

## A weekend of exploration – Mainhattan comes to life.

Frankfurt-Mainhattan, the financial & business metropolis and fifth largest city in Germany – the famous skyline with its 22 impressive skyscrapers, the towers of high finance & big business, that define the image of the state-of-the-art centre of the banking and stock market city. Everything revolves around rising and falling stock prices, it is where the international financial worlds converge and the spirit of the Gold Rush days is reflected in the drive to make money. Frankfurt dictates how things are run in the Rhine/Main region. The international airport is right outside the door and the world gathers in the city for bustling trade fairs and congresses, such as the International Motor Show that will take place again in September and will once more be one of the highlights of the year.

But life in Frankfurt is not just about working and making money. As its approximately 700,000 inhabitants would say, "Here we have combined the best features of a small conurbation and a

cosmopolitan city to create a metropolis that is great to live in." The city is encircled by a lush greenbelt and the densely-forested Taunus Mountains leading up to nearby Rheingau. The apple orchards in the surrounding countryside produce the famous "Appelwoi" cider that is nectar to some but not to the taste of others.

It is well worth exploring Frankfurt after the offices have closed or for a whole weekend as this is when "Mainhattan comes to life" and visitors can relax and enjoy the city. "Frankfurt's greatest son" – the famous German poet & philosopher, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe – was well aware of the charms of the city even in his day. His "Goethe House", which has become a shrine to German culture, is right in the centre, only 10 minutes on foot from one of the most beautiful design hotels in Frankfurt: ROOMERS. In the vicinity of the central station, the city centre and the

# MAINHATTAN

By Sara Musinowski Translation Mark S. Kennedy







leafy banks of the Main, the modern 6-storey building, opened 5 years ago, features luxurious rooms & suites and a glamorous interior with colours ranging from violet and golden beige to black. Against a backdrop of groovy house music, guests soon chill out – aided by owners and hip city dwellers, Mickey Rosen & Alexander Urseanov. The Roomers bar and the restaurant with its leafy courtyard are thus an insiders' tip for true residents of Frankfurt as well as for newcomers from the stock exchange. Switch off completely after work – just get in the lift and ascend to the spa on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor – bask in the warm relaxation pool and its coloured lighting and take in the view of Mainhattan's skyline after a sauna or steam bath. ROOMERS is the perfect location from which to venture out for a stroll along the nearby Main. You can visit the top-class museums and exhibitions along the banks of the river, join the party at the annual Museum Embankment Festival at the end of August and, of course, discover the culinary highlights on offer.

The MAIN NIZZA, near to the Opera House, was opened about a year ago. Here, its well-known host, Uli Melchior, welcomes his many illustrious guests warmly and "without any fuss" to dine on refined home-style cooking. Whether you are a municipal leader, a footballer or a banker, the food just tastes that bit better when looking out over the beautiful river and the buzz of activity

on the waterside promenade. The menu includes traditional "Handkäse" cheese tartare on potato fritters on a bed of salad, a dish all guests should definitely try, accompanied by "Appelwoi" or a Riesling from the Rheingau.

Walking at a gentle pace for a further 30 minutes along the Main in the direction of the new ECB building (European Central Bank) you will come across the historic "GERBERMÜHLE" on the right bank – one of Frankfurt's prettiest garden hostels which, after the extensive renovation of its sophisticated, classic interior, also serves as a design hotel and inn for discerning guests.

Exquisite antiques alongside modern furniture and white walls, with soothing dashes of velvety golden beige and simple green. "Here I'm treated like a person – I can be myself." Guests find the inspiration to become poets and philosophers themselves... basking in the view of the babbling river and the greenery of the surrounding park. The restaurant's standout dish is the best "green sauce" in the city – a delicious, traditional fresh

herb sauce served with potatoes, eggs or schnitzel – as proven by the awards it has won in a variety of competitions.

Then saunter back to the centre of Frankfurt, leaving the banks of the Main, passing the historic "Frankfurt Römer" and the "Zeil" shopping boulevard to reach the famous "Fressgasse", the city's restaurant and food district. In late summer and October in particular you can really "eat, drink and be merry" and enjoy the delicious, hearty Hesse specialities. A little bit of "bella Italia" is just around the corner – the native Italian, Eduardo Gregorelli, has kept his hip restaurant GREGORELLIS running for more than 25 years – and it is virtually always full, at lunchtimes as well as in the evenings. Emerald green pillars, red Murano glass and white tablecloths – accompanied by Italian sounds and traditional Italian delicacies, served with flavoursome, homemade bread. How about a genuine zabaglione (wine/custard dessert) with a sparkling Ferrari (superior Prosecco) or an aromatic espresso: "Oh Sole Mio..."

For those who don't want to have to go far to their hotel, it is only a stone's throw to the city's newest 5-star establishment – Frankfurt's first JUMEIRAH – which opened in the NextTower in 2011 and boasts a wonderful view of the city centre and the dignified luxury that this chain of hotels is famous for. ■