

EKO HOTEL & SUITES was awarded the BEST INTERNATIONAL HOTEL IN NIGERIA (HOTEL OF THE YEAR 2005) for the second year running by the TRAVELLERS AWARD (9<sup>th</sup> Edition). The Travellers' Awards were this year endorsed by the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Culture & Tourism thus becoming an even more prestigious accolade for the recipients in the various categories.

**“Nesting International Standards with African Hospitality”** is the vision statement of Eko Hotel & Suites and the visitor can only but notice the serious effort the owners and management are making to live up to this statement. Eko Hotel & Suites received last year the prestigious award for Nigerian Hotel of the Year from the ATQ magazine and during his acceptance speech, the General Manager Mr. Alain Chatel promised that this year Eko Hotel & Suites will be even better.

It looks like the words in this statement have been backed by serious investment of millions of dollars to lift this flagship hotel to standards equal to any international hotel anywhere in the world. Kuramo Lodge one of the three buildings comprising Eko Hotel & Suites was the first to benefit from the most recent face lift. All the rooms have been renovated. New central air conditioning system was installed, new furniture, new bathrooms, new fittings in all the rooms. Fast Internet connection and Pay-TV system were added to the facilities so that they have nothing to envy of the other two buildings (Eko main building and Eko Suites). With competition growing on Victoria Island particularly towards the more budget oriented spectrum of the accommodation market, it is not surprising that Kuramo Lodge, soon to be renamed Eko Gardens, was given this kind of attention. With all the facilities available at Eko Hotel & Suites, it seems like the renovated Kuramo will be one of the best value-for-money propositions to the seasoned international and Nigerian traveler.

Additionally, Kuramo is the venue for Casa Chianti, the newest culinary proposition of Eko Hotel & Suites. In a cozy Mediterranean atmosphere, Andreas Ertl the executive chef of Eko Hotel & Suites has managed to create a gem. Traditional Italian pasta dishes, lasagna, pizzas with a large variety of toppings and other dishes will definitely satisfy the taste buds of both the initiated and the novice to the Italian cuisine. Fine wines from Italy and around the world can accompany the dishes creating an unparalleled gastronomic experience.

The main building was the next to receive a radical face lift and work has already started to upgrade all the rooms to the same standards of Eko Suites that saw them last year achieving the award for most innovative hotel in Nigeria. When asked Mr. Alain Chatel, General Manager of Eko Hotel & Suites, he declared that “as competition is coming we are prepared. We are developing a product that will be difficult to compete against. Our facilities, our services, our staff, our commitment to maintain the highest standards will see us above the competition. Even when the competition comes, we will remain the best hotel!!!”

Talking big you might think but walking around the massive compound on Adetokunbo Ademola Street, Victoria Island, one can see the justification of his confidence. From the beautiful gardens to the well appointed bedrooms, from the state of the art fitness centre to the stunning Grand Ballroom and from the cool swimming pool to the massive Expo Centre and the seven restaurants you can see why it is not difficult to be boastful.

But it is not only the “front of the house” that is impressive. The technical and other supportive facilities are equally exciting. A state-of-the art water treatment plant guarantees self sufficiency of clean drinkable water that adheres to WHO standards. The Hotel boasts its own fire track and two fire engines! They are manned by a fire brigade that is on duty 24hours a day and provide the necessary assurance should there is ever any fire incident.

A well equipped clinic and pharmacy with a resident doctor that is 24hours on call are also available to provide assistance both to guests and staff. The clinic can admit up to four patients and is equipped with a comprehensive microbiological lab.

Services to customers are not limited to the “visible” aspects of the business but go beyond the guests’ expectations to ensure that the stays at Eko Hotel & Suites are comfortable and stress free.

The future looks also good with exciting developments in the pipeline such as the new Expo Centre with capacity to simultaneously hold three functions of over 700 people each and additional 200 bedrooms that will take to over 800 the number of available bedrooms in Eko Hotel & Suites. A new panoramic themed restaurant on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor of the main building will also be added to the existing seven other restaurants. With dedicated management team that aspires to the highest international standards and supportive owners it is not accidental that a guest recently exclaimed that “**the brightness of a lost jewel has been restored at Eko Hotel & Suites**”. With all these exciting developments and progress, Eko Hotel & Suites looks destined to remain at the cutting edge of hospitality in Nigeria and internationally.