Best year to date and good prospects ahead

In Espoo this August, room occupancy rose to an all-time high. The main reason was of course the IAAF World Championships in Athletics. Work-related travel accounted for the greatest increase in overnight stays for the first eight months of the year.

After an eventful summer our sights are now firmly set on the coming year. One of Espoo's key events for 2006 will be the Housing Fair held in July and August. In terms of congresses, next year looks very good. It is particularly pleasing that we have succeeded in attracting events of a larger scale than usual.

In the beginning of December, our new Managing Director, Jaana Tuomi, will take charge at Espoo Convention & Marketing. Fresh challenges lay ahead in the light of new expectations.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year,

Ann-Britt Jukka
Conference & Conventions Manager
Espoo Convention & Marketing

ESPOO CONVENTION & MARKETING

Member of FCB, ICCA, EFCT

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Near Surface 2006
Otaniemi goes underground next autumn



The Precambrian bedrock in Finland has high potential for mineral deposits ranging from diamonds to precious and base metals as well as industrial minerals and dimensional stones. The importance of the mineral industry has given rise to a multifaceted research and use of geophysics. Since the 1970s, exploration geophysicists have been coming up with an increasing number of applications in the fields of civil and environmental engineering and hydrogeology.

Today, an extensive use of geophysics for engineering and environmental applications in Finland is supported by education and research conducted by several universities and research organizations. With players such as the Geological Survey of Finland, Helsinki University of Technology (HUT) and the Technical Research Centre of Finland VTT, Espoo's Otaniemi can be described as a key concentration of Finnish geosciences. It is also a suitable setting for 'Near Surface 2006', the 12th European Meeting of Environmental and Engineering Geophysics next autumn.

Focus on civil and environmental engineering

Near Surface 2006 is expected to attract approximately 300 geoscientists, engineers and geophysicists to the Dipoli Congress Centre in Otaniemi between 4 and 6 September, 2006, says Chairman of the Scientific Committee, HUT Professor Markku Peltoniemi.

"The aim of the conference is to discuss and promote a better understanding of methodologies for near surface geophysical applications. An integral part of the meeting will be a commercial exhibition of equipment and accompanying field demonstrations," Peltoniemi explains.

He predicts that most presentations will fall into one of two application categories: civil engineering and environmental engineering. In these fields, near surface methods from ground penetrating radar to electrical and electromagnetic methods are utilized to assess uppermost ground layers for possible pollution and other hazards or their suitability for building purposes.

Finland pioneers nuclear waste disposal

The highlight of the conference's technical programme will be a field trip to the Olkiluoto nuclear plant on the west coast of Finland to see a presentation on Finland's radioactive waste management programme.

Olkiluoto began the geologic disposal of low-level radioactive waste on-site in 1992. In 2001, Finland became the first country to approve plans for a geologic repository. Finland has studied nuclear waste disposal in crystalline rock for more than twenty years, and the outcome of the studies has been a recommendation for the construction of a single, deep geologic repository for the disposal of spent nuclear fuel.

"The Finnish programme has advanced further than any other in the world, so it will certainly be of interest to the conference delegates," Peltoniemi says.

JAANA TUOMI – Espoo Convention & Marketing's new Managing Director



Jaana Tuomi took the helm of Espoo Convention & Marketing Ltd in the beginning of December as the company's former MD of five years, Kai Mattsson, set off for new challenges as Deputy Managing Director of the Vuoristo group (Hotel Haikko Manor).

Tuomi has a Master's degree in Economics and Business Administration and solid marketing expertise acquired through work for various advertising agencies. She has also been a marketing consultant with large international and Finnish companies.

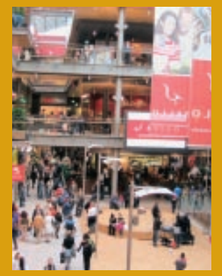
"Playing a part in developing and marketing Espoo's visitor services for tourists and companies is a challenge I'll enjoy," comments Tuomi of her new role.

She believes Espoo provides a unique combination of nature, first-rate meeting and congress services and cultural activity.

"I'm now enthusiastically waiting to see how next summer's Housing Fair in Kauklahti and the new WeeGee art centre in Tapiola succeed in attracting the general public," she says.

A resident of Haukilahti in Espoo, Tuomi herself takes full advantage of the city's natural surroundings: "As often as I can, I try to use the opportunities provided by Espoo's lakes and the sea - swimming and jogging on the shores in summer and skiing and skating on the frozen sea in winter. I also enjoy long cross-country riding trips in the Nuuksio forest areas."

Extended facilities and A NEW HOTEL OPEN AT SELLO



The Sello shopping centre in Leppävaara offers modern, comfortable facilities for commerce and services. With the opening of its second phase in September, Sello became the second largest shopping centre in the Nordic countries.

In addition to 160 shops, Sello accommodates the Leppävaara Library and Sellosali Hall. Sellosali is an ideal stage for dance, theatre and electronic music, offering fixed seating for audiences of close to 400 and some of the finest acoustics in the capital region.

The opening of the four-star Palace Hotel Sello will complete the shopping centre's services early next year. The nine-storey hotel will have a total of 140 rooms - 35 equipped with mini kitchens to provide for long-term guests - as well as a restaurant and meeting and banquet facilities.



Never lost with HERTZ



In the United States it has been possible to rent Hertz Never Lost, a satellite positioning device for cars, since 1995. It has gained rapid popularity among busy business travellers.

Espoo, which covers a large area and has several urban centres, is a typical place where finding a hotel or customer company can sometimes be a lengthy affair for the first-time visitor. However, with the help of a high-quality navigator, the 'scenic route' to a destination is easily avoided. Hertz Rent a Car offers navigators as well as cars for rent, together and separately.



The user-friendly navigator is equipped a touch screen and voice instructions which enhance safe driving. The device has an impressive range of languages to choose from - 14, including Finnish.

A navigator can be booked from the Hertz reservation centre, tel. 0200 11 22 33, from Hertz Espoo, tel. 020 555 2350, or from the Helsinki-Vantaa branch, tel. 020 555 2100.

Established in Chicago, USA in 1918, Hertz is the world's largest and oldest car rental company. Hertz has operations in more than 155 countries, approximately 7,000 branches and a fleet of approximately 550,000 cars. The company has had operations in Finland since 1966 and today has 54 branches nationwide. The Espoo branch was established in autumn 2000.

The latest from our partners in cooperation

State-of-the-art technology AT DIPOLI

The meeting and congress centre Dipoli in Otaniemi assures the success of its customers' events with an exceptionally high standard of presentation technology, from video and data projectors to plasma screens and audio equipment.

Dipoli has recently gained membership in the International Congress & Convention Association, ICCA. The meetings industry umbrella organization has more than 700 members in almost 80 countries worldwide.



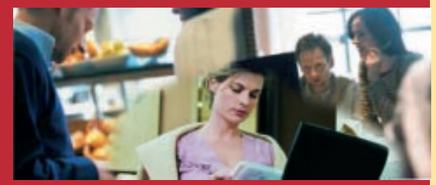
More out of a meeting at SCANDIC ESPOO

Along with more than 140 other Scandic hotels, Scandic Espoo has launched a new meeting concept to serve its customers even better. The core of the new concept is encapsulated by the terms Easy, Caring, Open-Minded and Value for Money.

Easy stands for accessibility, clear and comparable offers and all-in-one packages, Caring for flexible, assured and secure arrangements. Open-minded translates as a casual relaxed atmosphere and Value for Money as affordable quality meetings that get results.

"Scandic Espoo provides meeting facilities that are light, air-conditioned and well-equipped for up to 80 participants and has an accommodation capacity of 96 rooms," describes meetings hostess Sanna-Mari Wallenius.

"Free use of LCD projectors is included in all meetings packages, and a free-of-charge WLAN connection is available throughout the building."



Forthcoming international meetings in Espoo



November
Nov 28 — Reima Pietilä Conference
150 delegates — *Dipoli Congress Centre*

January
Jan 12-13 — Skärgårdskonferensen
200 delegates — *Hanasaari Cultural Centre*

February
Feb 15-17 — ESA Workshop on Millimetre Wave Technology and Applications 2006
200 delegates — *Dipoli Congress Centre*

March
Mar 16-18 — International seminar for good dementia care
200 delegates — *Hanasaari Cultural Centre*

The above lists information that has the organizers' consent for publication, possessed by Espoo Convention & Marketing, regarding forthcoming international congresses. The estimated number of attendants is printed in blue.

What's on in Espoo

Sep 24-Jan 29	Minds Afar – the Kalevala in Karelia, America and Africa. An exhibition at the Gallen-Kallela Museum.
Nov 26-27	Art and handicrafts fair at the Espoo Cultural Centre
Dec 4	A concert by Helmut Lotti at the LänsiAuto Areena
Dec 17	Lucia concert at Espoo Cathedral
Dec 17	A hundred cents of music for Christmas by the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra. The Club for Five vocal ensemble and the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Dmitri Slobodeniouk conducting.
Jan 18-20	Symphonic Fantasies by Tapiola Sinfonietta. A visualized concert combining Tapiola Sinfonietta's music with the skills of professional performing artists.
Feb 15	Jazz sisters in Sellosali Hall. A joint concert by ten leading Finnish female singers.

Further information about these and other events can be found from our website at **www.espootravel.com**

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PILOT

Christmas like olden times at HOTEL KORPILAMPI



By popular request, Hotel Korpilampi is reopening its doors to Christmas guests. The hotel is situated in a wilderness area in the midst of northern Espoo yet only 23 km from the railway station in Helsinki and 18 km from the Helsinki-Vantaa airport. Bus transportation is also available, from Espoo and Helsinki.

At Korpilampi, Christmas is celebrated in the style of days gone by, cherishing the best of Finnish traditions. In addition to a Christmas sauna, dinner, sleigh rides and downhill sledding, a Christmas service completes the festivities out in the wilds. Mrs Santa will be on hand to protect the spirit of Christmas, tending to the comfort of guests celebrating by themselves or as part of a group.

Customers old and new have been delighted with Korpilampi's holiday opening. More than half of the hotel's capacity was booked some months before Christmas with the majority of guests travelling from the capital region. Very often, couples celebrate Christmas at Korpilampi and are visited by their children on the eve, or vice versa.

Record room occupancy rate in Espoo in August

The IAAF World Championships in Athletics significantly boosted the number of overnight stays by travellers from abroad in Espoo. In August, the number of nights spent by foreign nationals increased by 43%, or in other words by 7,100.

Due to the World Championships, the room occupancy rate for August in Espoo rose to an all-time record high of 73.6%. The previous year's August figure was 59.5%.

Highest increase in work-related travel

The number of work-related overnight stays rose by 16,600 between January and August. Stays by both leisure and business travellers from abroad were also on the increase. Overnight stays between January to August in Espoo were distributed according to the purpose of the visit as follows: work-related 52.5%, leisure 45.4%, other 2.2%.

From January to August 2005, the room occupancy rate in all places offering accommodation in Espoo was 55.6%, an increase of over 6% compared to the same period the previous year (49.4%). In Finland as a whole, the room occupancy rate for all establishments offering accommodation from January to August was 47.2%.

The above is based on preliminary data on accommodation statistics. Source: Statistics Finland.

In the next issue 1/2006

to be released in March.

We`ll be focusing on the prospects offered by meeting and congress activities in Espoo



Hertz
www.hertz.fi

Blue1

SAS



How to reach Espoo:

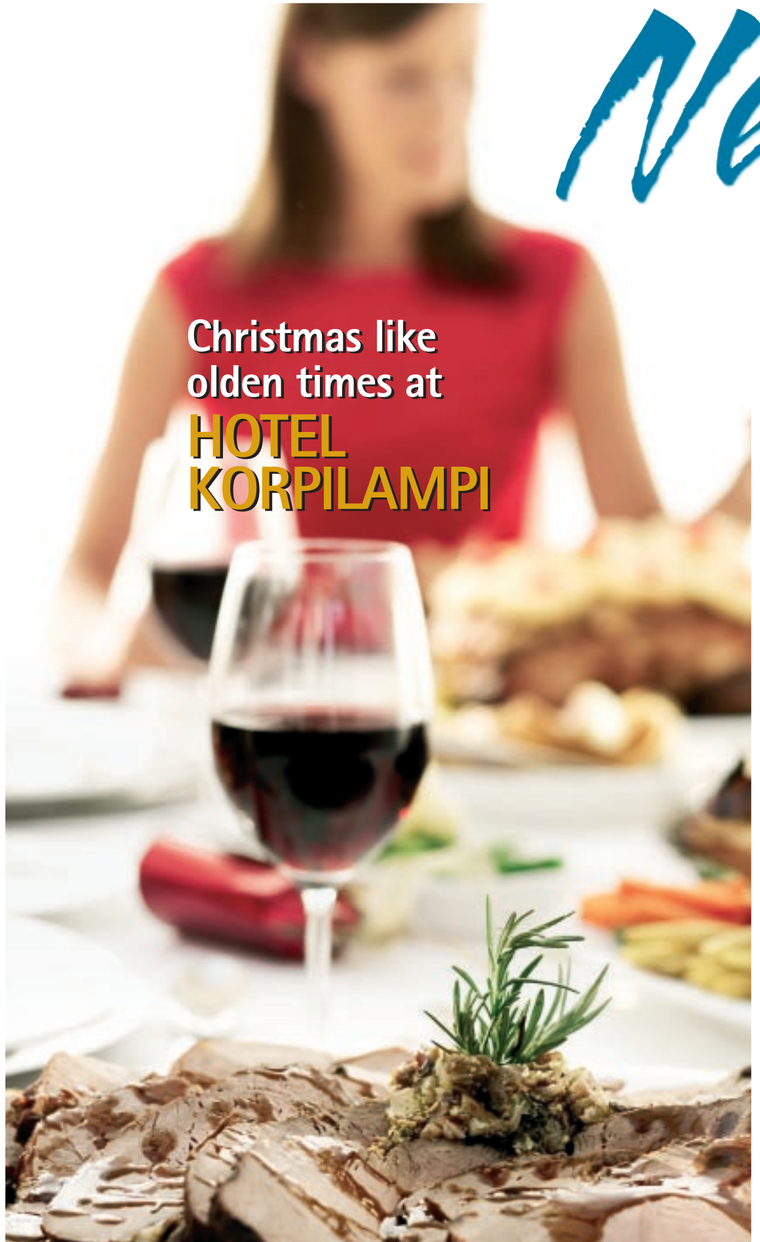
By plane: Helsinki-Vantaa airport, approx. 30 min. drive from Tapiola

By boat: Helsinki seaports: South Harbour and West Harbour, approx. 15 min. drive from Tapiola.
Ferry destinations: Sweden, Estonia and Germany

www.espootravel.com

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