



HOTEL OF THE MONTH, BELGIUM

A haven of splendour and serenity in Brussels

TEXT: LIDIJA LIEGIS | PHOTOS: TANGLA HOTEL BRUSSELS

Tangla Hotel Brussels is an oasis of calm and luxury in the busy European capital. It is the first new five-star hotel to open in Brussels for the last 15 years. General manager Ruprecht Schmitz explains: “The concept behind Tangla Hotel is to bring a high-end Asian and European designed hotel to the market.”

Designed by Belgian native David T’Kint of HBA, a worldwide leader in hospitality interior design, the 187-room hotel retains a distinct Asian style with aspects of Chinese design. Fengshui principles have been applied throughout, giving the hotel a very soothing appearance and a tran-

quil atmosphere. The idea of the design is to bring the beauty of Chinese and Asian culture to Belgium.

“We do our utmost to ensure guests have a very pleasing and relaxing stay. It’s not busy visually, so it provides just the right environment to recuperate and relax in our large spaces,” explains Mr. Schmitz. The name Tangla comes from the legend of Tanggula, a paradise found in the Qingzhang highlands. It is believed that as the Tanggula rises towards the skies, that three rivers below offer abundance and tranquility. The hotel’s décor encapsulates the legend, with bright, high ceilings, backlit feature walls, custom-designed chandeliers

inspired by the movement of clouds, and hand-selected original artworks.

Fang and Taofang: a retreat for all senses

Tangla Hotel has 37 suites, which includes two masterpieces: Duplex Tàofáng and Presidential Tàofáng. Duplex Tàofáng is a single suite spread over two levels, in a tower. It has a spacious bedroom, and a living and dining room on the lower level. Mr. Schmitz describes it as “your very own pied-à-terre in Brussels”. The pièce de résistance is the vast Presidential Suite. It has two bedrooms and is fully secured throughout, making it ideal for governmental figures and high-net-worth indi-

viduals. Both the presidential and duplex suites feature extensive panelled walls in the lounge and dining areas, reminiscent of China's famous Summer Palace. Junior suites are located exclusively on the fourth floor with balconies overlooking the interior courtyard or the greenery at the front of the hotel. Room service is available 24/7.

The other rooms, called Fang25 or Fang27 (the numbers refer to their size in metres), are decorated in soft pastels with delicate wooden panels. All feature a splendid marble desk incorporating a media hub with a 40-inch LED SmartTv. Refreshments include a mini bar, a Nespresso machine and a wide tea selection. All rooms have a laptop safe. The bathrooms are made of elegant marble and have spacious walk-in showers, with some suites featuring standalone bathtubs.

For pure escapism, Tangla Hotel offers a superb 1,200-square-metre spa with reflexology massage rooms where guests can switch off entirely from the outside world. It also has a vast indoor heated pool, a large sauna, and a gym and fitness area.

Gourmet culinary options

The hotel's F&B concept is derived around the TLounge, explains Mr. Schmitz. "We pride ourselves on having a very wide selection of teas and whiskeys in our lounge bar," he says. The lounge is in the middle of the hotel under a beautiful skylight: to one side, guests can see the Tang Dynasty, a fine-dining Cantonese restaurant, and on the other side is Le Cinq restaurant, serving international food. TLounge's décor takes inspiration from Chinese tea plantations. It serves over 40 types of tea, including the best of black, green, Oolong and white teas from China, Sri Lanka, India and Japan.

The atmospheric Tang Dynasty pays homage to Chinese traditions of privacy and prestige by offering five private dining rooms. The restaurant prides itself on being Belgium's first Cantonese gastronomic restaurant. Ingredients are sourced locally and directly from China. The lively Le Cinq restaurant serves a Eurasian buffet, including breakfast, lunch and dinner, as well as à la carte options and a choice of dishes cooked on the Teppanyaki grill.

An ideal setting for leisure and business

Thanks to its range of entertainment spaces, Tangla Hotel is well suited to organising business meetings as well as leisure events. The Imperial Ballroom, which has a ceiling height of over six metres, can seat up to 400 people. The Royal Ballroom is another adaptable space which can be split into three, seats up to 300, and features in-built translation booths. There is also the Discreet room available for board meetings, and the Confidential room which can seat 14 people.

The hotel organises monthly after-work events of varying themes, catering to different crowds. Events are usually held in the TLounge, but if weather permits these are held outdoors. Tangla Hotel is the only five-star hotel that has a private karaoke room. Up to 20 guests can sing their favourite songs and enjoy some drinks. Tangla Hotel is situated in the Eastern part of Brussels and has excellent transport links.

Web: www.tanglabrussels.com

