



**Tight fit:** Yotel, which has hotels at London's Gatwick and Heathrow airports, will be opening a site in New York City with rooms starting at a promotional rate of \$149 a night.

## NYC holds title of most new hotel rooms

By Barbara De Lollis  
USA TODAY

New York, the nation's most expensive hotel market, has the most new hotel rooms under construction.

Currently, 6,763 hotel rooms are being built in the city, the March STR/McGraw Hill Construction Dodge Pipeline Report says.

That's in marked contrast to a year ago, when New York had a 36% decrease in the number of rooms under construction.

The recession killed a number of hotel projects across the nation. And despite the construction in New York, there's an 8.2% drop in the number of rooms in the pipeline now compared with March 2010.

The next hotel scheduled to open in New York is the 316-room Dream Downtown hotel, affiliated with Wyndham. It is to open next month.

It will be followed by the Yo-

tel, from the London-based pod hotel operator. The hotel, scheduled to open in June, will be Yotel's first in the U.S.

The full-service hotel aims to sell its 669 small but stylish rooms at reasonable prices, with introductory rates of \$149 through Sept. 5. Although rooms measure 170 square feet, "They've been designed with lots of mirrors and glass, windows, clever storage and mechanical beds that fold away to make them feel larger than they are," CEO Gerard Greene says.

About a third of the rooms going up in New York aren't affiliated with a brand, according to Smith Travel Research.

Behind New York, Orlando ranks second in having the biggest year-over-year increase in hotel construction. There, 2,636 rooms are under construction. That's a 108% increase vs. March 2010.

Among hotels being built in

Orlando: the 400-room Wyndham Grand Orlando Resort Bonnet Creek, which is expected to open in October. In the summer of 2012, Disney is expected to start opening its 1,984-room Art of Animation Resort.

Rounding out the Top 10 cities in having new hotel rooms under construction: Washington, with 2,619 rooms being built; Dallas, with 1,475; Miami-Hialeah, 1,026; Philadelphia, 799; Chicago, 778; Atlanta, 691; Houston, 680; and Nashville, with 446 new rooms under construction.

About 1,000 of the new rooms being built in Dallas will be in high-end properties, such as the Omni Dallas Convention Center. It's scheduled to open in March.

What about Las Vegas, the city with the most hotel rooms in the nation? It has just 96 rooms under construction, the report says.

