

## Five-star bash to honour five business stars

BACK to five-star luxury again on Wednesday, though only for happy hour.

The occasion: the announcement of the five finalists of this year's Businesswoman of the Year award. The venue: the Saxon Hotel in Sandton. The luxury: gorgeous snacks (you should just have tasted those divine tempura prawns) and the most attractive hospitality décor in town.

Lovely to see that my favourite hotelier, Ingrid Diesel of Fancourt Hotel and Estate, is one of the nominees.

Of course she runs more than just a larney hotel; starting as PA to the MD, since 1994 when the Plattner family took over; she has been CEO of the whole Fancourt operation.

I hear all five finalists have been invited down to George for a relaxing weekend before the awards banquet on August 25.

Sindi Mabaso, looking gloriously colourful in scarlet, made it abundantly clear that she'll be heading for the spa, not the golf course. Sindi, 34, a chartered accountant, is the chief financial officer of Transnet. I bet she'll be Maria Ramos in the not-too-distant future.

There are two CAs in the line-up this year, with Deloitte's deputy chair Futhi Mtoba the second. Other contenders are the glamorous Ann Nurock of Grey Worldwide SA, who has just won the Jewish Achiever Award (non-listed companies), and statuesque entrepreneur Suzanne Ravenall, founder and CEO of IDCSS, which does something vital but incomprehensible (to me) in communications. Sue owns a nice line in mannish pinstripe suits and her blonde hair comes down to her waist.

Guests included last year's winner, the super-bright Nicky Newton-King, Businesswomen's Association president Dr Namane Magau and storyteller Gcina Mhlope who entertained us royally.