

PRESS RELEASE
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GALLE LITERARY FESTIVAL - THE BEST IN THE WORLD!

In the February issue of *Harper's Bazaar UK*, **The Galle Literary Festival**, has been featured as the “**Number One Literary Festival**” amongst six of the best festivals from around the world.

This is a remarkable achievement for a festival after its first year.

Sri Lanka's inaugural International literary festival, **The Galle Literary Festival**, ran over 4 days from 10th to 14th January 2007 showcasing some of Asia's leading authors and seeing an influx of both Sri Lankan & International writers, chefs, visitors and the media to the magnificent UN World Heritage city of Galle.

The festival lived up to its promises of being a world class event providing local and international visitors with a chance to come and enjoy their favourite Sri Lankan & International authors and engage in conversations about a wide selection of books & topics. Not only was literature top of mind, but the festival provided visitors with an opportunity to sample food from some of the worlds leading chefs.

Fans swarmed to hear the recent 2006 Man Booker Prize winner, **Kiran Desai**, discuss her award winning book *The Inheritance of Loss*. Internationally acclaimed author and historian **William Dalrymple** took the audience on a dramatic journey unveiling his enthusiasm for India's last Mughal emperor with his recently launched book *The Last Mughal*. Distinguished biographer **Victoria Glendinning** brought to life her latest biography *Leonard Woolf - a life*. 2005 Pulitzer Prize finalist **Suketu Mehta** entertained everyone with his passion for the throbbing metropolis of Bombay with his book *Maximum City: Bombay Lost and Found*. Literary critic, novelist, essayist & poet, Sri Lankan **Yasmine Gooneratne** gave insights into her life as an author having published over 16 books in her career. Other authors in this incredible line up were **Sir Arthur C Clarke**, **Mark Tully**, **Christopher Kremmer**, London's River Café owner - **Rose Gray**, Sri Lankan **Romesh Gunesekera** and author, gastronomic & esteemed actress **Madhur Jaffrey**.

The *Harper's Bazaar UK* article lists the following six best literary festivals from Bali to Brazil.

1. Galle Literary Festival www.galleliteraryfestival.com (16th - 20th January 2008)
2. Hay festival, Cartagena De Indias, Columbia (25-28 January) www.hayfestival.co.uk/cartagena
3. Wexford Book Festival, Ireland (24 -25 March) www.wexfordbook.com
4. FLIP, Brazil (9-13 August) www.flip.org.br
5. Ubud, Bali (27-30 Sept) www.ubudwritersfestival.com
6. Hay Festival, Segovia Spain (late Sept) www.hayfestival.co.uk/segovia

Festival Director, Libby Southwell says “This recent announcement by *Harper's Bazaar UK* confirms the inaugural festivals success as well as our commitment to celebrating Sri Lankan literature and raising the awareness of the great depth and diversity of Sri Lankan authors & their contribution to the English language.”

Internationally acclaimed author and historian, William Dalrymple said “The first Galle Literary Festival was a huge success. The mix of literary chat, long walks on gorgeous beaches, the wonderful setting and the constant succession of mouthwatering literary lunches and dinners made it quite different from any other book festival I have ever been to. The perfect reconciliation of hedonism and bookish high-mindedness.”

Added to this distinguished biographer Victoria Glendinning said the festival was 'An instant success, likely to become a coveted fixture on the international literary circuit.', whilst one of Sri Lanka's leading newspapers, The Sunday Observer wrote "The much-awaited literary fiesta of the Sri Lankan cultural calendar which undoubtedly set the stage for the revival of English Literature in Sri Lanka."

The Galle Literary Festival will be held annually in & around the historic city of **Galle** and its magnificent UN World Heritage Fort. Galle offers the perfect location for the literary festival providing a range of unique & memorable venues for individual events as well as providing the perfect springboard for which visitors can explore the rich culture & history of the coastline & villages of the Southern Province.

The 2008 Galle Literary Festival will be held from the 16th - 20th January 2008.

For more information on how to participate in the Galle Literary Festival refer to www.galleliteraryfestival.com or contact info@galleliteraryfestival.com