



PRESS RELEASE

TRAVEL+LEISURE MAGAZINE READERS NAMED IRELAND'S ASHFORD CASTLE AND THE MERRION TO THE 2010 WORLD'S BEST AWARDS FOR EUROPEAN HOTELS

New York - July 14, 2010: Readers of *Travel + Leisure* Magazine voted luxury Irish hotels Ashford Castle and The Merrion among the top hotels in Europe as part of the **2010 World's Best Awards**, it was announced last week in New York City.

Ashford Castle, Ireland's most historic five-star castle hotel, was featured as one of the *Top 10 Resorts in Europe*. The castle dates back to 1228 and is set on 350 acres of County Mayo on the shores of Lough Corrib and the River Cong, with a spectacular backdrop of woodlands, lake, river and mountains. It is renowned for a range of country sports including an equestrian center, fly fishing, an exclusive nine-hole golf course and Ireland's first school of falconry.

The Merrion, a union of four landmark Georgian townhouses combined with a contemporary wing that wraps around beautiful private gardens, was featured as one of the *Top 15 Large City Hotels in Europe*. With its extensive art collection, intimate drawing rooms and working fireplaces, the hotel is an ideal home base for enjoying the riches of Dublin.

For the past 15 years, *Travel+Leisure* has invited travelers to annually rate resorts on their rooms, facilities, location, service, restaurants/food and value. The resorts with the best overall ratings are then given the designation of "World's Best."

The full results will be featured in the upcoming August 2010 issue of the magazine. For more information, visit <http://www.travelandleisure.com/worldsbest/2010>.

For more information about Ashford Castle, visit www.ashford.ie.
For more information about The Merrion, visit www.merrionhotel.ie.

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