

Zoned in: Antwerp

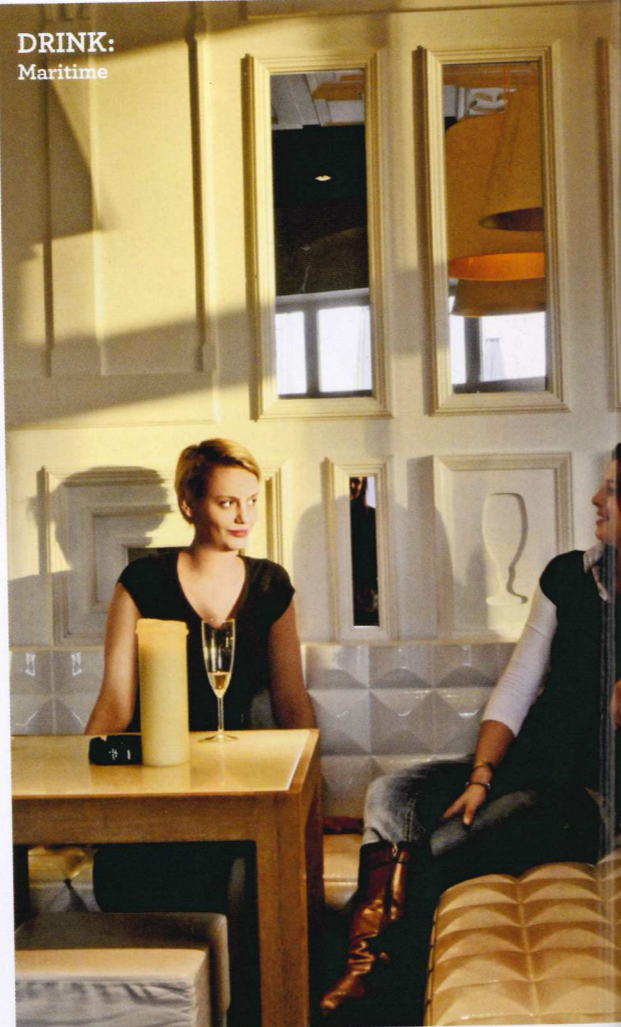
North of the Flemish city's centre, the dockland area of Het Eilandje (Little Island)

is being redeveloped, with the modernist Museum aan de Stroom at its heart

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SLEEP:
Hotel Julien



DRINK:
Maritime



SHOP:
Dries Van Noten



SLEEP:
Waterfront Art & Guesthouse



SEE: MAS



DRINK: Lux



EAT: FelixPakhuis



SLEEP Newly expanded **Hotel Julien** is a boutique-chic property a short walk south of Little Island along the Scheldt river. It's the city's top address with an in-house spa and sunken bar. 24 Korte Nieuwstraat (00 32 3 229 0600; www.hotel-julien.com). Doubles from €170

• The **Waterfront Art & Guesthouse** may not be the height of luxury, but this quirky, art-themed B&B with two home-from-home rooms is right at the heart of the ongoing development. 8 Verbindingsdok Westkaai (00 32 476 375 021; www.waterfront-art.be). Doubles from €115

EAT Top Flanders chef Viki Geunes is relocating his two-Michelin-starred restaurant **'t Zilte** from the town of Mol, outside Antwerp, to the top floor of the Museum aan de Stroom this month. The menu will focus on seafood; North Sea crab is a favourite. 1 Hanzestedenplaats (www.tzilte.be). Five-course dinner for two without wine, €190

• **FelixPakhuis** is a labyrinthine yet homely

warehouse-style restaurant. It has an art gallery and champions local produce. 30 Godefriduskaai (00 32 3 203 0330; www.felixpakhuis.nu). Lunch for two without wine €35

DRINK Minimalist and all-white, **Maritime** bar/restaurant is a cool place for drinks, tapas and sushi, with intimate booths inside for dining and deckchairs outside to catch the work-in-progress view over cocktails. 55 Napoleonkaai (00 32 3 233 7501; www.restomaritime.be)

• **Lux** is a stylish bar and restaurant that serves Champagne cocktails downstairs and Flemish food with an Italian twist upstairs. 20-22 St-Aldegondiskaai (00 32 3 233 3030; www.luxantwerp.com)

SHOP Antwerp designer **Dries Van Noten** has his flagship shop on city-centre Nationalestraat (00 32 3 470 2510; www.driesvannoten.be), but it's worth knowing that he also holds

sample sales (as part of the (Con)temporary Fashion Days events) for those in the know at his Little Island offices in April and October. 36 Godefriduskaai (00 32 3 221 90 90)

SEE The **Museum aan de Stroom** (MAS) opens as the centrepiece of Het Eilandje on 17 May. The modernist museum is a 60-metre-high tower with panoramic views from the top floor of the port and an installation by the Antwerp-based artist Luc Tuymans – his giant *Dead Skull* mosaic. 1 Hanzestedenplaats (00 32 3 338 4434; www.mas.be)

COMING SOON **Red Star Line**, a museum housed in the former shipping building, will open in 2012 as a companion to New York's Ellis Island Immigration Museum. www.redstarline.org

• The future HQ for the **Antwerp Port Authority** at Quay 63 is currently being designed by Zaha Hadid Architects, set to be completed in 2013. www.portofantwerp.com

Don't miss

The four-day **MAS opening party**, a mini arts festival to celebrate Antwerp's new cultural district, on 13-16 May (www.antwerpenopen.be) • A performance at the **Royal Ballet of Flanders** (www.koninklijk-balletvanvlaanderen.be; 00 32 3 234 3438), which has recently moved into its new home on Het Eilandje