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Smart and sustainable hotel in the heart of Vienna

Company name: Hotel Schani GmbH

Product category: Tourist accommodation

Country of origin: Austria

License holder since: 2015

Available in: Austria

Website: www.hotelschani.com

What convinced them to apply for the EU Ecolabel?

"Hotel Schani Wien is focused on sustainability from the very beginning. The awarding of the Austrian and EU Ecolabel allows us to communicate our hotel services in this field even more strongly to the outside world and helped us to implement even more environmental friendly measures. Beside usual energy saving methods, sustainable building, environmentally friendly air conditioning and efficient material for the inventory, we implemented future technology in our hotel concept. Those technologies facilitate the booking process and arrival, satisfy guests' wishes starting at the beginning and additionally preserve natural resources. Guests in Hotel Schani Wien book online and individually choose their room via our floor plan, just like their seat in the plane. This way the booking process is mobile, fast and uncomplicated. Our Schani App informs guests if the room is available earlier, so they can already check-in via their smartphone and immediately use it as their room key. This way long waiting hours are history and colleagues (Schani employees) have more time for personal services and give individual tips for exploring Vienna. These innovative technologies make travelling easier and support the contact between guests and colleagues; additionally they contribute to sustainability in the hotel: the mobile check-in replaces the certificate of registration, the smartphone replaces the key card and the invoice is sent automatically via email by check-out. In addition guests get the most valuable good of the world: more time."

How has being certified with the EU Ecolabel given them an edge over competitors?

"Society values sustainability more and more, not only in private homes, but also during holidays. With our sustainable concept we have the advantage of targeting eco-travellers as well. They are more likely to stay in our environmentally friendly Hotel Schani Wien than in a usual hotel.

What makes us special and gives us an edge over competitors is the fact that we combine environmental thinking with innovative trends and in this way offer a whole new concept. We are pioneers in offering individual room selection, mobile check-in, smartphone as room key, invoice via email and our co-working space. These innovations save time and paper and make travelling easier."

Has the EU Ecolabel increased their revenue and allowed them to enter new markets?

"Environmental friendly travelling is a new sector and with the EU Ecolabel we showcase our sustainability to the whole world and open our hotel to new markets. As we received the EU Ecolabel in December 2016 we don't have details about increased numbers, but we are sure, that more (eco-)travellers will notice our Hotel Schani Wien."



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How do they evaluate consumers' and general demand for sustainable products?

"Concerning trends and guests or public demands, we are working together with the Fraunhofer institute IAO. They did the "futurehotel" guest survey, where they were looking at future guest wishes. Part of it was implemented in our hotel concept and used for creating new technologies. We are still working together with the institute, to focus on future trends and guest wishes and the environment or eco-travellers are as well an important factor. As well we have our partners from the Austrian and EU Ecolabel, who help with new trends and possibilities."

How are they contributing to the circular economy?

"In our innovative Hotel Schani Wien we follow the principles of sustainability from the very beginning. During the building phase we received the GreenBuilding Award from the European Commission. This award is presented to commercial buildings that have introduced energy saving methods, set an example for sustainable building and use up at least 24 percent less energy than recommended by norms. One of areas with the greatest potential for saving energy across the European Union is via the heating and air conditioning of commercial blocks. Thus, Hotel Schani Wien has used the latest induction technology produced by Trox for the hotel's entire air conditioning system. It allows guests to regulate the heating and air conditioning of their rooms individually by warming or cooling room air that is sucked into the ventilation system, as required. The hotel primarily uses LED technology and environmentally-friendly, district heating and cooling. For reasons of sustainability, Schani's garden is watered using rainwater and rainwater is drained on our land. This and other energy-related measures have helped us to reduce energy consumption by up to 41 percent in comparison to conventional hotels. Moreover, our rooms have no minibars and we have an electric vehicle charging station in the hotel garage installed for ecological reasons. At the same time, we have cut paper use and waiting times using innovative technologies, such as mobile check-in, smartphone room key and invoices sent per email and give our guests what is most valuable to them – more time."

What future plans do they have for the company's sustainability mission?

"Environmental protection begins with transportation. With our central location at the main train station, Hotel Schani Wien is ideally accessible by train. Everybody arriving by train will be welcomed with a goodie at Hotel Schani Wien. In general Vienna has a great public transport system, so you won't need a car. Who has to arrive by car, can still choose electric vehicle transportation. Hotel Schani Wien offers electric vehicle charging stations in the hotel garage since January 2017."

What advice would they give to other companies considering applying for the EU Ecolabel?

"Applying for the EU Ecolabel brings a lot of criteria with it so you can live the environmental friendly lifestyle in your company. In Hotel Schani Wien we take our responsibility towards the environment, our staff and guests very seriously and strive to find improvements in all areas to maintain a healthy environment for future generations. We were a sustainable hotel from the beginning, that is why we wanted to apply for the EU Ecolabel and implement more measures. With the help of great partners from the Ecolabel we were able to broaden our environmental concept and are now part of the eco-friendly vision. With the Ecolabel we are moreover able to advertise our concept throughout the world and draw more attention to our Hotel Schani Wien."



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Should you wish to use the above photos, quote a company representative or have any other questions please contact:

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