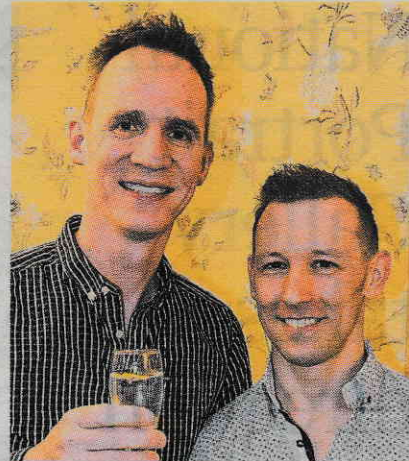


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▼ *TripAdvisor's world-leader B&B, The 25, in Devon, and, right, owners Andy and Julian Banner-Price*



Staying special: six-bed B&B in Torquay rated as best in world

Rebecca Smithers

Consumer affairs correspondent

An “English Riviera” B&B with just six bedrooms has fought off global competition to be crowned the best in the world by its visitors.

The Torquay bed-and-breakfast, named The 25 Boutique B&B, is the unlikely winner of the title of the world’s best B&B – and top rankings from the website TripAdvisor for four others mean five of the world’s top 10 B&Bs are in Britain.

The 25 B&B, in an Edwardian building bearing some resemblance to the fictional Fawlty Towers, is the only UK business to so far have a number-one

world ranking in 2019. Andy and Julian Banner-Price, who run the B&B, which is exclusively for adults, previously turned around a failing hotel in north Wales, which also had a top-10 ranking on TripAdvisor during their tenure.

“We were absolutely thrilled to hear that The 25 has been named as the best B&B in the world,” they said. “We love creating special and memorable experiences for our guests and receiving their excellent reviews makes our hard work truly rewarding.”

Four other UK B&B’s scooped international recognition. Also in the south-west, Bindon Bottom B&B at West Lulworth, Dorset, was in third place, while The Grange Bed and Breakfast, in Fylingthorpe, North

Yorkshire, and Swallows Rest Bed & Breakfast in Brigstock, Northamptonshire, celebrate fourth and fifth place. Hillstone Lodge, in Colbost, on the Isle of Skye, was seventh.

In total, 1.2m properties were in the running for the awards. The winners reflected consistently positive reviews and remarkable service, quality and value, TripAdvisor said.

Other British properties receiving world recognition included The Elm Tree hotel, in Llandudno, rated third-best bargain hotel in the world and best in the UK, as well as best hotel in the UK for romantic breaks.

For the third year running the title of UK’s top hotel went to London’s Hotel 41, located opposite Buckingham Palace, which is fifth in the world’s luxury hotel category and 15th in top hotels overall; staff there outnumber guests by two to one.

Globally, the top hotel was Tulemar Bungalows & Villas, in Costa Rica.