

Flanders Today

28.01.2009
 Page: 11

Circulation: 15000

153c79
 173



Tongeren vs Genk

New splashy drama series seeks a city

The television station VTM knows that its new drama series, *Dag en Nacht* (*Day and Night*) will be set in a trendy, modern hotel in Limburg – now it just has to choose which one. Genk, with its famous historical open-air museum, is home to the Carbon Hotel – perhaps not the most romantic name but a fitting tribute to the Medieval city's coal mining background. Tongeren, meanwhile, Flanders' oldest city, hosts the Eburon Hotel.

Both establishments are part of the new trend in chain designer hotels, which offer sleek accommodations put together by young and avant-garde designers. Limburg, meanwhile, appears to be the number one choice for television series, having in the last two years seen the production of television dramas *Katarakt* and *De Smaak van de Keyser*. It has the reputation of being an easy province to work with, but it also extends an economic hand: the province has ponied up €250 million to the production company of *Dag en Nacht*.

Whichever city is chosen will lend another €100 million to the €500 million project. But both city's mayors are quick to point out they will not enter a bidding war. As for the hotels, they're not in competition, either. Both are owned by the Flemish group Different Hotels. **LB**



The Carbon Hotel in Genk



©AuxiPress s.a./n.v.