

KUNSTMESSE



53. INTERNATIONALER KUNSTMARKT
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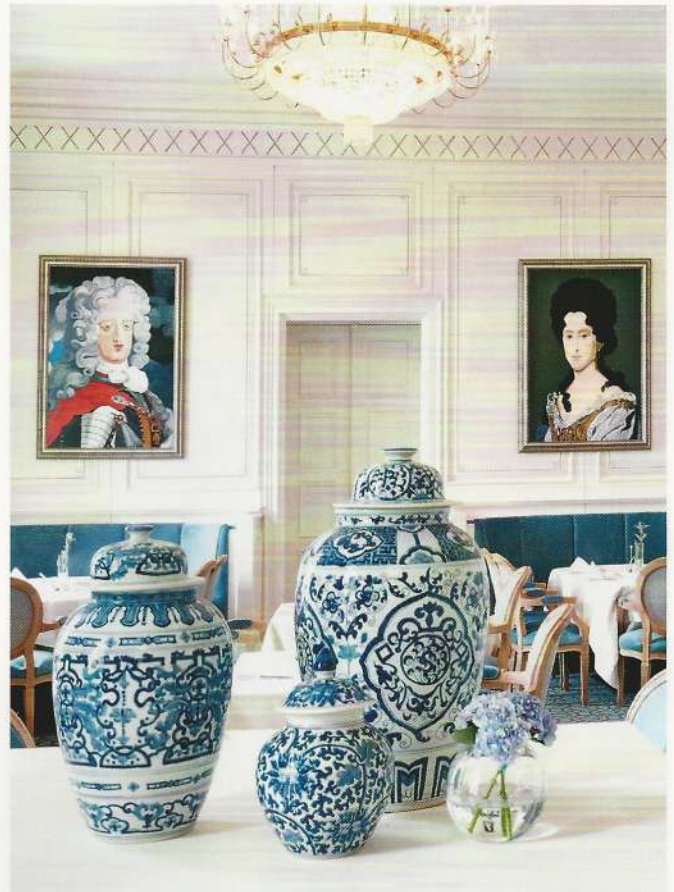


EXCELSIOR HOTEL ERNST

Where Creative Minds Meet

In 1880, Kaiser Wilhelm was impressed by his window seat view onto the opening festivities for Cologne Cathedral. Almost a hundred years later, Andy Warhol was inspired there to create his famous Pop Art portrait of the church. More than the view, what's impressive is the fact that this traditional establishment is still family owned. The luxury hotel has seen world wars, political conflicts, and economic crises come and go. Heads of state, celebrities, and business leaders are still regular guests there today. During the many alterations and renovations, great importance was attached to preserving the filigree façade, which was restored to its original splendor in 2006. The hotel's Michelin star restaurant, Taku, features spectacular East Asian creations. The mingling of traditional and modern elements is also reflected in the hotel furnishings. The distinctive character of each of the 137 rooms and suites include fine carpets and tasteful photographs of well-known Cologne landmarks. The fitness area is complete with a steam bath and sauna, and the bar is inevitably filled by the art scene.

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SCHLOSS BENSBERG

A Touch of Versailles on the Rhine

In 1703, Düsseldorf Elector Johann Wilhelm II had a Versailles-style palace built on the outskirts of Cologne. Even back then visitors were impressed by its prominent location on the Bensberg mountain terrace. Today the estate houses the Grandhotel Schloss Bensberg. While cupola frescoes in the stairwell and sculpted portals in the gateways revive the past, stylish modern furnishings fit in harmoniously with the baroque ensemble. At the reception area, guests are welcomed by a life-sized nude by Georg Baselitz, and in the salons they'll find works by Markus Lüpertz, Joseph Beuys, Antoni Tàpies, among other artists.

The stylishly furnished 84 rooms and 36 suites are impressive for the views of Cologne Cathedral and the skyline of this city on the Rhine. Guests have three restaurants to choose from. At Vendôme, Joachim Wissler creates Michelin three-star fare. Trattoria Enoteca specializes in Mediterranean cuisine, and Restaurant Jan Wellem offers a champagne brunch. People seeking recuperation are also in for a treat at Schloss Bensberg, which has a spa and an extensive wellness program.

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