



London leads the way, but boutique hotels still shine as nominees are announced in Great Britain and Ireland hotel awards

London, 10 June 2007 – The nominees have been collated and capital city hotels are leading the race to secure awards at the inaugural HotelClub Hotel Awards for the Best Hotels in Great Britain & Ireland 2007, proudly presented by HotelClub and Insight Guides.

London overwhelms with its extensive list of premium hotel nominations, which make up 48% of hotels put forward for awards in the search for the best hotels in the UK and Ireland. These range from perennial favourites such as The Ritz and The Savoy, through to funky boutique hotels The Hempel and The Soho Hotel.

More than 10,000 consumer voters nominated more than 22,000 of their favourite hotels in Great Britain and Ireland online at www.HotelClub.co.uk earlier this year. These results have been refined to form a list of 300 nominees, many of which will feature in 'Great Britain & Ireland's Best Hotels' guidebook, to be published by Insight Guides in early 2008. Igor Jovicic, country manager UK and Ireland for HotelClub.co.uk says the results show hotels in London are consistently providing quality service and accommodation.

"The breadth of the vote across London shows it's not just the typical favourites that are pushing customers' buttons. Competition is strong and hotels are meeting and exceeding expectations."

Jovicic also credits the rise in popularity of the 'city break' and the increase in people holidaying and travelling at home for the breadth of nominations in cities across the UK.

"City hotels are no longer the domain of the business traveller. More couples, families and young people are travelling for weekends in cities, making the most of great off-peak rates to experience city arts and entertainment.

“In addition, holidaying at home has increased in popularity. People are more conscious about the environment and travelling within the UK is now a fashionable and viable option,” said Jovicic.

Edinburgh, Dublin and Cardiff also have a strong city showing in their respective country categories, with more off-the-beaten track hotels also being recognised in nominations, such as Celtic Dromoland Castle Hotel in Newmarket-on Fergus in Ireland and the Flodifgarry Country House Hotel on the Isle of Skye.

‘Great Britain and Ireland Best Hotels’ is part of HotelClub.co.uk & Insight Guides ongoing partnership. The first book to be jointly produced was ‘Asia’s Best Hotels & Resorts’ in 2003, with a 2nd edition produced in 2005, followed in 2006 by ‘Australia & New Zealand’s Best Hotels & Resorts (including Pacific Islands)’. The guide to ‘Great Britain & Ireland’s Best Hotels and Resorts’ is due for release in early 2008.

HotelClub Hotel Awards Great Britain & Ireland Best Hotels 2007 is presented by HotelClub and Insight Guides, in conjunction with brakes & CBS Outdoor. HotelClub Hotel Awards 2007 will be presented in the following categories :

- Three best hotels in England
- Three best hotels in Scotland
- Three best hotels in Wales
- Three best hotels in Northern Ireland
- Three best hotels in Ireland
- Best Hotel in the Channel Islands
- Best Business Hotel
- Favourite Airline
- Best Family Hotel
- Best Service provided
- Best Country House Hotel
- Best Hotel Chain
- Favourite Destination

The winners will be announced at the inaugural HotelClub awards event to be held in London on June 21, 2007, hosted by Ben Fogle and introduced by Shaun Woodward, Minister for Creative Industries and Tourism.

About HotelClub

HotelClub (www.HotelClub.co.uk) is a global accommodation specialist website offering hotel bookings for up to 12 months in advance. It offers users the choice of over 23,000

hotels – at savings of up to 60% – in 100 countries. HotelClub is operated by Flairview Travel, a Travelport brand. Travelport is one of the largest and most geographically diverse travel companies, dedicated to creating the exceptional travel experiences the world demands.

For further information and a complete list of nominations please contact:

Casey Mead / Sophy Norris

Flagship Consulting

020 7886 8450

casey.mead@flagshipconsulting.co.uk / sophy.norris@flagshipconsulting.co.uk