



## Holland Journal

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Dear Holland Specialist / Travel Agent,

Winter has arrived in the Netherlands! At the moment it is snowing with freezing temperatures. In this edition I would like to take you to a spectacular hotel, the world's tallest windmills and a high sight in Rotterdam where you also have the possibility to sleep in luxury!

Please note that the yearly flower parade is taking place on Saturday April 16, 2011, which is early. Due to this and with other events / conventions / Easter that are taking place in the same period of time, hotels in Amsterdam, The Hague and other cities are already starting to get booked. If you have / getting requests for April, please let me know a.s.a.p.



**Sofitel Legend The Grand Amsterdam**, a 5-star deluxe hotel is located in the heart of Amsterdam, between two of Amsterdam's most picturesque canals. As former Headquarter of the Dutch Admiralty during the "Golden Age" and as the previous City Hall of Amsterdam, the hotel exposes an immensely rich history of the city.

Sofitel Legend The Grand Amsterdam features 177 luxury rooms of which are 52 suites. All the rooms and suites are stylish and elegant equipped with the latest technology and embraced by its traditional details of the historical building.



All hotel guests can enjoy the So SPA. It features an indoor pool, sauna, hammam and fitness room. Wellness treatments can be booked on request.

The hotel restaurant is called Bridges where it's all about fish. Chef Aurélien Poirot's philosophy is to add only a couple of fresh ingredients to the dish in order to let the fish's character and flavor fully blossom.



The hotel is situated in the historic and financial heart of Amsterdam, in the vicinity of the well-known museums like the Anne Frank House and the Hermitage. Shopping is within walking distance around Dam Square and the Royal Palace, with the known department stores, the "Kalverstraat" and the more boutique-like shops in "The Nine Streets". [www.thegrand.nl](http://www.thegrand.nl) or [www.sofitel.com](http://www.sofitel.com)

A popular attraction in the Netherlands is **Kinderdijk**. But what makes these mills so exceptional when there are at least another 300 mills to be found in the province of South Holland?

The mills at Kinderdijk were built in 1740 in order to keep superfluous water at bay from the polders, thus allowing new land to be reclaimed. The polder water ran via the mills into the Lek river, which in turn fed the water into the North Sea.

The Kinderdijk mills were designated a UNESCO world heritage site in 1997.

19 mills remain of the original 20; one mill was destroyed during a fire.

With these 19 mills, Kinderdijk boasts the most mills in the Netherlands.

The number of mills with the typical Dutch polder countryside between them creates a picturesque sight, which attracts thousands of tourists each year.

Kinderdijk is not only nice for walking but it is also nice to bike through the spectacular area.

Rental bikes can be rented at the visitors centre.

There is also the possibility to see the inside of a mill. The interior of the mill from 1956 is still as it was. Throughout the mill there are screens where they show you how people lived and the history of the mill. The mill is open daily from 9.30am until 5.30pm (March – October). In the winter the mill is only open on Saturday and Sunday from 11am until 4pm. Entrance fee Euro 3,50, children Euro 2,00.

[www.molenskinderdijk.nl/index.php?link=en](http://www.molenskinderdijk.nl/index.php?link=en)





The jenever city **Schiedam** has the five world's largest windmills. So it should come as no surprise that Schiedam is delighted to be a part of theme year 2011 "**Long Live the Windmills**" of the province of South Holland. [www.ontdekschiedam.nu](http://www.ontdekschiedam.nu)

During this theme year, Schiedam will offer many events in regarding to **windmills** and **jenever**. After all, windmills and jenever are inextricably linked.



In the heyday of the jenever industry, some twenty windmills could be found in and around the city. They ground grains for the distillers, who distilled malt spirit for the jenever industry. Only five windmills now remain in Schiedam. A sixth, De Kameel "The Camel" malt mill will be festively opened in 2011.



Schiedam offers many opportunities for a true voyage of discovery through the jenever and windmill history of the city. A city walk accompanied by a guide will bring visitors to various distiller mills, distilleries and malting plants. In an original distillery, visitors can use all their senses to become acquainted with the authentic method of preparing real Schiedam jenever.

A visit can also be made to the Museum Mill De Nieuwe Palmboom (The New Palm Three). Here you will get a total explanation from grain to jenever. Open Tuesday – Sunday from 11.30am until 5pm (Easter to end of October). During wintertime they are only open on Saturday and Sunday. Entrance fee 3,50, children up to 18 years Euro 2,50. [www.schiedamsemolens.nl](http://www.schiedamsemolens.nl)

The **Euromast** tower in Rotterdam, designed by Hugh Maaskant and constructed between 1958 - 1960 is the highest observation tower in the Netherlands. It was specially built for the 1960 Floriade.

It is a concrete building with an internal diameter of 9 meters (30 ft) and a wall thickness of 30 centimeters (1 ft). Originally 101 meters (331 ft) in height it was the tallest building in Rotterdam. It lost this position for a while, but regained it when the "Euroscope" was added to the top of the building in 1970, giving an additional 85 meters (279 ft). Euromast is a member of the World Federation of Great Towers.



At 100 meters (328 ft), the tower / brasserie restaurant provides a fantastic panoramic 360° view of the city and much further. Visitors who want to go even higher can take the Euroscope, a rotating lift for another 85 meters to the top. Daredevils can rope slide or abseil from the top of the Euromast.

The Euromast is open daily throughout the year from 9.30am until 11pm. Entrance fee Euro 8,90, children up to 11 years old Euro 5,70. [www.euromast.nl](http://www.euromast.nl)

Book the Euromast for a night and you will feel like a star: a bottle of champagne is waiting for you and till 1 o'clock in the evening you can order room service. The view of Rotterdam is breathtaking and inside you will experience the charm and romance of the sixties. The building dates back to that period and high up in the Euromast you can feel it too when you are rocking softly in the wind. In winter frost flowers cover the windows (no double glazing). The icing on the cake is the exclusive use of the highest and largest balcony in Rotterdam from 10pm until 10am (from April to September till 9.30am).



The **two non-smoking suites, Heaven and Stars** are located above the brasserie at a height of more than 100 m. Heaven is situated on the south side and has a view of Rotterdam's world port and the smaller Stars suite on the north side offers you a view of Rotterdam's skyline. The suites include a spacious double bed, a lounge corner and a mini bar. There is a desk with wireless Internet, air-conditioning and a television with DVD player. Stars has a bathroom with Jacuzzi and Heaven is provided with a rain shower.



Price Euro 385,00 per suite per night (special travel agent rates on request) including a luxury breakfast (in your suite or at the brasserie) and champagne on arrival. You can book the suite from three months prior to your stay. In suite Heaven it is possible to book a child's cot at an extra charge. [www.euromast.nl/en/sleep-wakeup](http://www.euromast.nl/en/sleep-wakeup)



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***Your tour guide for Holland***