

# Mixing business with leisure

TEXT: FRANK VAN LIESHOUT | PHOTOS: PINCOFFS

**See the pictures, read the reviews and check the awards: Pincoffs is where you want to stay when you next visit Rotterdam.**

Imagine returning to your hotel after an exhausting day and the person at reception kindly fixes you a meal. Imagine going up to your suite, taking a soak in your freestanding Victorian bath, then enjoying a refreshing coffee from your Illy machine and sitting back in your Philippe Starck chair overlooking Rotterdam's Maas river and the magnificent Erasmus bridge. Are you dreaming? Well, not if you have checked in at Pincoffs.

Named after the wealthy Rotterdam businessman who commissioned the monumental former Customs building on the Maas, Pincoffs has a choice of 17 rooms and suites, providing an imaginative mix of 19th century grandeur, modern design and high-end luxuries. "But most importantly we create a warm, relaxed atmosphere with genuine personal attention for our guests," says owner Karen Hamerlynck.

Karen started Pincoffs in 2008 with her husband Edwin van der Meijde. The idea was to marry the intimate, romantic feel of the best leisure hotels with superb business facilities. "We

were both working as journalists at the time," she says. "And we both grew tired of staying in these sterile, run-of-the-mill hotels that had all the mod cons but no atmosphere."

When the opportunity came along to start their own boutique hotel, they did not have to think twice. "Maybe it was a bit of a gamble, but it's really paid off. We've had nothing but praise and prizes. We've even been accepted into the TripAdvisor Hall of Fame. Plus, we have lots of guests who keep coming back. And that is the best compliment you can get."

[www.hotelpincoffs.nl/en](http://www.hotelpincoffs.nl/en)

