

Astoria's two-bedroom suite provides a full residential experience.



Astoria's one-bedroom suite measures between 60 and 72 square meters.

Astoria Plaza redefines urban living

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IT IS HARD TO IMAGINE THAT THERE COULD BE A SPOT IN this teeming, bustling city to relax and unwind. After all, a hotel room is just a private space with bed and amenities and you may not even ask for anything more. But it's the surprises that can really make the difference, transforming an ordinary room into a place you can call home — at least for a couple of days or so.

The Astoria Plaza in the Ortigas business district can give you that and more. As a full-service residential hotel, Astoria Plaza is called home by a majority of business people in the district as well as vacationers who don't want to feel like cramming into small and expensive rooms throughout the weekend. The hotel has that ace up its sleeves, suites that measure 60 square meters at the minimum and double that size for those who want to bring their families along. Plus, Astoria Plaza boasts some of the lowest rates compared to other hotels in the area.



The Stresscape Wellness spa provides massage services and spa treatments at reasonable prices.

"It's a full-service residential suite," says Astoria Plaza manager Ping Regalado. "What you find in a hotel is also available here but with the added value of big space." Priced reasonably, Astoria Plaza provides a full residential experience the moment you step into your suite. While most hotel rooms have you entering the bedroom as soon as you open your door, Astoria presents a fully functional living room area, dining area, and a kitchen to the side. The bedroom has a separate door, maintaining a semblance of privacy within the same area. Long-time clients are in for a surprise. A massive renovation conducted last year has significantly upped the ante and has given the hotel an almost brand new look, a refreshingly welcome change that promises to

delight old and new clients alike. "We would like to give our regular clients a fresh experience of the hotel, a new look and feel to the hotel," Regalado says. He adds: "It started when we added two new modern function rooms — Hampton and Wall Street." Since then, the changes have crept well into every floor of the hotel, which will be completed this year. It can be said that these changes have given Astoria more of a character. The new décors have lent each suite with somewhat of a personality that suits individual clients. Guests can choose different themes based on colors such as deep browns, light greens, cool blues or a soothing beige. The decidedly cold "Zen" design that characterized the hotel in the past has given way to much warmer hues designed by the famous Almario sisters (Ivy

and Cynthia of Atelier Almario) and heavily influenced by nature in an almost garden-like sense. Different flower plants pepper not just the suites, but different parts of the hotel as well. Tufts of green grass in small planter boxes also play a role, positioned neatly on top of small niches and tabletops. As Regalado puts it, "This is urban living reinvented." Guests have a choice of one or two-bedroom suites. The small, one-bedroom suites measure between 60 and 72 square meters and can accommodate two guests, while the bigger two-bedroom suites at 102 to 131 square meters can accommodate a party of four. All rooms feature standard air-conditioning and a door lock system made in Germany. As mentioned, living and dining rooms and a kitchen area with the essential kitchen facilities



The outdoor swimming pool, which has a separate kiddie pool, helps you cool after a long day of work.



"We're setting a new standard in urban living," says Astoria Plaza GM Ping Regalado.

— an electric stove, refrigerator, microwave oven, coffee and tea facilities, cookware and chinaware — are available. An audio-video entry phone provides added room security. It's all rounded out with the standard hotel amenities one cannot do without: cable TV, DVD player, radio/CD player, electronic safe, IDD/NDD phone with data port, and dial-up/broadband Internet with accompanying rates. If you wish to stay for the long haul, Astoria

has special rates for long-staying guests and group accommodations. Social and business functions are also the bread and butter of this highly dynamic hotel. Astoria lets you choose between two boardrooms and nine function rooms, the biggest of which can accommodate 250 people. A full complement of audio-visual equipment and other meeting facilities are provided. Guests should have no trouble finding parking space with the hotel's six levels of basement parking that can accommodate 300 vehicles. Highly trained service staff can assist with secretarial functions and themed designs to suit any corporate or social event. A fully functional business center also provides all the facilities and equipment needed by guests who still need to work while on the go. After all that, there's more. You come here to have a good time as well, right? Unwind after a long business day at Café Astoria. An outdoor swimming pool with a separate kiddie pool helps you cool off. If you want, get in shape at the fitness cen-

ter. But for something more relaxing, the newly renovated Stresscape Wellness spa is the right choice with massage services and spa treatment packages at reasonable prices. And even though the hotel is situated in what is considered the fringe of the Ortigas business district, a regular shuttle service makes sure that guests have easy access to all of the different restaurants and retail establishments in the area. This is one of those places that really want to set a new standard in hotel accommodations. That is most likely the difference between staying in a room and living in a home: you stop with one and you continue the experience with the other. For that complete urban living experience, you need not go very far once you've been to Astoria Plaza. *** Astoria Plaza is located at J. Escrivá Drive (formerly Amber Avenue), Ortigas Business District, Pasig City. For inquiries or reservations, call (+632) 687-1111, fax at (+632) 910-0370, e-mail at sales@astoriaplaza.com, or log on to www.astoriaplaza.com.