

Cardiff scoops yet more awards



Vale Resort named best hotel in UK for families

The Vale Resort, Hensol near Cardiff has been named as the UK's Best Large Family-Friendly Hotel in the prestigious Hotel Excellence awards.

The 143 bedroom hotel, in a 650-acre rural setting, has enjoyed significant success since it opened, with a string of awards including most recently two AA rosette awards for its restaurants as well as being previous winners of the UK Fitness club and Wales Leading Golf Resort.

Hostel ranked with world's best

The Riverhouse Backpackers in Cardiff has been ranked as one of the top 10 hostels in the world at the annual 'Hoscars' awards, organised by Hostel-world.com. The family-run business also picked up awards for the best hostel in the UK and for the best staff, for the second year running.

Park Plaza top for conferences

Cardiff's Park Plaza hotel has been voted Number 1 hotel in the UK by BDRC — Business Development Research Consultants — using feedback from event hosts. Hugh Hillary (pictured), Park Plaza general manager said: "We continue to build on our reputation for offering all companies and guests value for money, through good quality service that exceeds their expectations."

**World's
top arts
prize:
Entries on
show**

**Page
2**

**Mamma
Mia!
West End
comes to
Cardiff Bay**

**Page
3**

**Cricket: The
Aussies are
back at the
Swalec
Stadium**

**Page
5**



Cardiff now an easy hop from North Devon coast

Day trips across the Bristol Channel will be on offer from Penarth Marina this summer as Severn Link launch an new service to and from Ilfracombe.

Visitors to the English resort will also be offered day trips to Cardiff, with a direct bus link to take passengers into the city.

The new service will mean the attractions of Cardiff, including the airport, Millennium Stadium, St David's Dewi Sant shopping, historic buildings and culture, will be less than two hours away for people in North Devon.

Castle's spring events

31 March

Decorate your own bonnet or crown using a variety of material and take part in a parade to show off your creation.

3 April

A day of Easter-themed activities. Take part in the Easter Treasure Trail, try your hand at egg-rolling, or book into one of our egg decorating workshops.

8 April

Take a walking tour of the Castle's hidden interiors - the nooks and crannies which are not always accessible to the visitor. Castle Curator, Matthew Williams repeats last year's sell-out session, but adds in some extra surprises.

16 and 16 May

The Romans return in force, some 1600 years after the last legionary soldier left the fort located here. With plenty of participation for children, including dressing-up, drills and games, it promises be a day of immersion in all things Roman. Pre-booking essential for all events.

+44(0)29 2087 8100

Top arts prize Artes Mundi is highlight at National Museum

During your visit to the Welsh Capital don't miss a trip to the exhibition of the UK's biggest contemporary art prize Artes Mundi which takes place every two years.

This year Artes Mundi 4 brings together outstanding artists from around the world whose works stimulate thinking about the human condition and humanity using the media of drawing, painting, photography, film, video and installation.

The artists explore issues of national identity, globalisation, consumerism, propaganda and migration.

The work of the eight shortlisted artists which have been chosen from research and over 500 nominations from all over the world will be shown in an exhibition in the National Museum Cardiff from March 11 to June 6, with support from the Arts Council for Wales. The £40,000 prize will be awarded in May.

The aim of Artes Mundi is to give a platform to contemporary artists who are established in their own countries but have previously

Best in modern art on show



Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru
Arts Council of Wales

received little UK recognition. The final eight artists whose work has been selected are from Israel, Peru, Bulgaria, Taiwan, Russia, Kyrgyzstan and Albania. Admission to the exhibition is free. Live Guides give further background and answer questions in free tours daily. Events including Lunchtime talks plus activities for families during the holidays will also give further insight into this unique Exhibition. Indian artist N S Harsha was the winner of the Artes Mundi 3 prize in 2008. He impressed the judges with the scope of his work and its range and variety of approach, from painting and installation to community activities.

Talent's back on stage at the CIA

Britain's Got Talent The Live Tour returns this summer for a third action-packed, headline-grabbing, awe-inspiring national tour!

Arriving in Cardiff on 25 June, expect another incredible mix of raw talent from the massively popular ITV1 show. With top live acts including musicians, acrobats, dance troupes, magicians and comedians set to take part, Britain's Got Talent The Live Tour 2010 is the perfect night out for all the family to enjoy.

Last year's live tour saw Diversity storm the stage with their slick street dance moves and innovative choreography, Susan Boyle wow the crowds with her unique voice and sensational stage presence and people's favourites Stavros Flatley bring Cypriot charm and a party atmosphere to arenas across the UK.

Strictly - for fun!

Strictly Come Dancing - The Professionals features the world champion dancers from the smash hit BBC TV series at Cardiff's WMC for a whole week from 19 to 22 May.

Russians are coming

The Moscow State Circus returns to Cardiff's New Theatre from 18 to 20 March with this opportunity to see the award-winning show LEGENDA. The cast includes Russia's greatest and most talented circus performers.



Mamma Mia! Top musical makes its debut in Cardiff

The internationally-acclaimed musical Mamma Mia! will come to Wales Millennium Centre this Christmas for the first time from 16 November until 23 January.

This feel-good production has been enthralled audiences around the world for the past five years and has now been seen by more than three million people.

Mamma Mia! will be a very special Christmas treat for audiences to the Centre.

Inspired by 22 of ABBA's best-known

hits, the musical tells the story of a mother and daughter the night before the daughter's wedding. Set on a Greek Island, Mamma Mia! is a sunny, funny story of love, laughter and friendship.

Judy Craymer, the musical's creator and producer said; 'It's so exciting that the show is coming to Wales Millennium Centre. The production has been so embraced by audiences around the world and I'm sure the people of Wales will have a fantastic time at the show.'

Michael Ball's in town for Hairspray

The hit musical Hairspray comes to Wales Millennium Centre for just five weeks from 24 March to 30 April. Starring Michael Ball as Edna in the role of his life, Hairspray tells the story of Tracy Turnblad, a big girl with big hair and an even bigger heart as she sets out to follow her extraordinary dreams, inspire her mum and win the boy she loves.

How to contact Cardiff venues

Wales Millennium Centre

T: +44(0)8700 402000

www.wmc.org.uk

Cardiff International Arena

T: +44(0)29 2022 4488

www.livenation.co.uk

St David's Hall

T: +44(0)29 2087 8444

www.stdavidshallcardiff.co.uk

New Theatre

T: + 44(0)29 2087 8889

www.newtheatrecardiff.co.uk

Sherman Cymru,

T: +44(0)29 2064 6900

www.shermancymru.co.uk

Cardiff Castle

T: +44(0)29 2087 8100

www.cardiffcastle.com

Millennium Stadium

T: +44(0)8442 777 888

www.ticketmaster.co.uk

Looking ahead in Cardiff 2010



RHS Show Cardiff, Bute Park, Cardiff Castle

16 - 18 April 2010

Great Welsh Beer & Cider Festival Cardiff International Arena

10-12 June 2010

Cardiff International Food & Drink Festival, Cardiff Bay

9 -11 July 2010 FREE EVENT

Cardiff Harbour Festival, Cardiff Bay

28 – 30 August 2010 FREE EVENT

The Great British Cheese Festival, Cardiff Castle

25 - 26 September 2010

Cardiff International Food & Drink Festival

Cardiff International Food & Drink Festival will provide a real flavour of Wales as well as a chance to sample some fine cuisine from around the world. On the festival menu will be a Food Piazza, Producers Fayre, Craft Market and Farmer's Market all of which are sure to provide something for every visiting foodie! A Cardiff Festival event.

www.cardiff-festival.com

RHS Show Cardiff

The gardening year starts here. Inspirational show gardens, beautiful displays of flowers, gardening advice and a host of fun activities.

www.rhs.org.uk/cardiff



Great Welsh Beer & Cider Festival

The Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) will be transforming the Cardiff International Arena into the biggest pub in Wales. The Great Welsh Beer & Cider Festival is the premier real ale event in Wales and includes the Champion Beer of Wales competition which is held on 11th June. There are now approximately 35 real ale breweries in Wales and CAMRA hope to present beers from each brewery, as well as real ales from across the UK.

www.gwbcf.org.uk/

The Great British Cheese Festival

Fabulous food, great company and an amazing array of cheeses to try, taste and buy. Don't miss the cheese market, Cardiff Arms Pub, demonstrations and workshops, plus cheese skittles and cheese tossing for some madcap entertainment. www.thecheeseweb.com



Cardiff Harbour Festival

Visit Cardiff Bay on August Bank Holiday weekend and experience an ocean of nautical entertainment including spectacular aerial and water displays, Tall Ships, sea craft displays and sea shanty singers.

A Cardiff Festival event.

www.cardiff-festival.com



Now bring on the Harlem globetrotters

The legendary basketball magic of the Harlem Globetrotters stage a landing at the Cardiff International Arena on 6 June.

The Harlem Globetrotters are a worldwide icon, synonymous with family entertainment and great basketball skills.

The Globetrotters represent 84 years of breaking down barriers, acts of goodwill, and a commitment to fans that goes beyond the game.

Abe Saperstein founded the team in 1926, and they played their first road game in Hinckley, Ill., on Jan. 7, 1927.

The cheers have never stopped, as the Globetrotters have entertained more than 130 million fans in 120 countries worldwide. For many, the Globetrotter experience was an introduction to the game of basketball.

Speedway aces set to thrill

One of the most thrilling sights in motor sport returns to the Millennium Stadium this summer.

Speedway has an enthusiastic following all over the world and the Speedway Grand Prix brings an amazing spectacle to the capital of Wales.

The 2010 grand prix will be at the Millennium Stadium on Saturday 10 July.

Rally stars join in

Cardiff is the popular home for Rally GB in which the world's top drivers take on some of the most challenging special stages in the world. This year the rally is from 11 to 14 November.



CRICKET'S BACK!

After the massive success of the first Ashes Test in Cardiff last year, International cricket returns to the Swalec Stadium this summer. For 2010, Australia are again the visitors, this time for a one-day International, with Pakistan following on for two Twenty20 matches.

England take on Australia in a 50-over match on 24 June, while Pakistan will be the visitors on 5 and 7 September.

Cricket fans unanimously voted Cardiff a massive success during the tense first Test last summer.

Pakistan and Aussies take on England in Cardiff one-day matches

While England stole the draw that set up the Ashes series win, Cardiff stole the fans' hearts and the city is now an established venue on the international cricket circuit.

www.glamorgancricket.com

Making a real splash for bay adrenaline junkies

White water hits Cardiff Bay in the spring with the opening of Cardiff International White Water (www.ciww.com) – giving adrenaline junkies everywhere the best reason to visit this exciting city.

Ride the white water in a duckie, hydrospeed or with friends in a raft, as 16 cubic metres of water (80 bath tubs) per second rush down a 250m course that is lined up as a London 2012 Olympics

training facility by the Gold winning Slovakian canoe squad. With variable river flows and a course that adapts to suit a range of skill levels, White Water will appeal to paddle sports enthusiasts and thrill seekers of all ages and abilities. Then follow the flow for some *après splash* in a variety of waterfront bars and restaurants, and into the city centre for one of the UK's best shopping experiences.