



BEALES ARE THE BEST - ITS OFFICIAL

Beales Hotels of Hertfordshire has been named as Best UK Family Business 2008 in the Greater London region. Beating more than 150,000 other businesses, Beales Hotels has been recognised as a first-class family run business with this prestigious Coutts award.

The Coutts Prize for Family Business recognises the best run family business in England and Wales. Beales Hotels was crowned the winner at a ceremony held in London on Tuesday 11th March.

Beales Hotels is the oldest family business in Hertfordshire, dating back eight generations to 1769. The company owns two highly rated four star rated hotels, both of which have achieved 2 AA rosettes for fabulous food in their restaurants, West Lodge Park Hotel in Hadley Wood and Beales Hotel in Hatfield.

Jonathan Haggart, Regional Chairman of the evaluation committee said :

"The things that impressed the committee about Beales Hotels included : their sheer passion and excitement for business, which has seen the business through 230 years of family ownership across eight generations; their strong and open communication mechanism established to manage and inform the increasing number of family shareholders; their ability to reinvent their brand through a programme of heavy investment and divestment; and the family's substantial contribution to charitable and community causes which includes donating 16% of the annual dividends to the Beale charitable trust and supporting art-based initiatives in the local community."

This is the second prestigious award for Beales Hotels this year ; just last month the company was voted overall winner of the 2008 City of London Sustainable City Awards, recognising their environmental achievements. Beating national companies such as Sainsburys, Beales Hotels was applauded by the City of London Corporation for their successful reductions in landfill waste, water use and carbon dioxide emissions.

Andrew Beale is the eighth generation of Beales to run the successful family business:

" I am delighted and honoured to have won the Coutts Prize for Family Business 2007/8 in the Greater London area and pay tribute to the seven previous generations of Beales who have run this great company and to the two hundred people who currently work with me to offer fantastic levels of customer care to our guests at both our hotels. In these days of globalisation, it is easy to forget that most people still work in family businesses, and when big names in the financial world are crashing down, we all need reminding that family businesses are conservatively run and are more likely to survive any recession. I am deeply proud to be a leader among family businesses and thank the great team at Coutts Bank for their tremendous support"

Beales Hotels will now go on to compete in the national finals to be held in London on 5th June 2008.

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