

## Van Oys Maastricht Retreat Sets New Standards in Architecture and Sustainability

As construction progresses and the opening of Van Oys Maastricht Retreat in March 2025 draws closer, the contours of this hotel, which is 5-star superior by design, are becoming increasingly well-defined. Van Oys is setting new standards in both architecture and sustainability.

Located in Eijsden-Margraten, the Van Oys Maastricht Retreat will be the first 5-star superior hotel – by design – in southern Netherlands. It comprises 81 luxury rooms, suites, and spa suites spread across three buildings: Château, Carré, and Remise. Each room and suite is designed to ensure modern comfort while prioritising sustainability. The accommodations reflect Van Oys's commitment to eco-friendly luxury, offering guests an unparalleled experience of elegance and comfort.

Room and suite options include Classic Rooms, Deluxe Rooms, Deluxe Rooms with a French balcony or terrace, Junior Suites, Suites, a Spa Suite, and a Wellness Loft.

From the elegant Deluxe Rooms to the opulent Spa Suite and Wellness Loft, every room guarantees a luxurious stay and meets the needs and desires of discerning guests. Moreover, each space aligns with the sustainability vision of Van Oys Maastricht Retreat and the Cittaslow philosophy, complying with the strict quality standards of *The Leading Hotels of the World* and its Sustainable Leaders, while also being certified with the prestigious Green Key Gold label.

### **VERBRAEKEN x BISET**

To shed more light on the project and its realisation, we turn to the Antwerp-based architectural firm VERBRAEKEN x BISET, which specialises in high-quality and sustainable residential and hospitality projects. With a particular affinity for historical buildings and their context, Cathérine Verbraeken and Alexis Biset view architecture, interior design and art as a Gesamtkunstwerk. 'We are delighted to be contributing to such an exceptional project as Van Oys. With its rich history and elegant character, the castle deserves to be restored to its former glory, with respect for its refined and subtle architecture. It is essential to approach monumental heritage buildings with care and craftsmanship. This mindset makes this project truly special for us.'

*VERBRAEKEN x BISET approach every project with respect for history and a subtle harmony between old and new, all while paying close attention to detail. We stand for understated luxury, sustainable design, and a thoughtful timeless aesthetic. These elements align perfectly with the values of the castle: no excess, but refinement and character. We are proud to contribute our vision to transform Van Oys into a 5-star superior destination without compromising the property's authentic charm.*

*An important aspect of our approach is the use of local materials and craftsmen. By working with natural and local materials such as marlstone and collaborating with local contractors, we not only support the regional economy but also contribute to a more sustainable construction process. This approach aligns with the client's objectives and the principles of the Cittaslow philosophy.*

According to Managing Director Marc Alofs, the goal was to create a place of peace and relaxation where people can escape the hustle and bustle of daily life. 'In a world that is moving ever faster, Van Oys must become a haven where guests can effortlessly enjoy sublime comfort. The focus is on relieving the guest's stress and creating an experience where everything is perfectly aligned to offer complete tranquillity. VERBRAEKEN x BISET were the winners of a competition involving architectural firms from Belgium and the Netherlands. They were chosen for their expertise, creative vision and dynamic approach. Their past achievements demonstrate that Cathérine Verbraeken and Alexis Biset are true leaders in their field.'

### **Finding the Right Balance Between Old and New**

The complexity of the three separate buildings, each with its own character and architectural features, presented an architectural challenge. While the individual identity of each building needed to be preserved, they also had to form a coherent and harmonious whole. By leveraging the unique attributes of each building, the architects succeeded in finding the right balance between old and new, between authenticity, creativity, and diversity.

*Our job is to create spaces that are not only functional but also tell a story. As an architectural firm, we love reimagining historical buildings in an elegant way and giving them a new purpose that offers novel experiences. Van Oys is the perfect example of this. This project gave us the opportunity to weave our vision of aesthetics, balance and authenticity into the identity of Van Oys by respecting its history while breathing new life into the site. This castle deserves a future that is just as impressive and significant as its past. We are truly honoured to be part of the realization of this project.*

### **Artistic Contribution by Alisa Gibet**

To mark the 300th birthday of César van Hoensbroek, the penultimate Prince-Bishop of Liège and former resident of Château Oost, a portrait of him painted by Alisa Gibet was unveiled during an official ceremony on 28 August 2024. The renowned artist, originally from Saint Petersburg, lived for a time in the farmhouse of Van Oys, adding an extra dimension to the artwork.

*During my training, I learned to portray people using techniques from the old masters. The art lies in visualising the character of the person being depicted. I have since been commissioned to portray several individuals from different eras, ranging from the 17th century to the present. Each portrayed individual has a connection to the castle, and each portrait will have a prominent place in one of the château's suites, thereby bringing its history to life. My portraits form a story in colour that each guest can interpret in their own way. While painting, I drew inspiration from the techniques and styles of the old masters; it is my way of creating a link with the historical past of the hotel complex. Naturally, I am deeply honoured to be a part of this grand project, and I sincerely thank the brothers Michel and Leon Maes for this opportunity.*



**Bookings open on 1 October for room reservations from 3 March 2025.**

### **Contact**

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