



Solis Lough Eske Castle Hotel named the world's best luxury country hotel

Donegal's only five star hotel celebrates prestigious World Luxury Hotel Awards win

Thursday 3rd December 2009: Donegal's only 5-star hotel Solis Lough Eske Castle has been named the world's top Luxury Country Hotel at the industry's most prestigious awards ceremony held in Bangkok, beating off competition from around the globe.

The stunning hotel near Donegal town landed the coveted Luxury Country Hotel accolade at the World Luxury Hotel Awards last weekend, just two years after it opened its doors following meticulous restoration of the original 17th century castle. In the space of just 18 months the castle was transformed from a ruin into Donegal's only Five Star hotel which is managed by Solis Hotels & Resorts.

Solis Lough Eske Castle was among 200 hotels worldwide shortlisted before being selected outright winner in the Luxury Country Hotel category. It was also shortlisted for the Luxury Spa Hotel award and The Luxury Hotel award, which were won by hotels in Thailand and the Maldives. Solis Lough Eske Castle was the only Irish hotel shortlisted this year and was competing against some of the best-known and luxurious properties across the world. The runners up in the Luxury Country Hotel category include De Hoek Country House Hotel in South Africa and the Gaia Retreat & Spa in Australia.

The Solis Hotels and Resorts brand was developed by legendary hotelier Horst Schulze and his team of hospitality experts. Solis Hotels and Resorts is a collection of resorts, hotels and residences offering a convergence of unparalleled designs, settings and experiences. Luxury "the Solis way" goes well beyond superbly appointed accommodation to reach Schulze's benchmark of elevated guest service.

Solis Lough Eske Castle boasts 95 spacious bedrooms and suites, an Aromatherapy Associates Spa, fitness centre and swimming pool, Cedars Restaurant, two bars and 600 m² of conference and banqueting facilities. Located just outside Donegal Town and nestled within 43-acres of forest woodland along the shore of Lough Eske, the hotel has redefined the meaning of luxury in the North-West.



General Manager, Andrew Turner said that the award is a huge endorsement not just of the first-class facilities and surroundings available at Solis Lough Eske Castle but also of the exceptional service offered by each and every member of the team, the majority of whom come from the local area. “We were already incredibly proud of our offering here in Donegal but to be selected for this global award so soon after opening is an endorsement of the quality offering we have made available here in the North West. It is a huge honour to be named the world’s best luxury country hotel. This is also a win for Donegal, which is, in our opinion, Ireland’s most beautiful tourist destination and now, we are happy to say, home of the 2009 world’s top Luxury Country Hotel.”

The World Luxury Hotel Awards are accepted as the pinnacle of achievement for Luxury Hotels worldwide and were established as a celebration of achievement in the hotel industry. They aim to congratulate hotels which have taken the extra step from being a ‘good hotel’ to becoming an ‘exceptional hotel’. Award winners set the benchmark for luxury hotels in achieving recognition for their world class facilities and service excellence. Nominations are made by both guests and members of the travel industry and the judging panel comprises 50 leading tour operators and travel industry consultants. The overall winner of The World Luxury Hotel Awards was the Emirates Palace, Dubai.

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