

## London and Ireland sweep hotel awards

IT was a big night for both London and the Irish last month as the results were announced in the inaugural HotelClub Hotel Awards for Great Britain and Ireland.

The awards ceremony was hosted by online accommodation specialist HotelClub during a ceremony opened by outgoing tourism minister Shaun Woodward.

He said: "Tonight we are celebrating success and these examples of excellence.

"With the prize of the Olympic and Paralympic Games approaching, the challenge is now for every B&B and hotel to give every visitor a welcome to remember and ensure they want to return.

"Quality is key to the success of future UK tourism and these awards are a clear example of excellence in the industry"

### Business

Irish hotels took two of the top three gongs, with the Gresham in Dublin and Radisson SAS Hotel and Spa, Galway, both winning awards in the category for three best hotels in Great Britain and Ireland.

Ireland also took home two niche category trophies with Kelly's Resort Hotel and Spa in Rosslare winning Best Family Hotel and Culloden Estate and Spa in Belfast taking home the trophy for Best Business Hotel.

London is celebrating too, with capital city hotels making a clean

sweep in the Best Hotels in England category.

The Dorchester, the Ritz and Hilton London Metropole Hotel were all honoured, as was Claridge's, which won the coveted award for Best Service.

The HotelClub Hotel Awards are a "people's choice" programme. Earlier this year 10,000 consumer voters nominated more than 22,000 of their favourite hotels online at [hotelclub.co.uk](http://hotelclub.co.uk)

All winning hotels are also guaranteed a place in the *Great Britain and Ireland's Best Hotels* guide book, to be published by Insight early next year.

### Evaluation

HotelClub country manager UK and Ireland Igor Jovicic said the voting method meant the awards provided an honest evaluation of the places people in the UK and Ireland like to stay.

He added: "These results show London is as popular as ever, while the strong showing for Ireland demonstrates people are holidaying closer to home.

"It's now fashionable to travel in your own backyard and more people are discovering how much Ireland has to offer."

Other winners on the night include the Gleneagles Hotel in Auchterarder, which was awarded the title of Best Country House, and Hilton for Best Chain.

