

## Akademie Street named world's best boutique hotel



*Designer furniture and original art decorate the guest rooms*

Akademie Street Boutique Hotel has been announced as the World's Best Boutique Hotel 2017. The announcement took place at the World Boutique Hotel Association's annual awards ceremony in Merchant Taylors' Hall, London. The event brought together an array of niche hotel owners, travel and lifestyle press, as well as travel industry influencers from all four corners of the world.

Hotel owner, Paul Kinney, received the top award of the night from this year's keynote speaker, Wladimir Klitschko, two-time world champion boxer and newly turned boutique hotelier. Paul acknowledged being humbled by the recognition of their business, "I'm honoured to accept this award amongst a family of hotel owners who are committed to providing an extraordinary experience for their guests. On behalf of all our team in South Africa, we're grateful to be here and are inspired to be as different and unique, as you all are."

Akademie Street was selected from over 600 nominees in over 80 countries. With several of South Africa's top restaurants on its doorstep, Akademie Street has eight themed suites, five private buildings and four heated pools. Judges praised the

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hotel's characterful buildings, stunning Orangerie and carefully curated furniture and collectibles from world famous designers. The judges commended the hotel's dedication to detail in every aspect; from the sumptuous breakfast made using ingredients sourced from local food artisans to the evening piano recitals, during cocktail and wine hour. Above all, the Awards look for hotels whose staff deliver emotional warmth to guests without compromising a world-class level of service. Akademie Street Boutique Hotel, they said, perfected this balance.

The World Boutique Hotel Awards is the first and only international awards organisation exclusively dedicated to recognising excellence among boutique hotels. The awards ceremony, now in its seventh year prides itself on recognising trailblazing hotels that give a unique personal touch. What makes these evaluations unique is that each property is visited by an expert judge; ensuring nominations are based on first-hand experience of dining and entertainment, design, facilities, location, service and overall emotional impact. ■

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