

On top of the world

The world's leading brands celebrated their ability to turn a year of adversity into one of opportunity at the World Travel Awards 2009 Grand Final. The star-studded ceremony on November 8 at London's Grosvenor House marked the culmination of a year-long search for the very best travel brands in the world, covering seven continents, 166 countries and 3,200 travel organisations



Steve Ridgway, CEO Virgin Atlantic Airways, centre left, and cabin crew accepting the World's Leading Travel Commercial and World's Leading Transatlantic Airline awards from Graham Cooke, president and founder, World Travel Awards, centre right

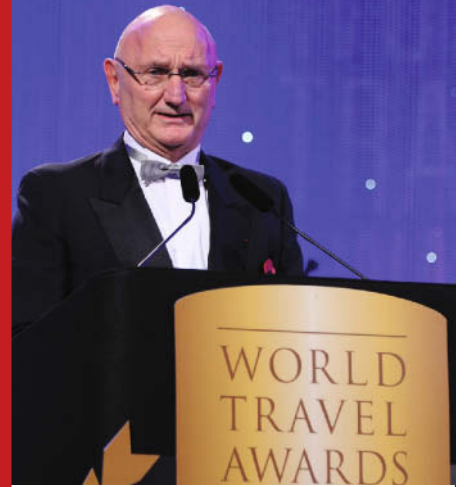


Tamara Beckwith and Bobby Davro



From left: Claudio Silvestri, CEO, Casa de Campo; reigning Miss World Ksenia Sukhinova; and Graham Cooke, president and founder, World Travel Awards

The Great Room, Grosvenor House, the setting for the World Travel Awards Grand Final 2009



Jean-Claude Baumgarten, president, WTTC makes the opening remark



The opening performance was by George Sampson, winner of Britain's Got Talent 2008

From left: Peter Baumgartner, executive vice-president marketing and product, Etihad Airways; Graham Cooke, president and founder, World Travel Awards; and James Hogan, CEO, Etihad Airways, accepting World's Leading Airline award



Kumari Selja, minister for tourism, India, accepting the award for World's Leading Destination Marketing Campaign for Incredible India