

Lough Eske Castle, a Solis Hotel & Spa, named the World Luxury Country Hotel for 2010

Donegal's only five star hotel celebrates prestigious win for second year in a row

Monday, October 18th, 2010: One of Ireland's most popular and Donegal's only 5-star hotel, Lough Eske Castle has received prestigious international recognition after being named the World's Luxury Country Hotel for the second year in a row by the World Luxury Hotel Awards (WLHA).

The award was presented to Lough Eske Castle, which is managed by Solis Hotels & Resorts, at a gala ceremony at the world renowned Dusit Thani Hua Hin hotel in Thailand.

Lough Eske Castle, which opened its doors just three years ago following meticulous restoration of the original 17th century castle, claimed the award for the second year running. It is the only Irish winner of a World Luxury Hotel Awards in 2010.

The World Luxury Hotel Awards are accepted as the pinnacle of achievement for Luxury Hotels worldwide and were established to celebrate ultimate achievement in the hotel industry.

Nominations for the awards are made by both members of the travel industry and guests. The judging panel comprises 50 leading tour operators and travel industry consultants from around the globe.

Lough Eske Castle was chosen for the award after being shortlisted among 200 hotels worldwide.

Commenting on the award, hotel owner and native Donegal man Pat Doherty said: "This is an extremely proud moment. I always wanted to do something special and create employment at the top end of the hotel industry in Donegal and to have our hotel get this type of international recognition gives me a huge sense of pride and achievement.

"I want to congratulate the hotel management company Solis Hotels & Resorts for maintaining the very high standards they set at the outset for the hotel and, indeed, to all of our very loyal staff. This is a wonderful success for not just the hotel but also for the tourism industry in the North West."

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 Jeroen Quint, who joined the Lough Eske Castle team this summer, said that the award is a tribute to the staff, management and owners of the hotel. "We have a wonderful family atmosphere here at the hotel and the Donegal welcome and friendliness is something that all our guests are instantly taken with. Together with the stunning location here on the shores of Lough Eske, at the foothills of the Bluestack Mountains, and the fact that the castle has been so beautifully restored, this really is a winning formula and we are honoured that the World Hotel Awards have recognized this.

Winning the award two years in-a-row is a massive acknowledgement of what has been achieved here and is very timely as well. Our domestic market here, across the north and south, is very strong but we are also now seeing real signs that the international tourism market is starting to emerge from the downturn and this award shows we are excellently placed to capitalise, not just for our but for Donegal's benefit."

The World Luxury Hotel Awards are the world's most prestigious Awards exclusive to the luxury hotel industry & recognise the best facilities and service excellence the industry has to offer. A complete list of global and country winners are listed on <http://www.luxuryhotelawards.com/winners2010.asp>

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