

g is for gorgeous

Galway **Hotel** named in top three world listing for ambience and design



By Angela Coyle

DESIGNED by renowned milliner and Galway native Philip Tracey, the **g Hotel** is one of Ireland's most luxurious spa-hotels located in the heart of vibrant Galway city and recently named one of the top three **hotels** in the world for ambience and design in the Conde Nast Traveller Gold List 2009. As soon as you enter the lobby of this cutting-edge **hotel**, you are transported back to a time of old world glamour that is missing from so many locations around Ireland in the year 2009. **g** may well stand for gorgeous with the exquisite, award-winning, five star **hotel** having also announced that their Linda Evangelista Suite featured in the internationally acclaimed Elite Traveller Magazines List of the Top 101 Suites in the World recently.

"You'll adore madcap milliner Philip Tracey's approach to **hotel** design," states the magazine article. "Not limited by convention, his eccentric choices – think graphic zebra rugs and a bathroom in wall-to-wall mirrors – are a glamorous cocktail of high fashion and playful kits. The designer's attention to detail extended right down to engineering the look of the Frette linens."

Overlooking Lough Atalia, the special touch of Philip Tracey is evident everywhere – from the bespoke concierge wall to the artwork in every room. The **hotel** evokes old-fashioned Hollywood glamour with the dark and intimate reception setting the tone with black glass walls acting as a frame for a tank

of Connemara-bred seahorses. With individually styled and themed lounges such as the Grand Salon, the Pink Salon and more masculine Blue Salon, the **g** offers a stunning environment to meet friends and relax.

Meanwhile, guest bedrooms are havens of tranquillity. Tracey says his ideas for bedroom designs were inspired by the landscapes and seashores of County Galway. The **hotel** offers a total of 101 guestrooms including three speciality suites, 16 luxury suites and 10 junior suites.

The **hotel's** restaurant Matz at the **g** offers a contemporary Irish menu with a strong European influence. Award-winning Executive Chef Stefan Matz also oversees the **g's** sister properties Ashford Castle and **Hotel** Meyrick. He prides himself on sourcing predominantly locally supplied fresh produce, citing the Galway Food Market as an exceptional resource for local, artisan and organic produce. Main courses are priced at €19 to €32 which includes vegetables. Starters range from €6.50 to €15.50. Meanwhile, each started, main course and dessert has a perfectly matched wine recommendation with wine being available by the glass from €7.50 to €10.

ESPA are world leaders in spa design and product, and the ESPA at the **g** is no exception. It comprises eight treatment rooms, four beauty suites, a vitality pool with soothing and therapeutic views of the water wall feature, a crystal steam room, lifestyle shower, rain shower, rock sauna, an ice fountain,

heated loungers and a glass pavilion relaxation room overlooking the zen garden. A state of the art fitness centre completes the experience.

Afternoon tea is proving to be very popular also at the **g**, with the sales team saying that they will soon be offering afternoon tea accompanied by classic movies such as Breakfast at Tiffany's in the near future. With a cinema located closeby, other offers coming along in the near future include dinner and cinema night; spa, dinner and a movie and spa and bar packages. With a special offer currently running at €89 per person sharing per night proving very popular with the general public, the **hotel** is proud to acknowledge that 85% of their customers are from the Irish market.

It is definitely well worth taking the trip over to Galway to check out the exquisite Philip Tracey designs and enjoy the 'ambience and design' for which the **g hotel** was named one of the top three **hotels** in the world by the prestigious Conde Nast Gold List 2009.

Damien O'Riordain, General Manager at the **g hotel** sums up the staff excitement in response to the award by saying: "We are absolutely thrilled with this prominent award. The entire team at the **g** work exceptionally hard to provide a second to none hospitality experience for each and every guest. Receiving this honour assures we are creating a desirable atmosphere for all our visitors and we will continue to promote this award."