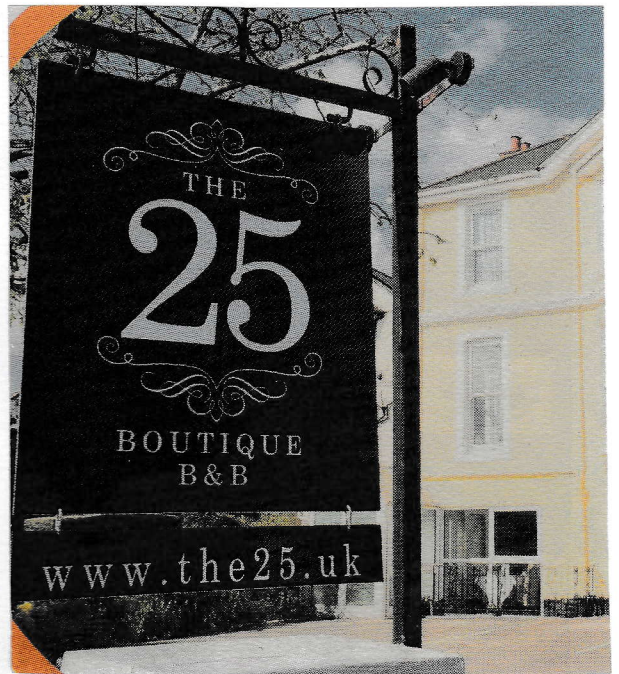


TRAVEL

# Staying Bayside

Elise Britten heads to Torquay for two very different experiences on the English Riviera



and utopian future. Every room is a riot of colour with its own careful theme, and the very latest technology is everywhere.

I'm not usually tech-obsessed, but even I am caught up with the novelty of it all.

There are iPads and an Amazon Echo in every room, with all the hotel and area information. Pulsing mood lighting is built around bed frames, vast televisions, mirrors and cabinets.

Our room has a TV with a waterproof remote set over a claw foot bath, and his and hers sinks, each with heated mist-free mirrors.

Of course digital streaming services and an extensive Spotify library is standard. As are Nespresso coffee makers and everything possible is digitally synced.

Clearly much love has been poured into the project by owners Andy and Julian and you can taste it in the complimentary home-baked treats.

They evidently also have a passion for Torquay and know it inside out. They have extensive recommendations in both digital and print formats and are happy to have a friendly chat.

We cut through the Torre Abbey grounds on a pleasant flat walk to find Torquay atmospheric and beautifully lit at night. Clearly pride in the town runs deep – with gardens so carefully maintained.

Breakfast in the morning is as carefully planned and on trend, with smoothie shots, and homemade yoghurts laid out on a cooling plate.

I also try lovely home-made granola and a special smoked salmon and scrambled egg family recipe.

Everywhere you look the attention to detail is exceptional, so I'm not surprised to find Andy and Julian max out at six rooms. They do everything themselves – including the cleaning. Quite simply, nobody else's standards would be good enough.

Then it's time to head on to The 25 boutique bed and breakfast in Torquay itself.

It is immediately clear that we're in for something completely different to the historic Orestone Manor.

The adults-only bed and breakfast has been voted the world's best in this year's TripAdvisor Travellers' Choice Awards.

It doesn't take long to work out why the accommodation is so memorable.

The 25 feels like stepping into a bright

