

The “crème de la crème” of the global hotel industry

Bangkok, Thailand – 27 November (Press Release)

The very best performances of top hoteliers from across the world were recognized and celebrated at the 2009 World Luxury Hotel Awards glitzy gala ceremony in Thailand hosted at the world renowned lebua at State Tower, Bangkok on the 27th of November 2009. Top Luxury Hotels, Lodges and Resorts kept their fingers crossed that they would be amongst the category finalists and winners.

The glamorous red-carpet Gala Ceremony evening was opened by Ms Jennee Phasuniramol, Network Manager from ASIAN News Network followed by a key note address to VIP's including senior management from leading hotel brands by Mr Thawatchi Arunyik, Executive Director Europe, Africa & middle East regions.

The World Luxury Hotel Awards is about congratulating hotels that have taken the extra step with regards to their facilities and service excellence as such differentiated themselves from 'good hotels' to 'exceptional hotels'. There is enormous competition in the Luxury hotel sector. The standards are constantly being raised to almost unprecedented levels of luxury and service. Good is no longer acceptable. Only the absolute best has now become the requirement for the seasoned Luxury Traveller said Marinique Truter, Exec. Manager WLHA.

Throughout the evening category winners and finalists were unveiled with live entertainment by the famous Leelavadee Quarted Band.

Luxury hotels, lodges and resorts situated across the globe were awarded. Amongst the 22 categories South Africa proudly walked away with 2 winners, Cape Royale Luxury Hotel & Residence won the Luxury Suite Hotel category, and Lion Sands Private Game Reserve was named as the worlds best Luxury Game Lodge.

The leading luxury hotel category went to Coco Palm Bodu Hithi, Maldives.

Thailand bagged 8 awards including the lebua at State Tower, Bangkok, Santhiya Resort & Spa, The Sarojin, Layana Resort & Spa, Sofitel Krabi Phokeethra Golf & Spa Resort, Dusit Thani Hua Hin, Silavadee Pool Spa Resort, Pimalai Resort & Spa.

The leading Luxury Hotel & Conference Centre went to Intercontinental Century City Chengdu, China.

Kempinski Hotel Gravenbruch Frankfurt won the Luxury Airport Hotel category and Adam & Eve Hotel, Turkey walked away as the leading Luxury Coastal Hotel title.

Solis Lough Eske Castel triumphed as the winner of the Luxury Country Hotel category whilst Kempinski Hotel Barbaros Bay Bodrum, Turkey won the Luxury Coastal Resort category.

The leading Luxury Casino Resort category was picked up by Hyatt Hotel & Casino Manila, Phillipines. The Luxury Lodge winning title went to Royal Zambezi Lodge, Zambia.

Royal Mougins Golf Resort, France triumphed in the Luxury Golf Resort category whilst Lake Okareka Lodge by lebua once again this year landed among the winners and walked away with the Luxury Country House category title.

We are not simply competing with other hotel chains, but with exclusive luxury brands worldwide. What we offer is an experience that is incomparable and truly memorable like visiting the wonders of the world. We aim to deliver an experience that will truly move you – quoting Ms Rattawadee Bualert owner of lebua Hotels and Resorts, host property for the 2009 World Luxury Hotel Awards.

Marinique Truter, Exec. Manager World Luxury Hotel Awards commented: I firmly believe that a World Luxury Hotel Awards is the highest accolade that a hotel can receive because it says more about the property than any brochure can communicate, any picture can portray and any personal testimonial can express. Despite the global economic recession, our winners have survived and even thrived. They have seen challenges as opportunities and are leading the way as industry leaders. You make us proud to be in this challenging but rewarding industry.

Winners and finalists of different categories are listed on the World Luxury Hotel Awards website www.luxuryhotelawards.com

The World Luxury Hotel Awards is an inspiration to nominees and other luxury properties on the global front to raise their levels of service excellence in order to feel comfortable in competing on an international level and to set a benchmark for themselves.

Winners and finalists were selected from votes cast by travel industry delegates.

The overall 2008 World Luxury Hotel Awards winner lebua at State Tower's CEO Mr Deepak Ohri proudly handed over the coveted trophy of overall excellence to this year's proud winner Emirates Palace Abu Dhabi who has set an industry example in 2009 with regards to overall excellence. Congratulations!