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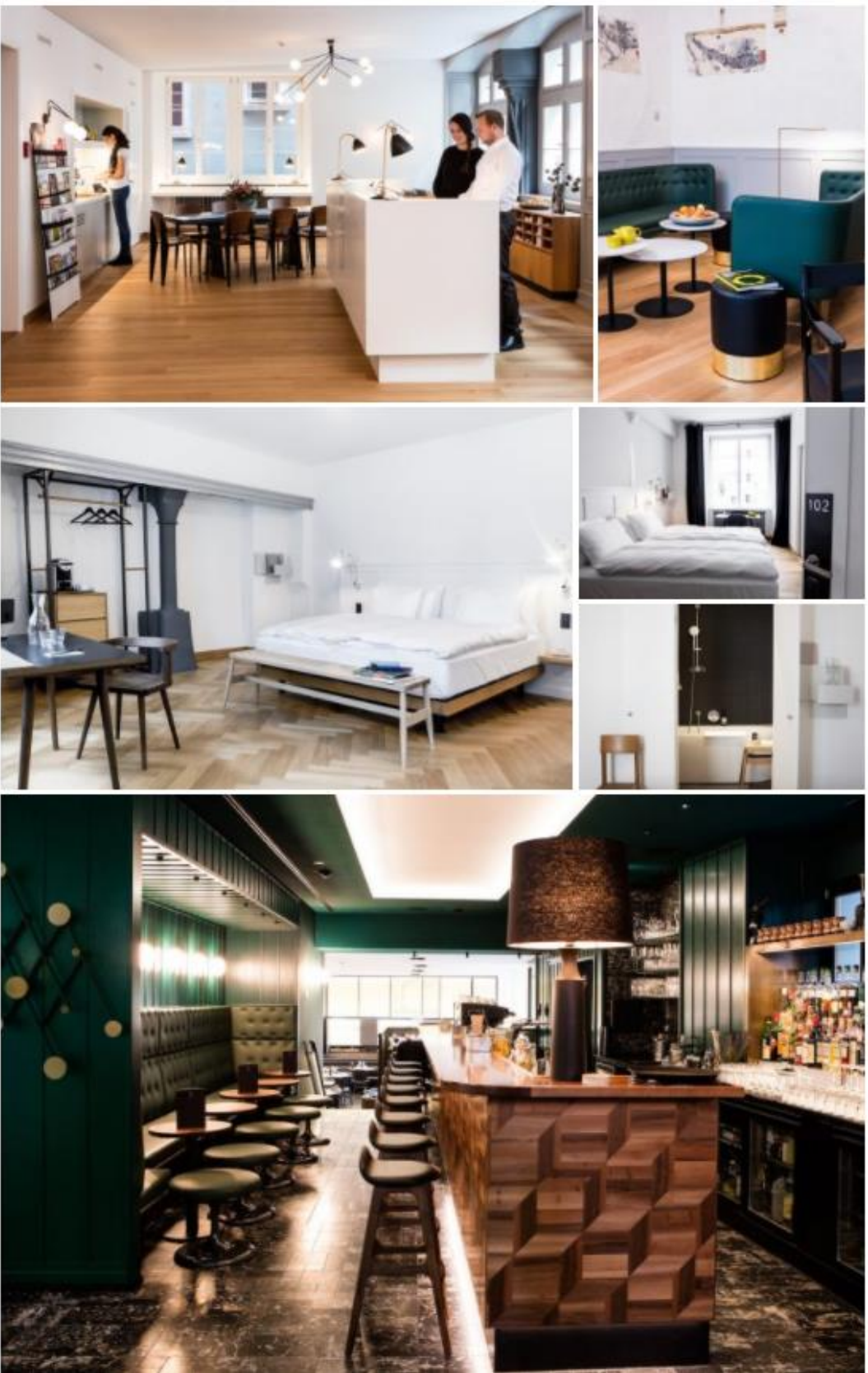
THE BEST HOTELS TO GET DOWN TO BUSINESS IN

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[Home](#) • [Travel](#) • [Explore](#) • [Current Article](#)

Travel for work, and you have the same desires as on holiday, surely? We want to spend time somewhere with personality and personal service, with uplifting interiors and a charismatic ambience. Back in the 90s, hotelier Ian Schrager made “lobby socialising” a thing in his [New York](#) hotels, and corporate creative types started to crave business hotels that matched their taste as much as their needs. Andre Balazs’ bunk-ups, from [LA’s Chateau Marmont](#) to [The Mercer](#) and the [Standards](#) in NY and [Chiltern Firehouse](#) in Marylebone are still the places to see and be seen.

But we don’t always want somewhere showy. Edgy is good, but so is equipped. When the [Ace](#) opened in [Portland](#), it kick-started a style of stay which was as suited to start-up CEOs wanting a good night’s sleep as rock stars in the mood to socialise. “The hotel industry has often been about delineating a clear distinction between the business hotel and the hotels that foster a sense of escapism,” says David Brody, a professor at Parsons The New School for Design in New York. “Properties like Ace asked us to rethink that model,” Mr Brody said. “Ace has created well-designed spaces that permit guests to combine business and pleasure.” Now the Ace has grown into chain itself, here we navigate you to some indie neighbourhood hotels which are hip and hi-tech in a low-key way. Those sexy stays that are perfect for... don’t make us use that word... BLEISURE. Okay, there, we said it.



Marktgasse Hotel

Zurich, Switzerland

The rusty-red and custard-yellow buildings on a tiny cobbled old town square are a storied 15th-century inn enjoying a new lease of life. Switzerland is better known for its formal five-star luxury, especially when it comes to business travel, so the simple Scandi interiors here are refreshing. Skip the kind of spots favoured by the suited and booted brigade, the bistro and sexy cocktail bar Baltho is refined yet relaxed. A pared-pack aesthetic reflects this city's Protestant heritage, preserving celebrating the original stucco and sloped floors, but drafting in Vitra furniture to add some flair. A deli-style café Delish on the corner provides healthy snacks here and in the second-floor social spaces perfect for private presentations. The shelves of collectors-item Dadaism books remind you that this address is steps away from Cabaret Voltaire, where the abstract art movement was born. *Doubles from £170.*