PRESS RELEASE

January 2016

Are you the Greenest Hotel of 2016?

The Green Hotelier Awards 2016 are now open. We're looking for the hotels in Europe, Middle East & Africa, Asia Pacific and the Americas with the best environmental and responsible initiatives and practices.

Following the success of 2015 when we opened the Green Hotelier Awards to hotels all over the world, we're again searching for hotels of any size or location which are working hard to be responsible businesses by reducing their carbon footprint, their water use and their waste output; which are positively impacting their local community and have fair labour practices and good employee initiatives. We want to hear about your environmentally responsible journey. Why did you decide to set out on the path, and where has it taken you?

Last year’s winners were extremely diverse, ranging from a passive house designed boutique hotel in Austria to an Indonesia paradise resort island, and from an eco-lodge in Ecuador to a Cape Town airport hotel.

Editor and awards co-judge Siobhan O’Neill said, “Green Hotelier aims to be a free resource showcasing best practice in sustainability from all hotels around the world in order that other hoteliers can replicate their initiatives and become more responsible businesses with improved environmental impacts globally. Not all solutions will work in all regions of the world, but every journey is a lesson we can learn from. This is the chance for the best green hotels around the world to share what they’ve learned with us and their peers to help the hospitality industry as a whole have a collective impact.

“The applicants in 2015 were wide-ranging and their various eco-initiatives were fascinating and effective. I can’t wait to learn more from this year’s applicants and to help share their stories and their sustainability journeys to the wider industry.”

The Green Hotelier Awards 2016 are open now with a closing date for applications is Friday 4th March. Winners will be announced during Responsible Business Week starting 18th April 2016.

There will be a winner and two runners up for each of the four regions. We are hoping to attract entries from hotels of all shapes and sizes - whether you’re a rustic island resort or inner city business hotel - if you’ve got a green story to tell we'd love to hear from you.

To enter

Simply download the application form, fill it out and send it back to us by post or email (see form for details). You will need to save a copy of the downloaded form and use the 'add text' button on Adobe Reader to enter your details. Alternatively select ‘Annotations’ and the text icon. Or you can convert the form to a Word document.

If you have any issues you can email for a copy of the form in pdf or Word via info@greenhotelier.org.

The deadline for applications is Friday 4th March. Entries must be submitted at an individual property level, whether independent or part of a group. Please follow the instructions and read the application tips for further guidance. Entries will be judged on how the hotel has addressed energy, water, waste, community and workplace sustainability. Whilst evidence of success in the above categories is important, innovation is also a
key factor - we want to find the green pioneers out there, and understand the journeys they’ve undertaken. What challenges did you have to overcome? What have you learned? What are the surprising outcomes?

Let us know you’ve entered or find out who else is getting involved by following us on Twitter and using the hashtag #GHawards2016.

**Announcing the winners**

Winners and runners up will be announced during Responsible Business Week starting on 18th April 2016. Award winners will receive:

- Exclusive rights to the ‘Green Hotelier Winner 2016’ badge (to be used electronically or/ and in print)
- A best practice case study and article announcing the win on Green Hotelier
- A feature in the monthly Green Hotelier newsletter
- Promotion through press and social media during Responsible Business Week and beyond

The runners up will be featured in an awards round up article on Green Hotelier and receive the opportunity to submit a best practice case study.

*Awards terms and conditions:

1. Awards are open to owners of hotels in each of the four regions, aged 18 years or older, except employees or contractors of Green Hotelier and anyone connected with the promotion or their direct family members.
2. By entering the awards, the participants agree: to be bound by these terms and conditions; that their surname and county of residence may be released if they win; and that the content and images they submit may be used by Green Hotelier for online and social media content.
3. Entrants should follow the instructions carefully in order to enter. Entries received after the specified closing date and time will not be considered, and cannot be returned.
4. Entrants must supply their full name, email address and postal address.
5. Only one entry will be permitted per property, regardless of method of entry. Bulk entries made by third parties will not be permitted.
6. The winning entrant(s) will be the one(s) that in the judges’ opinion is the best. There will be a winner and two runners up for each of the four regions.
7. Winners are awarded a certificate of recognition and will be profiled in Green Hotelier and identified across our social media channels. There is no cash alternative and prizes will not be transferable. Prizes must be taken as stated and cannot be deferred. We reserve the right to substitute the prize with one of the same or greater value.
8. Our decision as to the winner is final and no correspondence relating to an award will be entered. The name and county of residence of the winner(s) will be available [by sending a request to info@greenhotelier.org] within three months of the closing date of the promotion.
9. The winner(s) will be notified by email within 40 days of the close of the promotion.
10. We reserve the right to amend these terms and conditions or to cancel, alter or amend the awards at any stage, if deemed necessary in our opinion, or if circumstances arise outside our control.
11. We exclude liability to the full extent permitted by law for any loss, damage or injury occurring to the participant arising from his or her entry into a competition or occurring to the winner(s) arising from his or her acceptance of a prize.
12. The awards are subject to the laws of England.
Notes for editors
The International Tourism Partnership drives responsible business in the hospitality industry by engaging with the world’s leading hotel companies.

ITP turns responsible ambition and good ideas into positive action.

We do this by sharing best practice, offering practical products and programmes and facilitating collaboration in one of the world’s biggest industries.

For our members we provide a non-competitive platform for leaders to share ideas, build relationships and work together on making the industry more responsible. For hoteliers around the world, however big and small, we provide access to valuable information and resources at no cost, allowing them to drive their own responsible business agendas. Most of this information is freely available on www.greenhotelier.org

ITP is an initiative of Business in the Community working for a fairer society in a more sustainable future.

For more information on ITP and our programmes visit http://tourismpartnership.org/.

For media/ further information, please contact:
Siobhan O’Neill, Communications Manager, ITP siobhan.oneill@bitc.org.uk