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Prestigious tourism award for top hotel

A luxury hotel has scooped a top award.

Seaham Hall has topped a remarkable year by winning England's Leading Spa Resort 2007 at the annual World Travel Awards last night.

They are hailed as the travel industry's equivalent to the Oscars, with the hotel triumphing over other destination spas across the UK.

The ceremony was held at the Marriott Gosforth Park Hotel and has previously been held in Dubai and New York.

It was broadcast by the BBC World channel to 250million homes and covered by international media.

Debrah Dhugga, chief executive of Tom's Companies, which owns Seaham Hall and Serenity Spa, received the award.

She said: "We are absolutely delighted to have won such a huge accolade.

"This is a fantastic achievement not only for Tom's Companies, but also to have the recognition as a world wide leading hotel and spa resort and situated in the North East.

"I am sure it will help boost tourism in the region."

The latest trophy comes after a string of other awards won by the business this year.

These include Hotel of the Year at last month's North East Tourism awards and the top prize in British Beauty and Spa awards.

Last year it obtained its five-star red star status and brought the only Michelin star to the region at its award winning restaurant The White Room.

It has previously been named best spa in the world at the Gala Spa awards in 2006.

The North East beat off competition to stage the two-day awards event from Poitou-Charentes in France and Saxony in Germany following One NorthEast's Passionate People, Passionate Places advertising campaign.

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