

Hotel of the Month, Finland

Great place, great ideas

The Finnish word 'onnela' means a place of happiness and bliss. Scan Magazine's Finnish Hotel of the Month, Onnela Inn, is very appropriately named: the natural beauty around Lake Tuusulanjärvi is truly calming. Located only 15 minutes from Helsinki Airport, Onnela Inn offers a peaceful setting for a conference within easy reach.

By Mia Halonen | Photos: Onnela Inn

"Small groups, big ideas. We believe that all groups, no matter the size, should have an inspiring place to meet," says chairman Ture Tähtinen. "At Onnela Inn, groups from 5 to 200 can have a meeting with breathtaking lake views."

The scenery around Onnela Inn has certainly inspired people over time. The main building has stood here since 1888 and has long served as a boarding house. At the turn of the century, the height of the National Romantic era, many of the most notable Finnish artists lived and worked around Lake Tuusulanjärvi. Tähtinen knows countless anecdotes: "There is a lot of Finnish history all around."

Now all of the Onnela buildings have been renovated, taking into account the visually impaired and disabled visitors; both of the main buildings are wheelchair accessible. The large conference room is packed with high-tech equipment, including an induction loop for the hard of hearing.

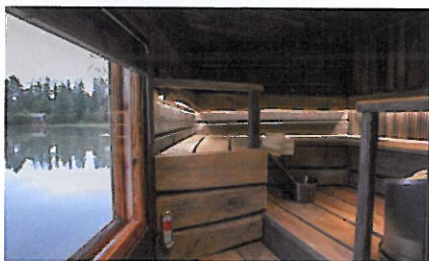
Food, naturally, is one of the most important ways of creating a memorable experience. Onnela serves delicious home-cooked food made of fresh, seasonal ingredients, and the breakfast buffet is fully organic.

Onnela Inn certainly makes the most of its lakeside location. If you have never tried a traditional Finnish sauna before, here is

your chance. There are several saunas to choose from, the newest addition being the Jannen sauna, named after the composer Jean Sibelius, one of the famous neighbours. Here you can enjoy the soft heat of a traditional wood-burning stove and take a dip in the lake afterwards.

It is hard to believe that Helsinki-Vantaa International Airport is just 15 minutes away. You cannot hear the traffic, just the natural sounds of birds singing and small waves rolling towards the shore. "And the fresh scents! You could easily think you are 400 kilometres further north," says Tähtinen. "International guests can't believe that there can be a peaceful place like this so close to the capital city." But Tähtinen's promise comes with a warning: "Once you've been here, you will want to come back."

For more information, please visit:
www.onnela.com



With organic food, wheelchair-friendly conferencing facilities, beautiful lake views and an abundance of natural scents and sounds, Onnela Inn will make you want to return over and over again.

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