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Press Release: August 2009

21

## QHotels Gets Bronze and Silver for Going Green

QHotels, AA Hotel Group of the Year, is celebrating after all its 21 properties in the UK were awarded at least bronze accreditation within the Green Tourism Business Scheme (GTBS).

GTBS, the leading green tourism certification scheme in the UK, assesses hotels against a rigorous set of criteria that includes energy and water efficiency, waste management, environmental impact, biodiversity and innovation.

In a period of just three months, all 21 of the QHotels properties achieved the bronze standard, with nine properties scoring silver.

Silver properties include Forest Pines Hotel & Golf Resort, Crewe Hall, Nottingham Belfry, Norton Park, The Cheltenham Chase Hotel, The Westerwood Hotel & Golf Resort, The Cambridge Belfry, The Hampshire Court Hotel and Ashford International Hotel, the highest scoring hotel in the group. Of these, two are less than 5% from a gold grading.

Andrea Nicholas, Manager of the Green Tourism Business Scheme comments: "Overall the GTBS assessors were impressed with all 21 properties and their positive and focused approach to becoming more sustainable. Some of the best practices noted included the use of the latest LED lights, condensing boilers and ultra violet filtration of swimming pools to reduce chlorine demands.

"It was evident that all sites were extremely committed and enthusiastic, not just in gaining an award, but aiming ultimately for a gold standard. Guests should feel assured that by choosing QHotels they are helping to support a genuinely environmentally focused hotel chain" she added.

Vivien Sirotkin, Director of Hotel Operations at QHotels comments: "We are very proud of this achievement, as it follows the implementation of our new CSR policy this year, and especially pleased with the short time frame in which these excellent standards were achieved by our Green Champions and hotel staff".

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Vivien adds: "Guests have long been aware of sustainability related issues and this certification demonstrates our environmental credibility in a clear and comparable way. As a group we are committed to continually developing in these areas – this is only the beginning!"

Not one to rest on their laurels, the hotel group is also working towards other CSR developments including the selection of a company nominated charity for 2010 and a group wide carbon offsetting scheme.

- That's all for now -

The QHotels 21: **The Westerwood Hotel & Golf Resort** - Near Glasgow... **Aldwark Manor Golf & Spa Hotel** - York... **The Queens** - Leeds... **Forest Pines Hotel & Golf Resort** - North Lincolnshire... **Tankersley Manor** – Tankersley, Nr Sheffield... **The Midland** - Manchester... **The Park Royal** – Cheshire ... **Crewe Hall** – Crewe, Cheshire... **The Nottingham Belfry** - Nottingham... **Telford Hotel & Golf Resort** – Telford, Shropshire... **Stratford Manor** - Stratford-upon-Avon... **The Stratford** - Stratford-upon-Avon... **Chesford Grange** – Kenilworth, Warwickshire... **Hellidon Lakes Golf & Spa Hotel** – Hellidon, Northamptonshire... **The Cheltenham Chase Hotel** - Gloucestershire... **The Cambridge Belfry** – Cambourne, Cambridge... **The Oxford Belfry** –Thame, Oxford... **The Hampshire Court Hotel** - Basingstoke, Hampshire... **Norton Park** - Winchester, Hampshire... **Bridgewood Manor** – Chatham, Kent... **Ashford International Hotel** – Ashford, Kent

If you've got a question, need a few pictures or simply want to pay us a visit... you only have to ask:

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#### A little bit about us:

- QHotels prides itself in its collection of 21 carefully nurtured, unique properties throughout the UK. Some hide away in the most beautiful countryside, some preside over bustling city centres, but each with its own little idiosyncrasies, ensures guest enjoy a truly unique experience - whether staying for pleasure or business.
- Founded in 2003 by Managing Director - Michael Purtil, Sales Director - David Taylor, Finance Director – Ian Goulding and investment company Alchemy Partners; the collection has grown from 2 to 21 properties over the last five years.
- The collection, which boasts iconic properties including The Midland in Manchester, The Queens in Leeds and Crewe Hall in Cheshire, has been voted AA Hotel Group of the Year 2008/09 and is ranked 17<sup>th</sup> in The Times Buyout FastTrack register of the 100 fastest growing private equity backed businesses... one of the few companies to feature in the top 100 in two consecutive years. In addition to this... January 2009 alone saw QHotels shortlisted for the Business Hotel Brand of the Year Award at the Business Travel Awards and Winchester property Norton Park scoop two HRS Hotel Excellence Awards (Excellence in Meetings and Excellence in Business Management).

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- Take a look at our website [www.QHotels.co.uk](http://www.QHotels.co.uk)