walk around the Old Town’s narrow streets and you’ll arrive at the larger squares. Have a drink at one of the small cafes that line the Onze Lieve Vrouweplein. Visit the lovely shadowy church and watch the candles being lit by the visitors. Cafe Sjiem is my favorite place go. It’s incredibly noisy and busy but the staff are beyond friendly—it’s like nothing else in the world. Once I have a glass of cold Saint-Véran, a dozen oysters, and maybe some Dover sole, one feels everything is alright with the world. Be prepared to wait though!”



Street view of Chocolaterie Boulanger.

Photo: Courtesy of Chocolaterie Boulanger

Alexandra Toscano
Director, Carlo Orsi-Trinity Fine Art

“One fashion store I never fail to visit is MaxMara. They are so welcoming—you get a coffee and a biscuit, and in March, they hold a Winter sale, so there are real bargains to be had. I have a standing date with a friend from Sotheby’s for an annual shopping fix. Maastricht’s finest chocolate shop is definitely Chocolaterie Boulanger. Their dark chocolate is simply the best, and just the ticket for when your sugar level drops during the day. We are always known to have a bar or two tucked away in a drawer!”



A period room in the Bosch
Brewery.
Photo: Courtesy of Bosch Brewery

Peter Schaffer and Adam Patrick
Director & Manager, A La Vieille Russie

“Just for fun, the Bosch Brewery is the last intact brewery in the city of Maastricht and is a glimpse into what, not so long ago, was part of the industrial fabric of the community. Founded in 1758, the brewery’s tour visits the historic malting house and brewer’s house with period interiors, then stops at the tap room to sample some of the beers based on historic recipes that will soon be available from their own microbrewery. The perfect place to linger with good company over good food is Pakhoes. Located near the river, it offers an intimate experience with uncharacteristically warm service and unexpected offerings, especially fresh local game, which explains their loyal following among both local and international patrons. It’s the perfect stop after a long day at MECC.”



Chateau Neercanne.
Photo: Courtesy of Chateau
Neercanne

François Laffanour

Director, Galerie Downtown Paris

“I like to stay at the **Chateau St Gerlach**. My go-to restaurants are **Harry’s at the Beaumont Hôtel**, located in a historic 1912 building in the Wyck district; **Chateau Neercanne**, which is found within the only terraced castle of the Benelux; and **O.**”



The Frozen Fountain is one of Amsterdam’s most popular design stores

Photo: Courtesy of the Frozen Fountain

Meike Hartelust

Managing Director, Tom Postma Design

“In Amsterdam, which is just two hours from Maastricht, I’m looking forward to visiting ‘Van Gogh: The Joy of Nature,’” an exhibition on view now at the **Van Gogh Museum** that compares Van Gogh’s work with David Hockney’s. Another must-stop is ‘All the Rembrandts’ at the **Rijksmuseum**, marking the 350th anniversary of Rembrandt’s death in 2019. Refuel with lunch at our old-time favorite **Buffet van Odette** and treat yourself to locally renowned Dutch apple pie from **Winkel 43**, before visiting two of Tom Postma Design’s many favorite galleries, **Grimm** and **Fons Welters**. Have drinks at the windmill **Brouwerij ‘t IJ** (Amsterdam brewed beer) accompanied by a ‘bitterbal’ (crispy fried delicacy containing beef or veal and a savory sauce), preferably from the iconic **Patisserie Holtkamp**. We recommend **X Bank** and **Frozen Fountain** for the best Dutch fashion and design shopping. For dinner, we unanimously love restaurant **Scheepskameel** and restaurant **RIJKS**.”

TEFAF Maastricht is on view to the public from Saturday, March 16 through Sunday, March 24 at the Maastricht Exhibition & Conference Centre.