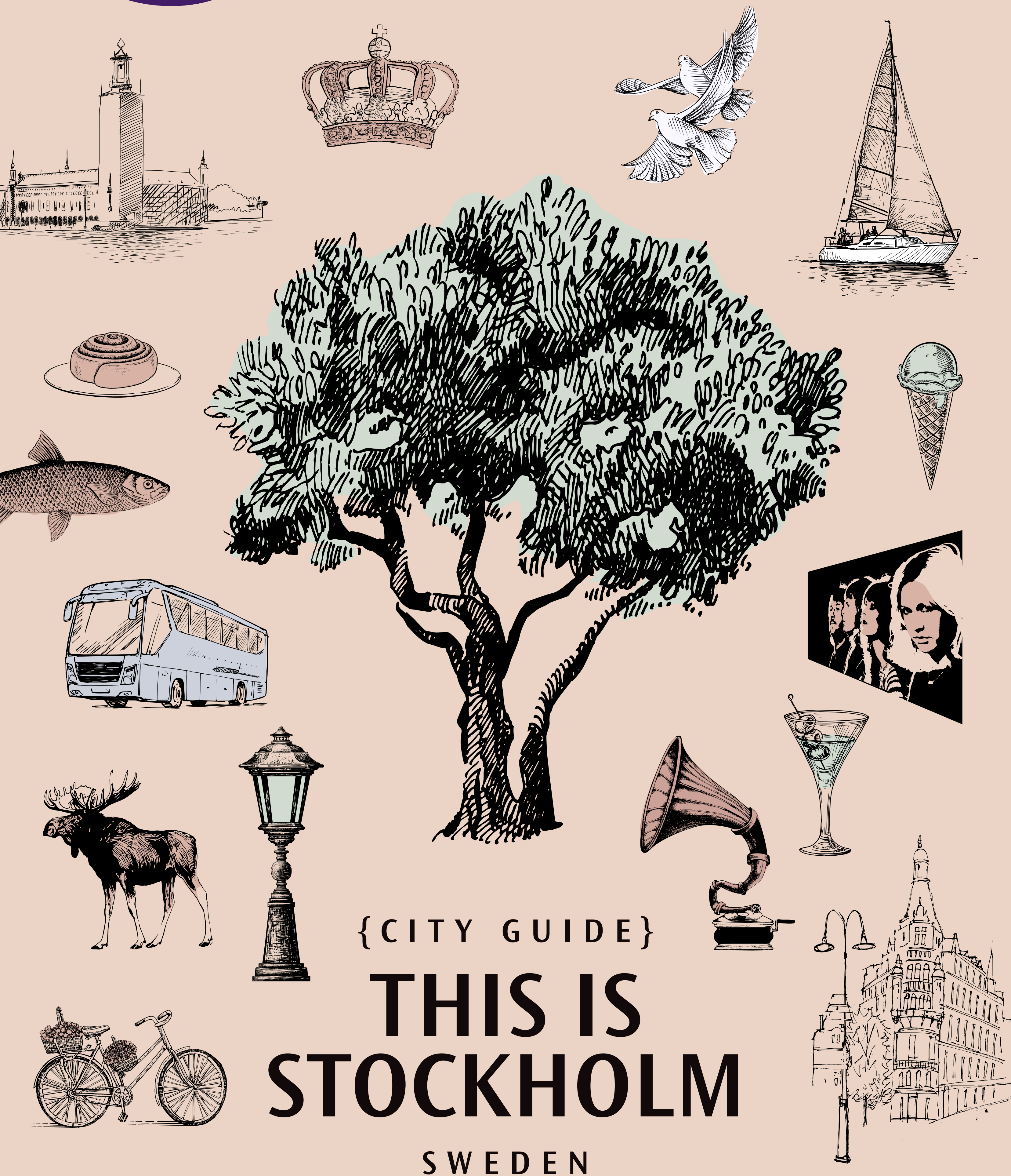




SAWASDEE



{ CITY GUIDE }

THIS IS STOCKHOLM SWEDEN

FEBRUARY 2023

1

**The great
urban outdoors**
Nature

2

**All hail
Swedish design**
Shopping

3

**Thank you
for the music**
Pop Culture

CURATOR'S NOTE

One of the world's most beautiful capital cities, Stockholm spreads across 14 islands where the Baltic Sea meets Sweden's third-largest lake, Mälaren. This strategic and scenic location has shaped the city's history and culture, and has also inspired countless artists, writers and musicians.

Stockholm's distinctive neighborhoods, abundant parks and gorgeous views make it a delight for walkers, though it's also easy to get around using the city's efficient public transportation. With scores of interesting museums and other attractions to choose from, you'll never be bored.

Stockholm is the European City of Gastronomy in 2023 – a well-earned title given the city's many top-notch, innovative restaurants. Be sure to also stop into some of Stockholm's many cafés for *fika* – a coffee break tradition that's a cornerstone of Swedish culture. – *Annika S. Hipple*

Fika is more than just an afternoon coffee break with a sweet pastry treat – it's an essential pause in the day, a light, nourishing moment with friends and, in many ways, a form of social therapy.





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FEBRUARY 2023

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THE ART OF THE MATTER

Nature, culture, history – Stockholm has it all, in spades. You could spend months visiting its museums, parks and distinct neighborhoods, but for a first-time visitor, here are some of the top stops to explore the city's history and culture



PHOTOS BY HENRIK TRYGG/MEDIABANK.VISITSTOCKHOLM.COM (GAMLA STAN),
HERACLES KRITIKOS/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM (SKANSEN)

GAMLA STAN

If there’s one must-see destination in Stockholm, it’s Gamla Stan (the Old Town), which occupies an island in the heart of the city. A compact warren of cobblestone streets and squares lined with narrow houses painted in warm reds and gold, this picturesque neighborhood is perfect for wandering.



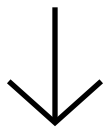
Curator’s note

At Gamla Stan, you can find the Swedish Royal Palace, the official residence of the Swedish monarch. It’s one of the largest palaces in Europe.



SKANSEN

The world’s oldest open-air museum, Skansen has more than 150 historic buildings of cultural significance, brought from all over Sweden, as well as a zoo with Nordic animals. Skansen is also a great place to experience traditional celebrations of major holidays such as Midsummer and St. Lucia Day.



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL PERSSON/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM (HISTORISKA MUSEET),
MARTPOD/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM (VASAMUSEET)



HISTORISKA MUSEET (SWEDISH HISTORY MUSEUM)

For an in-depth tour of Swedish history, head to Historiska Museet on Östermalm. Don't miss the glittering Gold Room or the comprehensive Viking exhibit containing 2,500 artifacts and dozens of interactive stations. Upstairs, follow the timeline in the floor that winds through exhibits covering the last 1,000 years of Swedish history.

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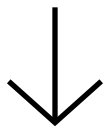
VASAMUSEET

The royal warship Vasa sank just minutes into her maiden voyage in 1628. Salvaged from Stockholm harbor more than three centuries later, the spectacularly well-preserved ship is the centerpiece of Stockholm's most-visited attraction, which beautifully tells the fascinating story of Vasa's construction, sinking and astonishing recovery and preservation.



Curator's note

Nautical history buffs can pick up replicas of items found aboard the ship – from fine bone china to board games – at the museum shop.



PHOTOS BY ROBSON90/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM (STADSMUSEET),
M.PAKATS/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM (FOTOGRAFISKA)

STADSMUSEET (STOCKHOLM CITY MUSEUM)

This free museum takes you through the history of Stockholm in chronological order, from the 1500s to the present day – a dramatic story that includes everything from rebellion to empire to the emergence of industry and the modern welfare state.



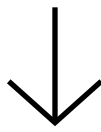
Curator’s note

The museum’s popular restaurant serves creative cuisine with an emphasis on sustainability and spectacular views.

FOTOGRAFISKA

Housed in a former customs house along the Södermalm waterfront, Fotografiska presents a shifting array of exhibitions by renowned and emerging photographers from around the world, working in an eclectic range of styles. Fotografiska doesn’t hold selling shows and its aim is purely to inspire, enthrall and engage visitors through photography.

More travel inspiration [Sawasdee.thaiairways.com](https://www.sawasdee.thaiairways.com)



From Stockholm to the world

Swedish singers, songwriters and producers are making big waves on the international music scene

MAX MARTIN

Swedish hitmaker Max Martin has written and produced dozens of Billboard Hot 100 songs, including number-one hits by Taylor Swift, Britney Spears, Katy Perry and other stars. As a songwriter Martin trails only Paul McCartney and John Lennon for the most chart-topping songs – with many more sure to come.

WHAT DO THESE GLOBAL POP ICONS HAVE IN COMMON?

At least one Max Martin hit



TAYLOR SWIFT
"Shake it Off"



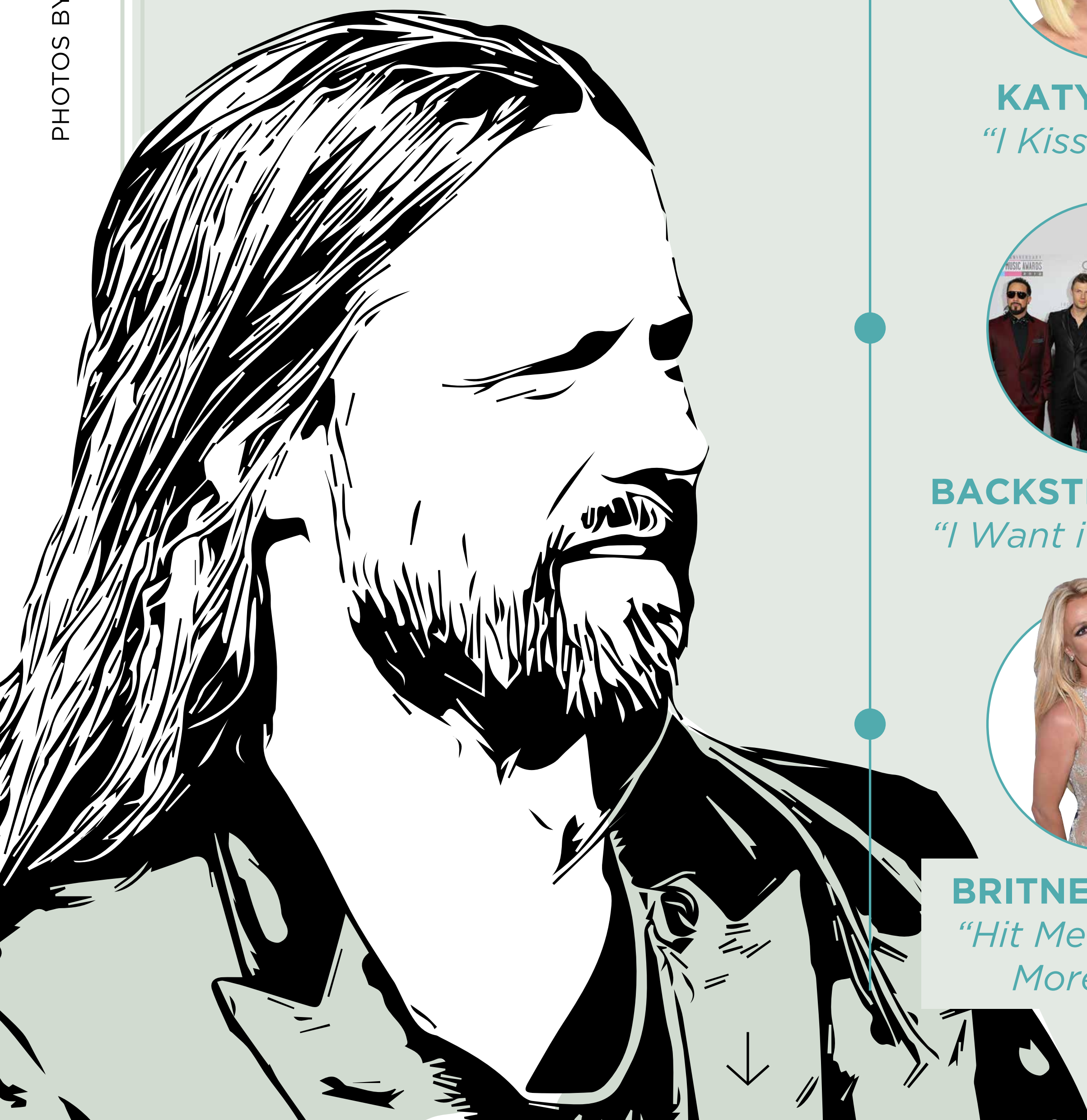
KATY PERRY
"I Kissed a Girl"



BACKSTREET BOYS
"I Want it That Way"



BRITNEY SPEARS
"Hit Me Baby One More Time"





LALEH

Iranian-born Swedish singer-songwriter-producer Laleh Pourkarim records in English, Swedish and Farsi. Her hit song “Some Die Young” became a beloved elegiac anthem in Norway following the 2011 terror attacks. She has also co-written songs for several best-selling American artists.



LYKKE LI

Known for her eclectic mix of musical styles, award-winning indie pop singer-songwriter Lykke Li pens atmospheric songs of love and heartbreak full of introspection and tinged with darkness.

FIRST AID KIT

Sisters Johanna and Klara Söderberg hail from Stockholm, but their music is a blend of folk-Americana that showcases their beautiful vocal harmonies in songs such as “Fireworks” and “Emmylou.”



ABBA-solute legends

ABBA, hands down among the biggest musical acts of all time, was born in Stockholm. Naturally, there's a museum devoted to the band



The most famous Swedish music group has its own museum on the island of Djurgården. At ABBA The Museum you can find everything you ever wanted to know about the legendary quartet of Agnetha Fältskog, Björn Ulvaeus, Benny Andersson and Anni-Frid Lyngstad. You can also live the dream of being a musical

superstar and mix music and perform onstage with holograms of the band. There's also plenty of fun memorabilia including many of the group's flamboyant costumes. The museum has a café called Pop Story at the entrance level, so make sure to fuel up before you go on (museum) tour – superstars need plenty of energy.

More at [Sawasdee.thaiairways.com](https://www.sawasdee.thaiairways.com)



THE GREAT URBAN OUTDOORS

Easy access to nature is an essential part of Stockholm's identity and a huge part of its charm. With water everywhere and plenty of green spaces, the recreational possibilities are limitless



BIKE OR WALK ON DJURGÅRDEN

The large island of Djurgården is home to many of Stockholm’s top museums and abundant parkland with trails. Rental bikes are available by the Djurgården Bridge. Worthwhile stops include Rosendals Trädgård, an organic garden with its own café and Prince Eugen’s Waldermarsudde, which has an art museum and parklike grounds with lovely views.



? **DID YOU KNOW**

Stockholm’s public bike system has at least 1,500 bikes and 140 stations around the city. (Source: European Cyclists’ Federation)

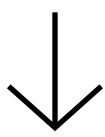
? **DID YOU KNOW**

Summers in Stockholm - from June to early September are mild and sunny, with average maximum temperatures at 22 C. Perfect for outdoor strolls and other activities.



STROLL ALONG THE WATERFRONT

Taking a walk by the water is one of the best ways to really appreciate Stockholm’s beauty. Gamla Stan, Riddarholmen and the small islands of Skeppsholmen and Kastellholmen are all excellent spots for walks with views. Another gorgeous option is Strandvägen, the grand waterfront boulevard that runs from Nybroplan to the Djurgården Bridge.



ESCAPE TO THE ISLANDS

An excursion into Stockholm’s vast archipelago is a wonderful way to escape the urban bustle for a time. Leisurely cruise tours run to Vaxholm, Sandhamn and other popular destinations. There are also faster commuter boats that will whisk you to these and many other places in the archipelago where you can swim, hike or just relax.



DID YOU KNOW

Vaxholm is one of Stockholm’s most charming island destinations and you can get to it by public bus.

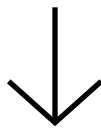
DID YOU KNOW

Kayaking around Stockholm - locals call it "duck’s-eye view" - you get a tour and a workout all in one.



PADDLE THE WATERWAYS

Stockholm’s many islands, coves and bridges make it a perfect city for paddling. Rent a kayak or canoe by the Djurgården Bridge to explore along the island’s north side. On Lake Mälaren, kayaks are available on Långholmen along the narrow Pårsundet channel. Stockholm Adventures runs guided kayak tours from Kungsholmen in the warmer months.



ADMIRE THE VIEWS FROM SÖDERMALM

For panoramic views, head to the heights of Södermalm. From Fjällgatan the vista encompasses Stockholm's Baltic side including Gamla Stan and Djurgården. Further west, Mariaberget and Skinnarviksberget are the best spots for views of the Lake Mälaren side, including City Hall and Gamla Stan. Either location is perfect for a picnic or watching the sunset.



DID YOU KNOW

There's another unique way to view the city - from high up a rock face.

Cool off

On a warm summer day, all that water surrounding Stockholm looks particularly inviting. Fortunately, both Lake Mälaren and the Baltic Sea are so clean you can swim right in the city center. There are sandy beaches at Tanto Strandbad and Smedsuddsbadet, smooth rocks at Fredhällsbadet and a bit of both on Långholmen.



Good food guide

Selected as the 2023 European Capital of Gastronomy, Stockholm has an exciting food culture that emphasizes innovation and sustainability. Here are a few of the most interesting recent additions to the city's ever-evolving dining scene



THE SMAKA GOOD FOOD FESTIVAL

A great way to sample Stockholm's diverse flavors is to visit during one of the city's popular food festivals. In early June, the week-long Smaka Good Food Festival brings roughly 40 food vendors to the downtown park Kungsträdgården. In late July, the Street Food Festival in the same location is shorter but equally enticing.

Basta!

Located on the top floor of the Åhléns department store, this colorful restaurant serves authentic Italian food and has a popular Capri-inspired rooftop terrace with outstanding views.





Le Petit Cochon

A French-style bistro with a playful soul, Le Petit Cochon is rooted in southern Europe but incorporates influences from many traditions into a blend of amazing flavors.



Animo

A fine-dining restaurant with an unpretentious vibe, Animo lives up to its name, which means soul in Esperanto. Though not huge, the menu is diverse and flavorful, as are the creative cocktails.



Coup d'Etat

This Östermalm restaurant infuses traditional Persian cuisine with influences from India, Russia, Turkey and especially France. The result is bold, interesting and, above all, delicious.



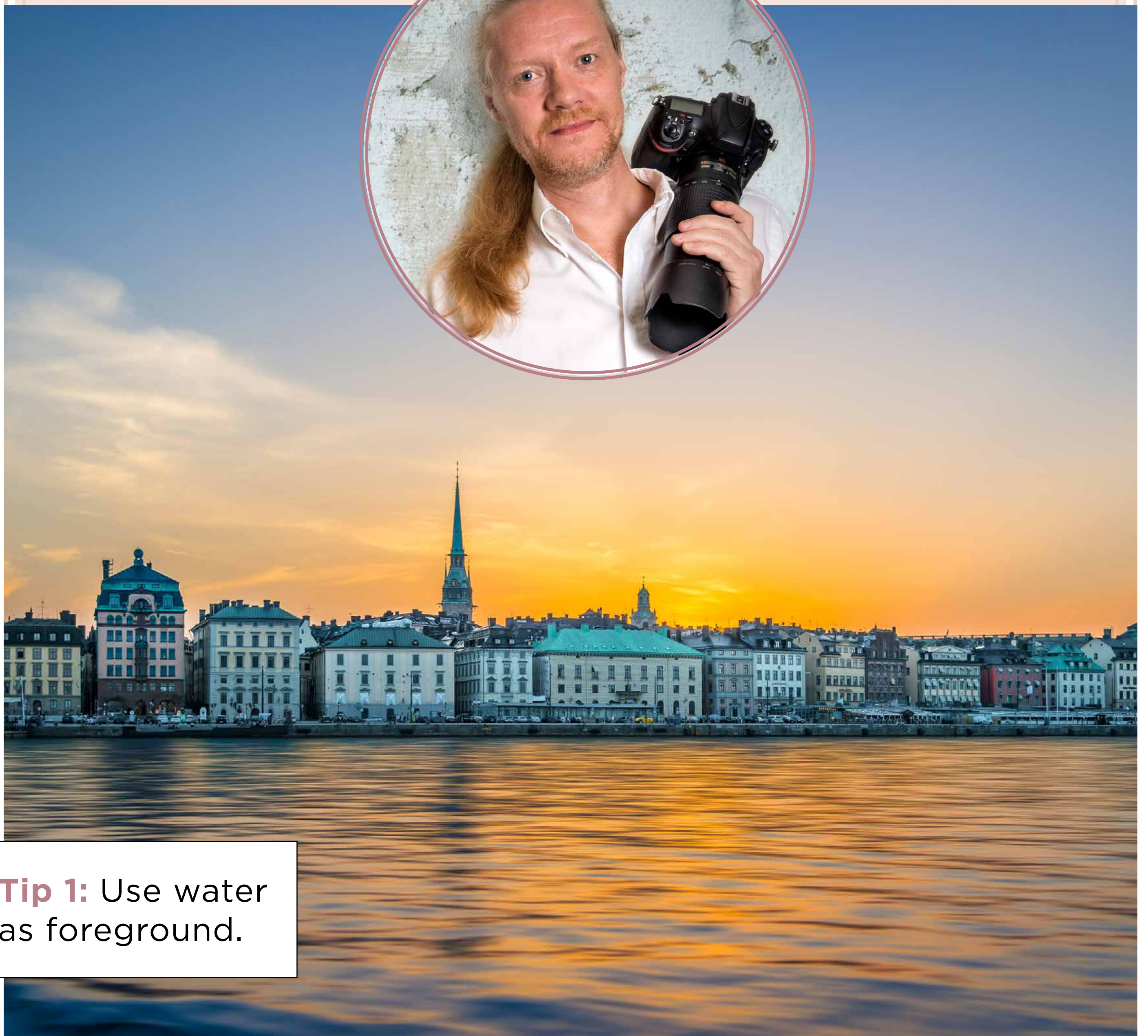
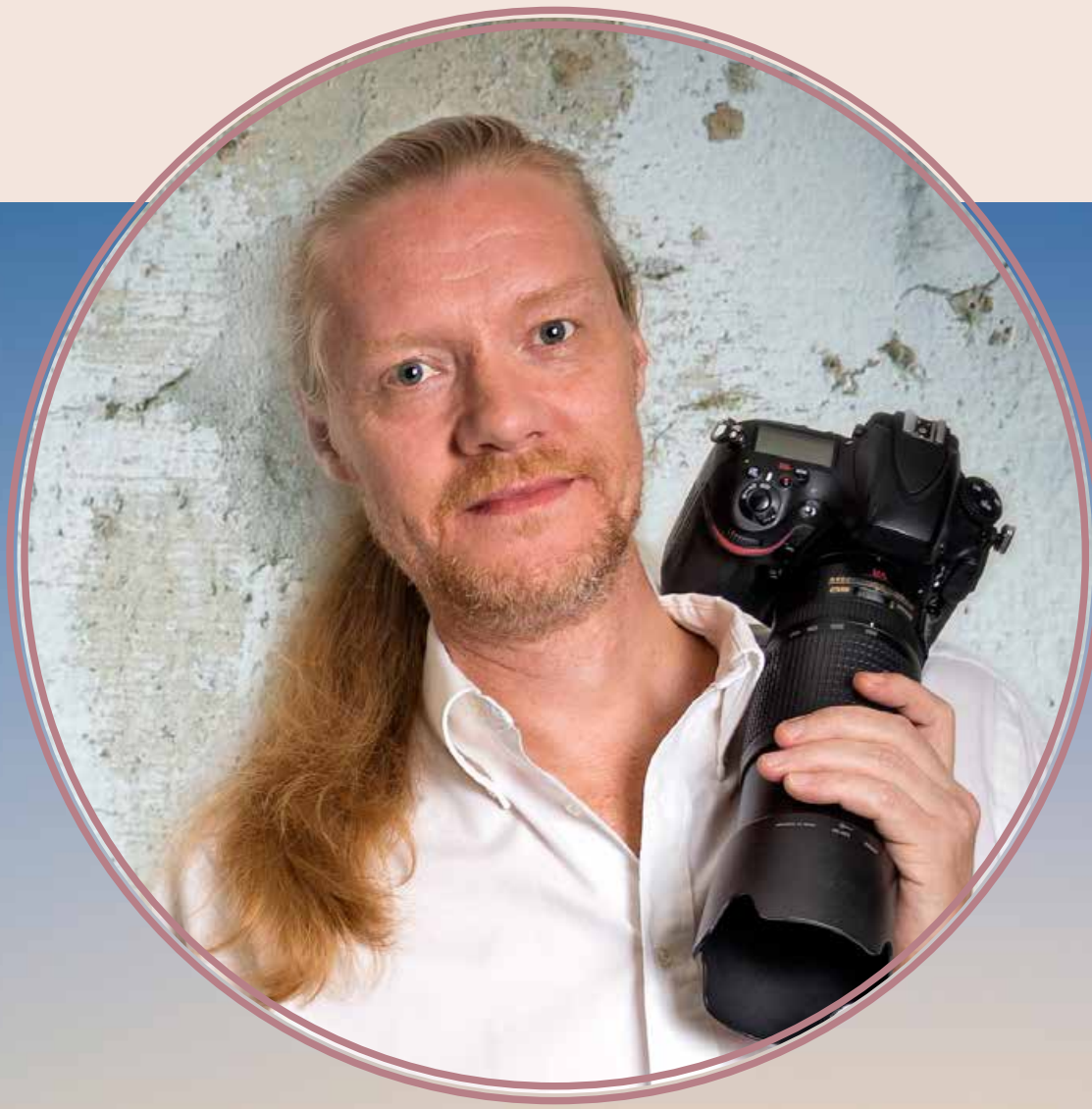
Dirty Taco

Experimenting with flavors from around the world, this unassuming-looking little restaurant on Södermalm serves up delicious tortillas with innovative ingredients from sustainable Swedish farms.



My town

Stockholm-based photographer Anders E. Skånberg walks us through his city, offering pro tips for photography enthusiasts along the way

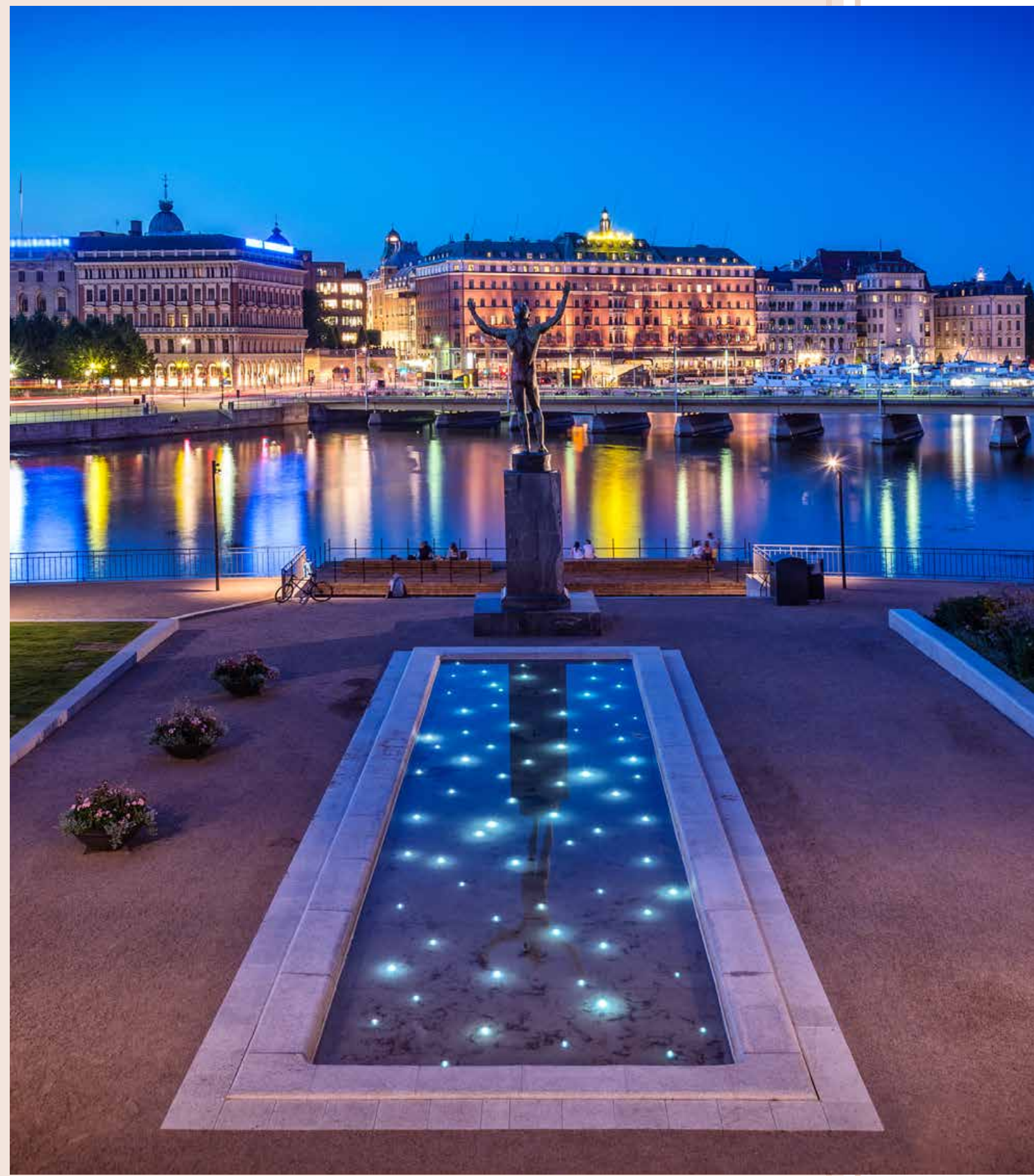


Tip 1: Use water as foreground.

“The best thing about Stockholm is the diversity. The water that surrounds you almost anywhere you go is of course at the top of the list. But there’s something for everyone here. In the midst of modern housing complexes, cozy rows of houses from the early 1700s appear here and there. The old but well-maintained houses coexist with modern concrete blocks, dramatic baroque and playful



rococo. It's hard to walk downtown for more than a couple of minutes without finding something new to marvel at. Usually, I head straight to Gamla Stan and go from there, because it's almost impossible to leave there without some fantastic photos. Sometimes it's so stimulating for the imagination that I almost forget to raise the camera and shoot.

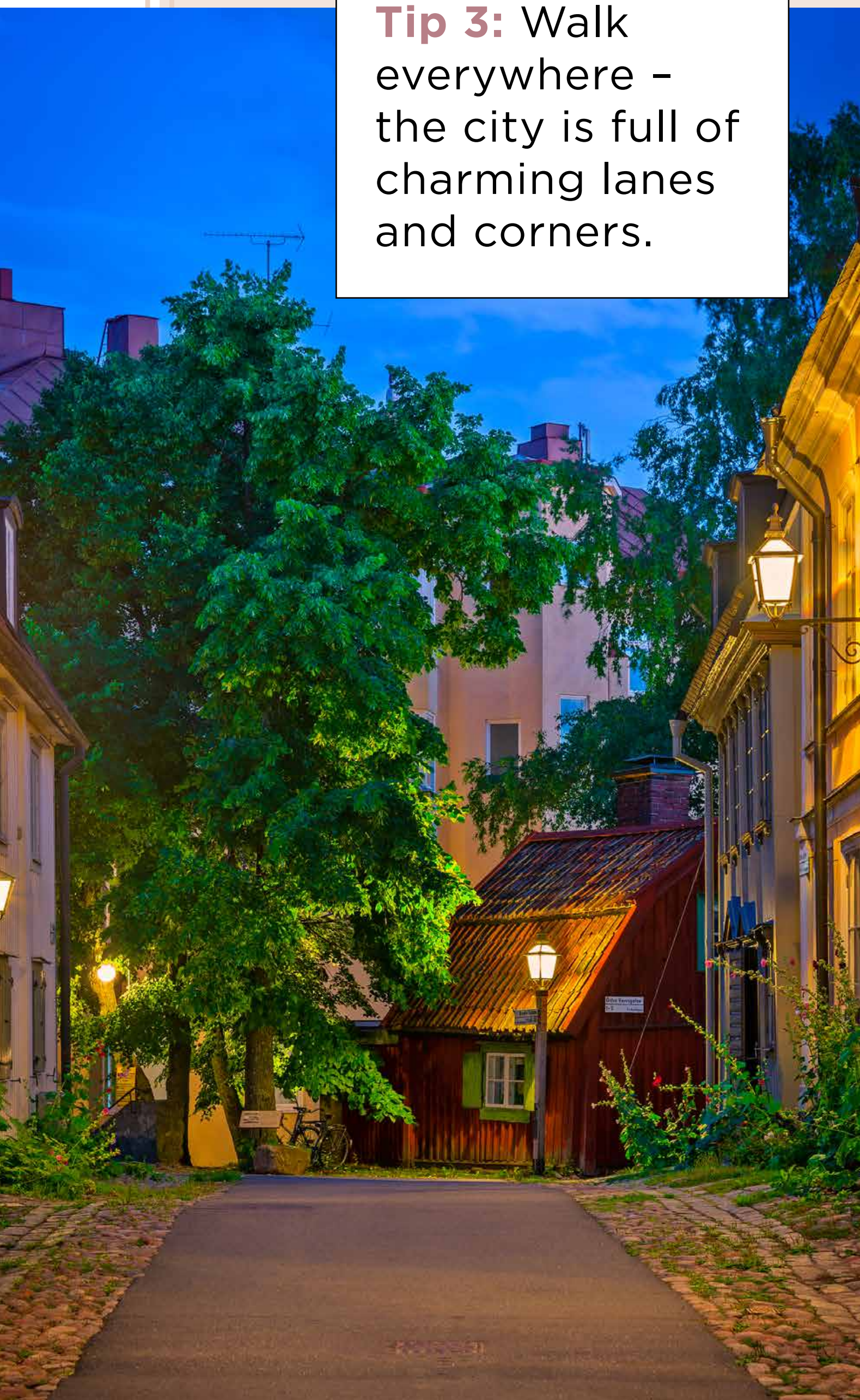


There is something for all levels of photography in Stockholm. The simplest tip for a good photo is to aim your camera at every subject with water in the foreground.

Tip 2: Shoot at dusk to catch more colors.



Tip 3: Walk everywhere – the city is full of charming lanes and corners.



Evenings in the Old Town are calm and quiet. Take a walk there late at night while it's still not completely dark and shoot with the camera on a tripod and with a slow shutter speed. If you have a few hours, the absolutely most beautiful photo walk is the one that starts at the tip of Chapman on Skeppsholmen and continues through Gamla Stan to

Riddarholmen to end on Mariaberget on Södermalm with a view of everything you just walked through.

A really good cityscape image can often be something you see immediately and capture in the blink of an eye. But sometimes I get a vision that I have to plan in order to get the end result I imagined. Often it is these images that turn out unique. One of my most popular images began as a vision of a sunset where Gamla Stan appeared to be on a densely built-up island and nothing else. To get it, I took the ferry from Djurgården to Gamla Stan probably 15 times within a year and a half when the weather was close to what I had imagined.”



SHOP STOCKHOLM

There's so much more to Swedish
design than IKEA – here is
a selection of goods to take
home with you



TEXTILES AND HOME DECOR FROM SVENSKT TENN

This high-end emporium founded in 1924 sells everything from candleholders and dinnerware to furniture and fashion accessories. It's particularly known for its colorful patterned textiles.



sevenskttenn.com

WOMEN'S FASHION FROM GUDRUN SJÖDÉN

Swedish designer Gudrun Sjödén makes comfortable, flowing women's clothing in vibrant colors and bold patterns. Her stores also carry housewares in equally striking styles.



gudrunsjoden.com



ART GLASS FROM MATS JONASSON MÅLERÅS

This renowned glass studio crafts eye-catching bowls, sculptures, jewelry and other art glass in bright colors and often with animals, plants and human faces as motifs.



maleras.se

HANDICRAFTS FROM SVENSK HEMSLÖJD

For traditional Swedish handmade items such as clothing, textiles and wooden Dala horses, the quality and selection at Svensk Hemslöjd are hard to beat.



svenskhemslojd.com

SUSTAINABLE DESIGN FROM DESIGNTORGET

With three locations in Stockholm, Designtorget carries a fun assortment of housewares, gadgets, accessories and decorative items by established and emerging Swedish designers.



designtorget.se



Scandi style

Stay at any of these design-minded hotels

Hotel Frantz

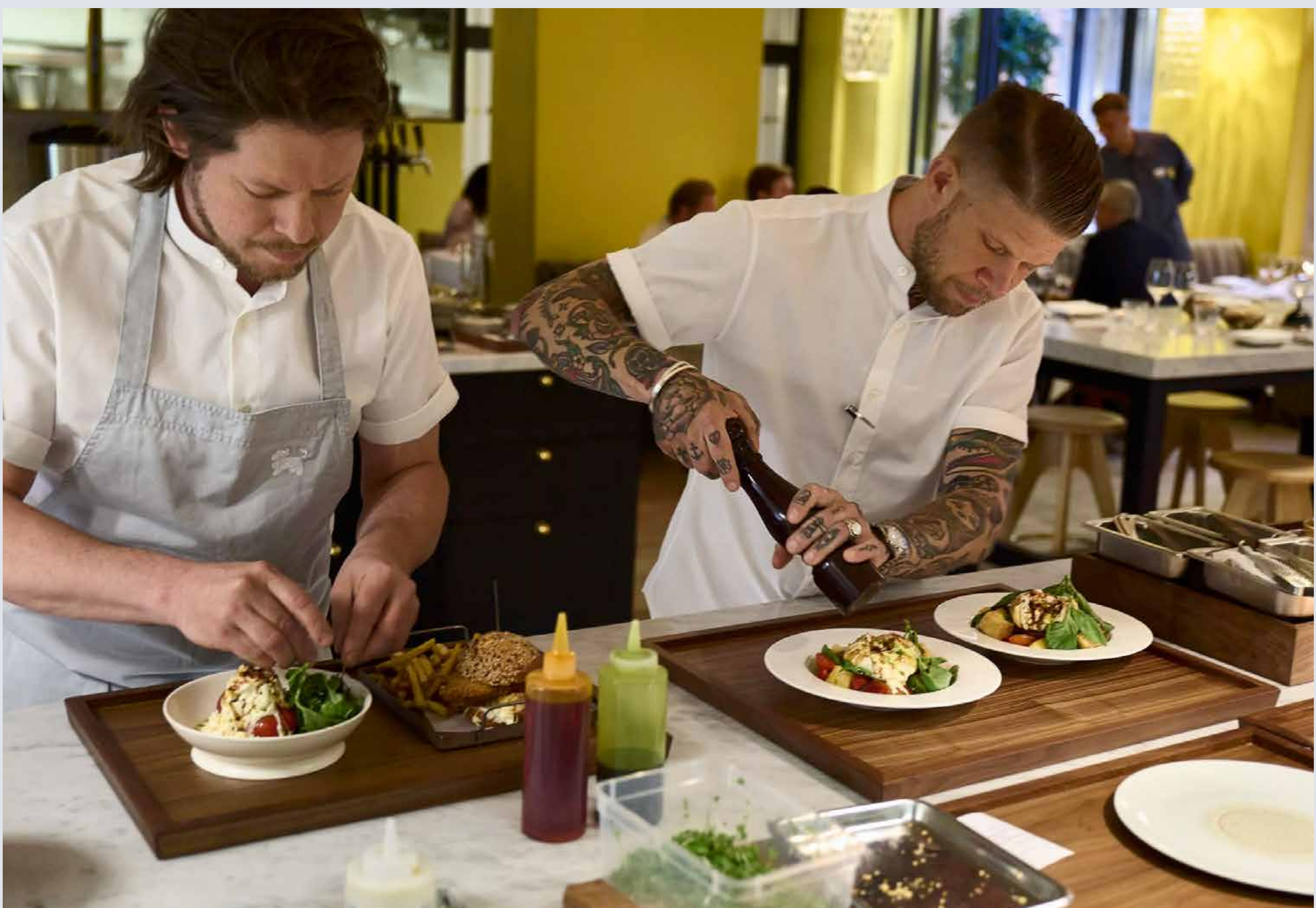
Every room is unique at this cozy boutique hotel, which occupies a 17th-century house overlooking Slussen. The onsite restaurant focuses on ecological local produce and is known for its amazing breakfast buffets. *hotelfrantz.com*



Villa Dagmar

Centrally located on Östermalm, Villa Dagmar is elegant and cultured, with luxurious furnishings, award-winning chefs, a wine bar, a glass-roofed courtyard atrium and frequent live music.

hotelvilladagmar.com



Backstage Hotel

A celebration of arts and entertainment, Backstage Hotel is located in a restored 19th-century building on Djurgården. Its 57 rooms range from cozy lofts to spacious suites, with a blend of new and vintage décor. *backstagehotelsthlm.com*



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