

## THE URUGUAYAN WRITER CRISTINA PERI ROSSI AND THE SPANISH WRITERS GUSTAVO MARTÍN GARZO, JUAN BONILLA Y CARLOS CASTÁN HAVE WON PRIZES IN THE DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF THE XIII EDITION OF THE MARIO VARGAS LLOSA NH DE RELATOS AWARDS

- Luisa Cuerda, Carlos Marzal, Laura Massolo, Guillermo Busutil and Olga Ortega were finalists in the different categories.
- The jury was chaired by NH Hoteles, Gabriele Burgio. The other members were Lorenzo Silva, Marta Rivera, Manuel Longares, Santos Sanz Villanueva and José Luis Martín Nogales.
- 253 collections of short stories and 1,043 separate short stories in Spanish were submitted in this edition, which had its highest level of participation ever. The Vargas Llosa NH Prizes for short stories are the biggest awards for this category in Spanish.
- The new edition of the anthology "Noches de Relatos" that is being published with the award-winning stories, will come as an online book that can be accessed by all the hotel chain's guests. This, in accordance with its sustainability policy, will make for a major saving in paper.

**Madrid, 21 April 2010.** The Peruvian writer Mario Vargas Llosa and the Chief Operations Officer of NH Hoteles, Francisco Zinser awarded the prizes of the XIII Edition of the Mario Vargas Llosa NH Prizes for Short Stories at the Casino de Madrid. The famous writers, Cristina Peri Rossi, Juan Bonilla, Carlos Castán and Gustavo Martín Garzo, won the prizes in the different categories, while Luisa Cuerda, Carlos Marzal, Laura Massolo, Guillermo Busutil and Olga Ortega reached the finals.

According to Francisco Zinser, the Chief Operations Officer of NH Hoteles, "the large number and high quality of the short stories submitted shows us that these prizes are important and have a tradition, and are a sign of NH Hoteles's wish to support culture.

### PRIVATE ROOMS

253 **unpublished** books were sent in. The winner of the Mario Vargas Llosa NH Prize for Short Stories, with a prize of 20,000 euros, was ***Habitaciones privadas*, by Cristina Peri Rossi**. Ms Peri Rossi was born in Uruguay. She has published several books of poetry and fifteen novels, including *Solitario de amor*, *La última noche de Dostoievki* and *El amor es una droga dura*; and books of short stories, in particular *La rebelión de los niños*, *Una pasión prohibida*, *Cosmoagonías*, *Desastres íntimos* and *Por fin solos*.

### EURIPIDES, IN BARLEY

In the category of the Mario Vargas Llosa NH Prize of 10,000 euros for a short story submitted separately, the winner was the short story called ***"El País de la Cebada"*, by Gustavo Martín Garzo**, who submitted his story under the pseudonym Eurípides. Mr Martín Garzo is one of the most highly valued writers in present-day Spanish literature. He was born in Valladolid in 1948, and won the Premio Nacional de Narrativa in 1994 with his novel *El lenguaje de las fuentes*. Since then he has published a large number of books or articles, novels and short stories, in particular, *La princesa manca*, *Marea oculta* (Miguel

Delibes), *La vida nueva*, *El pequeño heredero*, *El valle de las gigantas*, *La soñadora*, *El jardín dorado*, and *Las historias de Marta y Fernando*, which won the Nadal Prize in 1999. His published books of stories include *El amigo de las mujeres*, *Cuentos de hadas* and *Todas las madres del mundo*.

In this category, Luisa Cuerda and Laura Massolo reached the finals with *"Donde el sol"* and *"Basta de soledades"*.

The prize for the best anthologies published in recent years went to **Carlos Castán and Juan Bonilla for their books *Sólo de lo perdido* and *Tanta gente sola*, published in 2008 and 2009 respectively**. The prize in this category is 10,000 euros. The jury emphasised the fact that both writers work mainly in the risky area of short stories. Carlos Castán, who is currently a teacher in a secondary school in Aragon, has published three books of short stories: *Frío de vivir*, *Museo de la soledad* and *Sólo de lo perdido*, a book where the jury particularly stressed "the ability to create atmospheres and picture characters who come up against loss and pain, in a broad, suggestive style".

The Andalusian writer Juan Bonilla has poems, articles and three novels; one of which, *Los príncipes nubios*, won the Premio Biblioteca Breve in 2003. He has also written five books of short stories: *El que apaga la luz*, *La compañía de los solitarios*, *Las gafas de Spinoza*, which won the Mario Vargas Llosa NH Prize for Short Stories in 1999, *La noche del Skylab*, *El Estadio de Mármol* and *Tanta gente sola*, a book written - in the words of the jury - with "the tension and intensity required of in a short story, which make up a single set of short stories, with characters who reappear in several stories and create a moving mosaic of loneliness".

The jury was chaired by **Gabriele Burgio**, chairman of NH Hoteles. This year the other members were **Lorenzo Silva, Marta Rivera, Manuel Longares, Santos Sanz Villanueva and José Luis Martín Nogales**.

The new edition of "Noches de Relatos" which is published every year with the award-winning stories, will be published online and may be accessed by all the guests of the hotel chain. This, in accordance with its sustainability policy, will make for a major saving in paper.

The Mario Vargas Llosa NH Prize for Short Stories is the most important prize for short stories currently being awarded in Spain. **More than 16,000 authors**, from 31 countries, have sent in short stories for the prize over the thirteen years since it was first set up. Previous winners of the Mario Vargas Llosa NH Prize for Short Stories are **Almudena Grandes, Gonzalo Calcedo and Jorge Aranguren**, in 1998; **Luis Mateo Díez, Javier Maqua, Adolfo García Ortega and Enrique Lázaro**, in 1999; **Ignacio Martínez de Pisón, Ignacio Vidal-Folch and Juan Antonio Bueno**, in 2000; **José Carlos Llop, Juan Bonilla, Ignacio García-Valiño and Gonzalo Calcedo**, in 2001; **Soledad Puértolas, Espido Freire, Carlos del Olmo and Sergi Pàmies**, in 2002; **Cristina Fernández Cubas, Pedro Ugarte and Aurelio Loureiro**, in 2003; **José María Merino, Andrés Ibáñez and Cristina Cerrada**, in 2004; **Juan Eduardo Zúñiga, Emilio Gavilanes, Ignacio Padilla and Gloria Montero**, in 2005; **Mercedes Abad, César Gavela and Ignacio Ferrando** in 2006; **Fernando Aramburu, Rubén Abella and Marta Sanz**, in 2007; **Manuel Longares, Aurelio Loureiro, Felipe Benítez Reyes and Lourdes Aso**, in 2008.

## ABOUT NH HOTELES

NH Hoteles ([www.nh-hotels.com](http://www.nh-hotels.com)) is the third largest business hotel chain in Europe. NH Hoteles has 392 hotels with 58,528 rooms in 24 countries in Europe, America and Africa. NH Hoteles now has 41 projects for new hotels under construction, which will provide more than 7,000 further rooms.

A feature of NH Hoteles is the desire of our employees to give service and seek the satisfaction of our guests through the quality of our services and constantly innovating. The establishments of NH Hoteles offer state-of-the-art technologies to help customers in communications, work and entertainment.

The restaurant facilities are another of the priorities of the hotels in the chain, which offers its customers top-quality food. Furthermore, NH Hoteles and famous restaurateurs such as Ferrán Adrià and Paco Roncero have created pioneering spaces, such as "nhube", "Fast Good" and "Estado Puro". in the hotel sector that combine restaurants, leisure and innovation for the hotel chain's guests.

As a **responsible company that is a reference in the tourist industry**, NH Hoteles offers hotel services that anticipate the needs of all our stakeholders: Employees, Customers, Suppliers, Shareholders, Society and the Environment, taking the greatest care over detail and providing efficient, sustainable solutions.

NH Hoteles is listed on the Madrid Stock Exchange.

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