

“A hotel in time with the beat of a city’s heart...”

**GASTWERK HOTEL
HAMBURG**
Industrial design
From €120
hotels.easyJet.com

IT'S NOT HARD to find relics of industrial revolution in Hamburg, whose canals are still lined with the warehouses that chugged the city into prosperity in the 19th century.

While trades may succumb to new technologies, every now and then a hotel comes along that marries the best of old and new.

In its former life, Gastwerk was first a coal warehouse, then a gasworks. Stepping into the lobby, which once stored 5,000 tonnes of coal, the ceiling soars five storeys skyward, exposed brickwork, steel bars and whitewashed walls lending an industrial feel, but this is a 21st century design hotel, as emphasised by the free-built lift, which zips up to 141 loft rooms and suites. Their dark-wood floorboards and minimalist design give the feel of a Brooklyn abode, though the views are unmistakably German.

Rattan-woven furniture and steel lamps decorate the rooms and, while outside its latticed windows the landscape is now firmly residential, the relentless to and fro of Hamburg's public-transport network will lead you to the bright lights of Sternschanze and St Pauli in no time – and bring you back to a silent night's sleep, in a building whose past ties seamlessly to its present.



Clockwise from above one of Gastwerk's loft rooms; the hotel's Mangold restaurant; its vast, five-storey high lobby



WORDS FLORENCE DERRICK, SARAH WARWICK HOTELS LISTED BY AIRPORT DESTINATION



**RUNNING HORSES
LONDON**
Country casual
From £99 (€129)
hotels.easyJet.com

8km jaunt from the city's south-western edge? In the charming 1,000-year-old village of Mickleham, Running Horses has been offering shelter to travellers since the 16th century and its exterior is largely unchanged since those days, except for the removal of stables that once provided

HOW FAR OUT of London do you need to go for a good old-fashioned country pub? Would you believe a mere

shelter for visiting racers to Epsom. The racetrack is still just a short gallop away and there are plenty of reminders of the inn's horsey past. Rooms are named after British courses, while equine memorabilia graces the walls of the public bar. Overall, the effect is one of rustic indulgence, from the game-rich dinner menu, served with extensive wine list, to the deep, claw-footed baths, perfect for a long soak after a bracing country walk or horse ride. The added bonus for nervous townies: if it all gets a bit too quiet, Waterloo is just a 40-minute train ride away.