



Ireland and London provide award-winning accommodation

-HotelClub announces winners at inaugural awards -

London, 21 June 2007

It was a big night for both London and Ireland as the results were announced in the inaugural HotelClub Hotel Awards for the best hotels in Great Britain and Ireland tonight.

The awards ceremony was hosted by online accommodation experts HotelClub and Insight Guides at Vinopolis during a ceremony opened by Minister for Creative Industries and Tourism, Shaun Woodward.

Shaun Woodward said: "Tonight we can celebrate 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"

Irish hotels took home two of the top three gongs with The Gresham in Dublin and Radisson SAS Hotel & Spa in Galway both winning awards in the Three best hotels in Great Britain and Ireland category. Ireland also took home two niche category trophies with Kelly's Resort Hotel & Spa in Rosslare winning Best Family Hotel and Culloden Estate and Spa in Belfast taking home 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' awards ceremony. Earlier this year 10,000* consumer voters nominated more than 22,000 of their favourite hotels online at www.hotelclub.co.uk. All winning hotels are also guaranteed a place in the '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 are truly based on a people's vote and provide an honest evaluation of the places people in the UK and Ireland like to stay.

"These results show London is as popular as ever with our customers looking for a city-break experience. Competition is strong and hotels are meeting and exceeding expectations.

"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 just 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 won Best Chain, with the most nominations for its hotels overall. England took out category of Best Destination, with British Airways being selected as the UK and Ireland's favourite airline.

The HotelClub Hotel Awards for Great Britain & Ireland Best Hotels 2007 was presented by HotelClub and Insight Guides, in conjunction with brakes & CBS Outdoor.

'Great Britain and Ireland's 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.

The complete list of winners in the HotelClub Hotel Awards 2007 is as follows:

Three best hotels in Great Britain and Ireland

- *The Dorchester – London, England*
- *The Gresham – Dublin, Ireland*
- *Radisson SAS Hotel & Spa – Galway, Ireland*

Three best hotels in England

- *The Dorchester – London*
- *The Ritz – London*
- *Hilton London Metropole Hotel – London*

Three best hotels in Scotland

- *The Balmoral – Edinburgh*
- *The Gleneagles Hotel - Auchterarder*
- *Sheraton Grand Hotel & Spa – Edinburgh*

Three best hotels in Wales

- *The Celtic Manor Resort – Newport*
- *Hilton Cardiff Hotel – Cardiff*
- *St David's Hotel & Spa - Cardiff*

Three best hotels in Northern Ireland

- *Culloden Estate & Spa – Belfast*
- *Europa Hotel – Belfast*
- *Slieve Donard Resort & Spa - Newcastle*

Three best hotels in Ireland

- *The Gresham – Dublin, Ireland*
- *Radisson SAS Hotel & Spa – Galway, Ireland*
- *The Slieve Russel Hotel - Cavan*

Best Hotel in the Channel Islands

- *Pomme d'Or - Jersey*

Best Business Hotel

- *Culloden Estate & Spa – Belfast*

Best Family Hotel

- *Kelly's Resort Hotel & Spa - Rosslare*

Best Service

- *Claridge's - London*

Best Country House Hotel

- *The Gleneagles Hotel - Auchterarder*

Best Hotel Chain

- *Hilton*

Favourite Destination

- *England*

Favourite Airline

- *British Airways*

The winners were announced at the inaugural HotelClub awards event held in London tonight, hosted by Ben Fogle and introduced by Shaun Woodward, Minister for Creative Industries and Tourism.

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* Source: HotelClub.co.uk Online Global Consumer Survey - 'Hunt for the Best Hotels in Great Britain & Ireland' conducted between 15 January – 31 March 2007.

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.

About Insight Guides

Insight Guides, published by APA Publications, are the world's largest collection of visual travel guides with over 200 guides. The series, which was established in 1970, is designed both as a fascinating background read and an essential on-the-spot reference to all aspects of a destination. Insight Guides are distinctive because they are written by local specialists. This unique local knowledge combined with both in-depth treatment of the history, culture and places, and photography that sets them apart from other guides on the market, means they appeal equally to armchair travellers and dedicated tourists alike.

About Brakes

Brakes is the leading supplier of chilled, frozen and ambient foods and non-food products to the hotel sector across the UK. Brakes strong understanding of the needs of hotels, combined with innovation in both its products and services, has allowed it to develop a market-leading offering. This commitment to provide an end to end service for its customers has transformed Brakes into a wholesaler that enables hotel caterers to add real value to their businesses.

About CBS Outdoor

CBS Outdoor sells media opportunities across the UK's bus fleets, the London Underground and National Rail networks. Engaging, entertaining and informative adverts capture and captivate millions of consumers on the move across the country, inspiring people to try new products and services wherever they are.

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

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