

# REVIEW – Hotel Rival, Stockholm

<http://www.gaystarnews.com/article/review-%E2%80%93-hotel-rival-stockholm290415>

A slice of cinematic history in the capital of Sweden

29 April 2015 | By [Gareth Johnson](#)



Photos by Gareth Johnson.

Located on picturesque square Maria, [the Rival](#) doesn't look particularly imposing from the street but this is an outstanding hotel for experiencing the best that Stockholm has to offer.

A former cinema, as well as its 99 stylishly appointed guest rooms the Rival is also home to a theatre – with bands and shows regularly performing.

Locals come here for a drink or Sunday brunch, but it was a treat to check in and make this our base for our Stockholm city-break.

Like most places in Stockholm, there is an Abba connection with the Rival. It is owned by Swedish pop hero Benny Andersson. While there is a discrete Abba CD in every room, the hotel focuses on its cinematic history, using images of Swedish actors and stills from local films.

Rooms aren't enormous, but they are comfortable and functional. Breakfast was spectacular – an enormous smorgasbord of Scandinavian specialties, plus eggs and pancakes cooked to order.

The concierge at Hotel Rival is [Sean Naughton](#). Although he grew up in Hawaii, Naughton has returned to his Swedish roots and is an invaluable font of knowledge on how to get the most out of your stay.

The Rival is also an active member of the Stockholm gay and lesbian network. Their website showcases a number of reasons [why Stockholm is an attractive destination for LGBTI travellers](#), and the hotel staff are happy to provide advice and guidance on where to go and what to do.

This city is formed by 14 islands. The Rival is located on the island of Södermalm – a popular residential area and where you'll find the SoFo neighborhood, great independent shopping, cafes, and restaurants with a deliberate Brooklyn-esque, laid-back, hipster feel.

Stockholm is one of those cities that you won't want to leave. [The Rival](#) is one of the reasons why.