

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Dominican named Urban Sanctuary Hotel of the Year 2026

Bordighera, Italy - 28 September 2026

The Dominican in Brussels has been named Urban Sanctuary Hotel of the Year 2026 at the European Hotel Awards, recognising a city-centre hotel that creates a rare sense of calm, intimacy and retreat at the heart of the Belgian capital.

The hotel is represented by Bert Vandewaetere, General Manager. Under his leadership, The Dominican has continued to develop a hospitality identity built around warm, genuine service while preserving the distinctive character that links the property to centuries of Brussels history.

A sanctuary in the historic centre of Brussels

Located on Rue Léopold, close to La Monnaie and the Grand Place, The Dominican occupies a site shaped by the former Dominican monastery established in the fifteenth century. The history of the location is also connected to French painter Jacques-Louis David, whose former house stood here; its original façade was incorporated into the later hotel design.

That layered past gives the property an atmosphere unlike a conventional city hotel. Monastic references, high ceilings, stone floors, rich textiles and contemporary interiors create what the hotel describes as a sense of dramatic intimacy - a deliberate contrast with the movement and intensity of central Brussels.

Design, calm and social life

The Dominican offers 150 rooms and combines its historic references with contemporary design by FG Stijl. The Grand Lounge, Lounge Bar and private courtyard extend the experience beyond the guest rooms, creating spaces that can be both social and secluded depending on the moment of the day.

The courtyard is particularly emblematic of the hotel's urban sanctuary identity: a quiet garden hidden behind the city façade, offering guests and local visitors a place to pause within one of Brussels' busiest central districts.

A continuing EHA relationship

The Dominican was previously recognised by the European Hotel Awards in 2024 as Historic Boutique Hotel of the Year. The 2026 distinction approaches the property from another perspective: not simply its heritage, but the way that heritage, design, atmosphere and service now combine to create a genuine refuge within the contemporary city.

The logic behind Urban Sanctuary Hotel of the Year 2026

The European Hotel Awards are not based on public voting, popularity rankings or automated scoring. Their approach is qualitative, holistic and editorial, considering identity, coherence, service culture, guest experience, leadership and the distinctive contribution of each property to European hospitality.

For The Dominican, Urban Sanctuary Hotel of the Year 2026 recognises the successful balance between central location and inner calm. The distinction reflects a hotel that uses architecture, history, design, a secluded courtyard and personalised hospitality to create an experience of retreat without disconnecting guests from the life of Brussels.

THE DOMINICAN Urban Sanctuary Hotel of the Year 2026 Represented by Bert Vandewaetere - General Manager Brussels, Belgium

EUROPEAN HOTEL AWARDS 2026

28 September 2026

Grand Hotel del Mare Resort & Spa - Bordighera, Italian Riviera, Italy

Private international event - by invitation

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