



2

HOTEL

Hotel Reviews:

E

How Guests Rate Their Experiences in European Hotels

FOREWORD

THE IMPORTANCE OF GUEST REVIEWS

Since the Internet revolution gained momentum around the turn of the century, the hospitality sector has gone through an enormous evolution. The change the industry has gone through in the past 15 years has been greater than the 150 years before that.

Major brands have diversified and are now conglomerates operating on large loyalty platforms and CRM systems; Location is no longer the sole driver for hotel development, and Experience has become a major decision making factor for consumers.

The hotel industry needs more than ever to take customers seriously. Where in the past hoteliers would strive to offer the best service to consumers, today that is no longer enough. Online Travel Agencies (OTAs) have largely conquered the online booking world and consumers are now able to make their opinion known, almost instantly. These customer reviews have become a major deciding factor for prospective guests when booking a hotel.

Revinate is the global leader in analyzing and reporting customer experiences and Colliers International Hotels is a global leader in hotel advisory services. Colliers International Hotels recognizes the importance of customer opinions to hotel owners and realizes that this information has become a major value driver in the hotel industry. Hence, we appreciate our partnership.

For this report, we analysed more than 4.7 million reviews for 4,641 hotels across Europe. The report provides a brief overview and analysis of key hotel markets across Europe, from the perspective of the customer.

Dirk Bakker

Colliers International Head of Hotels | EMEA

Maarten Plesman

Revinate VP | EMEA

Contents

Key Trends	
	pg. 2
Review Success Ratings	
	pg. 2
European Review Map	
	pg. 3
City by City	
	pg. 5
Star Ratings	
	pg. 5
Value is the Lowest Common Denomi	nator
	pg. 6

KEY TRENDS

REVIEW VOLUMES – THE BIG FOUR DOMINATE

In terms of the volume of reviews by market, there are no major surprises as the distribution of reviews simply reflects the size of each country's respective hotel industry.

Europe's tier one travel destinations - the UK and Germany for business, and France and Spain for leisure - dominate the number of reviews undertaken by country, accounting for just over seventy percent of all reviews in 2015.

Next inline come Italy and the Netherlands, which account for a further fifteen percent of reviews. These markets are then followed by countries with a smaller number of reviews including Greece, Sweden, Belgium, Austria, the Czech Republic and Finland.



Source: Revinate & Colliers International

REVIEW SUCCESS RATINGS

SIZE DOESN'T MATTER

When it comes to the overall positive ranking of hotels reviewed by country - in terms of the volume of reviews - the size of the market doesn't seem to matter. The countries with the highest overall positive scores are not necessarily those markets with the highest volume of reviews.

Greece and the Czech Republic are the best scoring countries in terms of gaining positive reviews, with a positive rating of over 70%.

Austria, Italy and Spain are not too far behind, maintain positive reviews above the 63% average watershed. Just below the market average come the big hitters of the UK and Germany alongside Sweden and the Netherlands, before the positive ratings drop off a little further in Belgium and Finland. France comes in last place, with only 55% of reviews being of a positive nature.

While Greece, the Czech Republic, Austria, Italy and Spain may well be benefitting from a higher proportion of leisure/ holiday travel putting customers in a better mood, the same should be said of France. Such a low positive ratings score suggests France has some work to do across its hotel industry, to improve on customer ratings.

Fig. 2: Review Success Ratings by Country [%]



Source: Revinate & Colliers International



CITY BY CITY

A review of city-specific ratings suggest the low French rating is driven by locations outside of Paris. Paris has a relatively high overall positive rating of 61%, which has remained stable since 2013. London, however, has a much lower overall positive rating compared to its national average - only 57% of reviews in the UK capital being of a positive nature. This is almost the reversal of the French/Paris relationship. Edinburgh on the other hand boasts very positive reviews of 72%.

Elsewhere, there is quite a narrow range in terms of the positive review ratings. Prague is at the top of the ranking tree at 75%, very much in-line with the national average. Of more interest is the fact that of the 18 cities reviewed, only five have noted an improvement in ratings since 2013: Amsterdam, Brussels, Edinburgh, and Moscow. Conversely, the positive ratings for Berlin, Rome and Zurich have declined the most, by up to 5%. Fig. 3: City Review: Positive Ratings 2013-2015 [%]



STAR RATING

Positive city reviews correlate to the star rating classification of hotel on offer. For hotels ranked four star and below, the number of positive online reviews – as expected – starts to drop from those given for five star properties. If 80% is the average number of positive 5 star reviews this drops down to only 70% for properties with a four star classification. That said, the difference in positive online reviews by hotel classification differs markedly by city. A number of cities look like they need to improve their four star hotel offerings in particular – including Madrid, Milan, Rome, Stockholm, Zurich and London, which is consistent with the overall positive online reviews analysis. Rome, Stockholm and Zurich also need to improve their five star hotel offerings, as do Amsterdam and Brussels, four and five star hotels in Brussels have the weakest combined online review ratings, both performing below par relative to other cities.

Fig. 4: 4 - 5-Star Reviews [%]



VALUE IS THE LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATOR

Online reviews are generally comprised of more than just an overall rating. Specific subcategory rankings reveal which components of a hotel stay/service are ranked better or worse across these city locations. There are five specific subcategories: Location, Rooms, Cleanliness, Service and Value. What is interesting across the 18 cities examined, is that Value is almost always the lowest common denominator, i.e. it is the lowest ranking subcategory, for all cities expect Rome, London and Stockholm where the Rooms score is lower or equally low.

On a more positive note, the hotels on offer rank highest in Location and Cleanliness across almost all locations. Hotels in Lisbon, Moscow and Prague are considered to be the best ranking hotel locations in this regard. For Location, go to Edinburgh and Belfast or London, Moscow and Stockholm.

Sandwiched between these components is Service, which is always the middle-ranking subcategory of each hotel reviewed. If hotels continue to improve on the overall service offering, perhaps this will result in an increase in value for money.

The sharing economy continues to grow the form of privately rented accommodation/lodgings like AirBnB, particularly those aimed at the budget traveller. This, combined with increasing levels of competition impacting the hotel industry, creates an immediate need to improve the guest experience and offer added value for consumer spend. For a more detailed insight into each city, please see our city hotel market infographics.

Fig. 4: Review Result Spread by Category



🚺 Overall 🌈 Cleanliness 🕰 Location 🤻 Rooms 🖨 Service % Value Source: Revinate, Colliers International

CONCLUDING COMMENTS

The hotel sector is rapidly increasing its online presence in order to access a growing global tourism market. This will lead to a more transparent sector driven by customer reviews. As the analysis in this report shows, the growth in both the frequency and volume of reviews across the European hotel sector is growing rapidly: close to 10 million hotel reviews were posted online by customers across Europe in 2015. Not only will potential customers be able to more easily search for hotel accommodation and lodging experiences that suit their needs in terms of location, budget and services provided, they will also get much more feedback on the 'look and feel' of hotels, to help drive their hotel choice.

Hotel owners and operators need to increasingly use this open review system to understand how their hotel compares to other hotels, or a city's hotel industry as a whole. This can help them focus on improving their offerings in the right areas to create a hotel experience that suits what is being demanded.

	Overall Review Rating	Reviews per Property
Prague	4.30	822
Moscow	4.23	924
Edinburgh	4.22	966
Vienna	4.21	1,109
Belfast	4.20	956
Lisbon	4.19	1,016
Barcelona	4.17	943
Berlin	4.14	1,149
Dublin	4.14	1,420
Madrid	4.12	975
Stockholm	4.11	1,126
Brussels	4.09	1,139
Rome	4.09	596
Zurich	4.05	720
Amsterdam	4.02	1,310
Paris	4.01	643
Milan	3.99	1,038
London	3.93	790

AMSTERDAM



KEY METRICS

2013 2014 2015 **Overall Review Rating** 4,00 4,00 4,02 4 Star Reviews **Positive Reviews** 60% 59% 61% 3 Sta **Review Response Rates** 18% 34% 31% 2 Star Reviews **Reviews per Property** 953 1.223 1.310

REVIEW DISTRIBUTION: BY REVIEW CATEGORY





BARCELONA



KEY METRICS

2013 2014 2015 **Overall Review Rating** 4,15 4,16 4,17 **Positive Reviews** 69% 67% 68% 3 Sta **Review Response Rates** 20% 34% 29% **Reviews per Property** 690 901 943

REVIEW DISTRIBUTION: BY REVIEW CATEGORY





BELFAST



KEY METRICS

2013 2014 2015 **Overall Review Rating** 4,20 4,21 4,19 **Positive Reviews** 69% 72% 70% **Review Response Rates** 32% 43% 33% **Reviews per Property** 741 957 956

REVIEW DISTRIBUTION: BY REVIEW CATEGORY





BERLIN

38,9%

44,8%

12,6%

2,8%

1,0%

5 00

REVIEW DISTRIBUTION: BY REVIEW CATEGORY

KEY METRICS

2013 2014 2015 **Overall Review Rating** 4,19 4,13 4,14 4 Star Reviews **Positive Reviews** 71% 65% 66% 3 Sta **Review Response Rates** 20% 36% 38% 2 Star Reviews **Reviews per Property** 822 1.085 1.149 **1 Star Reviews**

REVIEW RATING DETAILS 2015

4.14 4,34 4.26 4,41 4,09 4,08 0.0 Cleanliness Location Rooms Service Value **KEY TAKEAWAYS REVIEW CHANNELS 2015** Hotels in Berlin are increasingly reviewed by their guests: between 2013 and 2015 the review pace increased by 40%. This increase Other | 15% makes the high percentage of positive reviews even more remarkable. Expedia | 5% This positive performance is confirmed by the review distribution. Most reviewed stays are awarded a four star review, followed by five Hotels.com | 5% star reviews. Together, four and five star reviews make up almost 84% of all reviews. TripAdvisor | 15% Similar as to other cities, Cleanliness and Location are the best performing subcategories. However, with the lowest subrating being 4.09, it can be concluded that hotels in Berlin perform well on all levels. **c** Booking.com is the most important platform for hotel reviews and is responsible for 60% of reviews. Although TripAdvisor is also a popular platform, with 15% of reviews, it is still far behind Booking.com. Hotels.

com and Expedia saw a decrease in their share of reviews.

BRUSSELS



REVIEW DISTRIBUTION: BY REVIEW CATEGORY

KEY METRICS

2013 2014 2015 37,1% 4,09 **Overall Review Rating** 4,05 4,06 44,9% 4 Star Reviews **Positive Reviews** 62% 61% 64% 13,4% 3 Sta **Review Response Rates** 28% 41% 35% 3,3% 2 Star Reviews **Reviews per Property** 753 1.108 1.139 1,2% **1 Star Reviews**



DUBLIN

KEY METRICS

2013 2014 2015 **Overall Review Rating** 4,11 4,11 4,14 **Positive Reviews** 69% 65% 67% **Review Response Rates** 34% 43% 35% **Reviews per Property** 854 1.251 1.420

REVIEW DISTRIBUTION: BY REVIEW CATEGORY





EDINBURGH



46,1%

38,7%

11,1%

2.8%

1,4%

REVIEW DISTRIBUTION: BY REVIEW CATEGORY

KEY METRICS

2013 2014 2015 **Overall Review Rating** 4,17 4,19 4,22 4 Star Reviews **Positive Reviews** 70% 71% 72% 3 Sta **Review Response Rates** 33% 47% 34% 2 Star Reviews **Reviews per Property** 659 863 966 **1 Star Reviews**



LISBON



44,4%

40,3%

11,3%

2.5%

1,5%

5 00

REVIEW DISTRIBUTION: BY REVIEW CATEGORY

KEY METRICS

2013 2014 2015 **Overall Review Rating** 4,19 4,23 4,21 4 Star Reviews **Positive Reviews** 70% 67% 69% 3 Sta **Review Response Rates** 14% 27% 25% 2 Star Reviews **Reviews per Property** 642 956 1.016 **1 Star Reviews**

REVIEW RATING DETAILS 2015

4.19 4,48 4,38 4.24 4.38 4,18 0.0 Cleanliness Location Rooms Service Value **KEY TAKEAWAYS REVIEW CHANNELS 2015** Lisbon has proven to have a strong hotel offering to hotel guests, as 69% of hotel reviews is positive. More than 84% of reviewed Other | 9% stays was awarded a four or five star review. Expedia | 4% These results are especially noteworthy as the reviews pace Hotels.com | 4% increased significantly in recent years: between 2013 and 2015, the number of reviews per property increased by 58%. TripAdvisor | 21% The locations, cleanliness and service levels of the hotels in Booking.com | 62% Lisbon are highly appreciated by guests. Although Booking.com remains the most important platform Ĩ for reviews, its share of online reviews decreased between 2014 (66%) and 2015 (62%). This decrease is noteworthy, as Booking.com has become more popular for reviews in other cities. Its lost share has been picked up by TripAdvisor, which

increased from 16% to 21%.

LONDON



33,9%

40,1%

17,5%

6,0%

2,5%

REVIEW DISTRIBUTION: BY REVIEW CATEGORY

KEY METRICS

2013 2014 2015 **Overall Review Rating** 3.92 3,89 3,93 4 Star Reviews **Positive Reviews** 58% 56% 57% 3 Sta **Review Response Rates** 31% 39% 31% 2 Star Reviews **Reviews per Property** 611 778 790 **1 Star Reviews**

REVIEW RATING DETAILS 2015

5 00 3.93 4,25 4,49 3,86 4.16 3,93 0.0 Cleanliness Location Rooms Service Value **KEY TAKEAWAYS REVIEW CHANNELS 2015** Although London remains popular as a travel destination, hotels in London receive the lowest overall rating of all cities reviews in Other | 9% this report: 3.93. Expedia | 4% The majority of guests had a good experience during their stays Hotels.com | 5% - 57% of reviews is positive - and 74% of reviewed stays is awarded four or five star review. TripAdvisor | 22% While guests are generally excited about the cleanliness and S locations of the hotels, the quality of the rooms and value for money score lower in the subcategories Similar to other cities, Booking.com is the most important review platform in London. A significant difference from other cities, however, is the share of reviews on TripAdvisor: the travle site is responsible for 22% of all reviews, and its share has been stable in recent years.

MADRID

REVIEW DISTRIBUTION: BY REVIEW CATEGORY

KEY METRICS

2013 2014 2015 38,6% **Overall Review Rating** 4,12 4,11 4,12 44,7% 4 Star Reviews **Positive Reviews** 65% 62% 64% 12,5% 3 Sta **Review Response Rates** 32% 46% 35% 3.0% 2 Star Reviews **Reviews per Property** 580 837 975 1,2% **1 Star Reviews**



MILAN

KEY METRICS

2013 2014 2015 34,1% **Overall Review Rating** 4,00 3,99 4,02 43,7% 4 Star Reviews **Positive Reviews** 62% 58% 59% 15,7% 3 Sta **Review Response Rates** 19% 36% 28% 4,7% 2 Star Reviews **Reviews per Property** 601 923 1.038 1,8% **1 Star Reviews**

REVIEW DISTRIBUTION: BY REVIEW CATEGORY

5 00

REVIEW RATING DETAILS 2015

3.99 4,32 4,17 4,03 4,11 3,87 0.0 Cleanliness Location Rooms Service Value **KEY TAKEAWAYS REVIEW CHANNELS 2015** Hotels in Milan are under increased scrutiny: the review pace in the Italian city increased by 73% between 2013 and 2015. Other | 8% The majority of reviews in Milan is positive - 57% of all reviews -Expedia | 3% and 78% of reviewed stays is awarded a four or five star review. Hotels.com | 4% Guests most appreciate the cleanliness of hotels in Milan. With a subrating of 3.87, the Value subcategory received the lowest TripAdvisor | 17% average score. In Milan the main review sites are Booking.com and TripAdvisor, and their share is rising. In 2013, the two channels were responsible for 72% of all reviews and they managed to increase their share to 85% in 2015.

MOSCOW

KEY METRICS

2013 2014 2015 **Overall Review Rating** 4,06 4,16 4,23 **Positive Reviews** 65% 69% 66% 3 Sta **Review Response Rates** 36% 52% 48% **Reviews per Property** 924 362 716

REVIEW DISTRIBUTION: BY REVIEW CATEGORY





PARIS



KEY METRICS

2013 2014 2015 4,01 **Overall Review Rating** 3,98 3,95 **Positive Reviews** 62% 58% 61% 3 Sta **Review Response Rates** 26% 39% 36% 610 **Reviews per Property** 428 643

REVIEW DISTRIBUTION: BY REVIEW CATEGORY





PRAGUE



KEY METRICS

2013 2014 2015 **Overall Review Rating** 4,29 4,31 4,30 **Positive Reviews** 77% 75% 75% **Review Response Rates** 26% 33% 32% **Reviews per Property** 454 720 822

REVIEW DISTRIBUTION: BY REVIEW CATEGORY





ROME



REVIEW DISTRIBUTION: BY REVIEW CATEGORY

KEY METRICS

2013 2014 2015 39,9% **Overall Review Rating** 4,08 4,09 4,10 40,2% 4 Star Reviews **Positive Reviews** 71% 65% 66% 14,0% 3 Star **Review Response Rates** 21% 29% 27% 4,2% 2 Star Reviews **Reviews per Property** 318 528 596 1,7% **1 Star Reviews**



STOCKHOLM



REVIEW DISTRIBUTION: BY REVIEW CATEGORY

KEY METRICS

2013 2014 2015 37,3% **Overall Review Rating** 4,09 4,11 4,11 45,5% 4 Star Reviews **Positive Reviews** 68% 64% 65% 13,3% 3 Sta **Review Response Rates** 11% 26% 28% 2.9% 2 Star Reviews **Reviews per Property** 692 1.068 1,0% 1.126 **1 Star Reviews**



VIENNA

REVIEW DISTRIBUTION: BY REVIEW CATEGORY

43,4%

42,3%

11,0%

2,4%

0,9%

KEY METRICS

2013 2014 2015 **Overall Review Rating** 4,20 4,21 4,23 4 Star Reviews **Positive Reviews** 72% 69% 68% 3 Sta **Review Response Rates** 25% 40% 34% 2 Star Reviews **Reviews per Property** 665 1.044 1.109

REVIEW RATING DETAILS 2015

5 00 4.21 4,46 4,43 4,21 4.35 4,17 0.0 Cleanliness Location Rooms Service Value **KEY TAKEAWAYS REVIEW CHANNELS 2015** C With a strong overall score of 4.21, the hotel offering in Vienna is rated as one of the highest in Europe. This is also confirmed by Other | 10% the number of positive reviews: 69% of reviews is positive. Expedia | 3% This positive perception of the hotel offering in Vienna is especially noteworthy because of the significant increase in Hotels.com | 3% review pace: the number of reviews per property increased by 67% between 2013 and 2016. TripAdvisor | 14% All subcategories contributed to this high score, but Cleanliness and Location are perceived to add the most value - they were rated 4.46 and 4.43 respectively. C Booking.com and TripAdvisor are increasingly important as the main channels for reviews. In 2015, 84% of reviews was generated through these two channels. Facebook appears to be losing its appeal, as only 1% of reviews was generated on this platform.

1 Star Reviews

ZURICH

KEY METRICS

REVIEW DISTRIBUTION: BY REVIEW CATEGORY





MARKET CONTACT COLLIERS:

Dirk Bakker Head of Hotels | EMEA +31 20 540 55 40 dirk.bakker@colliers.com

Damian Harrington Head of Research | EMEA +44 7867 360489 damian.harrington@colliers.com

MARKET CONTACT REVINATE:

Maarten Plesman VP | EMEA +31 20 240 30 20 maarten@revinate.com

Thomas Landen Head of Marketing | EMEA +31 20 240 30 13 thomas@revinate.com

https://twitter.com/Colliers_EMEA https://www.facebook.com/colliersglobal/ https://www.linkedin.com/company/colliers-international

https://twitter.com/revinate https://www.facebook.com/revinate http://www.linkedin.com/company/revinate



Copyright © 2016 Colliers International, Revinate.

The information contained herein has been obtained from sources deemed reliable. While every reasonable effort has been made to ensure its accuracy, we cannot guarantee it. No responsibility is assumed for any inaccuracies. Readers are encouraged to consult their professional advisors prior to acting on any of the material contained in this report.

