

# Catey Awards 2005

## City Inn Westminster: Winner Group Hotel of the Year Award

City Inn Westminster was presented with the Group Hotel of the Year Award for 2005 sponsored by Johnson Diversey at the 22nd Annual *Caterer and Hotelkeeper Awards*, or “the Cateys” as they are more affectionately known in the industry. The awards were held at Le Méridien Grosvenor House hotel in London on Tuesday 5th July.

The vote for Group Hotel of the Year was down to what judge Andrew McKenzie, Managing Director at the Vineyard, Stockcross called “a vote for design”.

A relative newcomer to the UK hotel scene, City Inn focuses on building and operating brand new contemporary styled hotels in prime city centre locations. Their first hotel opened in Bristol in 1999, with hotels in Glasgow (2000) and Birmingham (2001). The newest property in this up and coming group, City Inn Westminster opened in September 2003 and was the biggest new-build hotel in London for over 30 years. The company currently have a fifth hotel under construction in Manchester, with ambitious plans to continue its growth further.

High quality restaurants and bars, that are attractive destinations in their own right, are an essential element of the City Inn brand. In Westminster the acclaimed 200-seat City Café together with the stylish and lively Millbank Lounge brought in just over £3m in the first year of trading, with non-residents accounting for nearly half (46%) of the covers at lunch and dinner.

The hotel experiences exceptional levels of customer satisfaction, and in its first full year of trading has performed strongly both in terms of occupancy and average room rates. Simon Johnson, Analyst at UBS Investment Bank, noted that the bar and restaurant were very popular in their own right, ensuring City Inn hotels are “not just a room factory”.

“Everything they have done since Bristol has been a progression,” says judge David Young, owner of the Cross at Kingussie. “Each new opening has been better, and with this hotel they have gone in and exploded the marketplace. It’s very hospitality driven, not starchy or informal.

City Inn Westminster is a chic, contemporary hotel that does something different in terms of design, it delivers quality food and beverage at affordable prices. Gordon Campbell Gray, Managing Director of One Aldwych, commented that the hotel is “original, innovative and provides guests with what they want. City Inn has got guts to it. I admire it enormously. I think it has got the wow factor”.

Commenting on the award David Orr Chief Executive said: “It is very pleasing for our Westminster hotel to receive another award, particularly one so prized in the industry. It is extremely flattering to receive accolades from one’s peers and we are honoured to join the illustrious list of former winners. At City Inn we aim to provide a “full service” hotel that is a stylish and contemporary alternative to the typical chain

hotel. To date customer reaction to this approach has been extremely positive and receipt of this award reflects a similar reaction from our colleagues in the industry.”

City Inn, 30 John Islip Street, London SW1P 4DD. Reservations: 020 7630 1000

#### A b o u t C i t y I n n L i m i t e d

City Inn is at the forefront of a new ‘rising star’ sector of high quality, stylish hotels targeting the corporate and leisure markets in prime city centre locations. Founded in 1995 by Sandy Orr, Donald MacDonald and David Orr, the City Inn brand provides modern luxury with an emphasis on personalised service and restrained style. Each hotel features the acclaimed CITY CAFé restaurant, offering contemporary British dining of an exceptional standard. Information about City Inn and its services can be found at [www.cityinn.com](http://www.cityinn.com)

Ends

For further information on City Inn please contact Flora Gandolfo at Roche Communications on 020 7436 1111.

For further information on the awards please contact Jane Cartwright on 020 8652 3659 or Gill East on 020 8652 8825.

#### Notes - Judges

GORDON CAMPBELL GRAY, Managing Director – One Aldwych

GORDON JACKSON, General Manager – Thorpe Park Hotel & Spa

SIMON JOHNSON, Analyst – UBS Investment Bank

ANDREW MCKENZIE, Managing Director – the Vineyard, Stockcross

DAVID YOUNG, owner of the Cross, Kingussie

SIMON NUMPHUD, Key Accounts Manager - AA Hotel Services

Please credit Caterer and Hotelkeeper as the source of this story. Caterer and Hotelkeeper is the UK's leading weekly magazine for the hospitality industry. Caterer and Hotelkeeper is published by Reed Business Information (RBI), a division of Reed Business and a member of Reed Elsevier, the world's leading publisher and information provider