

Celebration as the world's best strikes gold!

Boost for Bay tourism as hotel and B&B scoop accolades

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An award-winning Torquay bed and breakfast - already dubbed the best in the world - has struck gold.

Owners Andy and Julian Banner-Price fetched out the bubbly after their No 25 Boutique B&B in Avenue Road scooped a gold award in the Visit England Awards for Excellence.

On a night where the English Riviera was given a huge boost, the Cary Arms in Torquay also landed silver in the Small Hotel of the Year category.

The six-room No 25 Boutique, winner of the world's best B&B on Trip Advisor for the last two years, went through a long process of winning gold in county and regional finals before making it to



Striking gold - 25 Boutique's Andy and Julian Banner-Price Picture: SUBMITTED

a shortlist of potential finalists.

Having made it onto the shortlist, the judging panel chose the winner, announced at a virtual ceremony on Monday.

Andy said: "The award arrived by courier the next day but I'm not sure where we are going to put it."

He puts their success down to their 'obsessive' attention to detail.

He said: "We are control freaks and want our guests to have the best possible time so their experience is so good they want to come back.

"We do our utmost to make sure they have a brilliant time.

"It's the little touches to the rooms, our home baking which make their stay a special experience."

Recent guests were so appreciative of Andy and Julian's efforts, they left chocolates and a thank you card.

Andy said: "It's things like this which make putting in the effort worthwhile and motivate us."

Lockdown initially gave some worries but once the government support was announced, the couple worked right through on

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maintenance jobs, apart from one day off for Julian's birthday.

They took the chance to paint the outside, helped by the good weather and renovate the sun terrace.

Andy explained: "Usually we do these jobs in the winter but that can be difficult depending on the weather.

"It was looking to be our best year yet but now that might be next year as lots of our bookings

have transferred to 2021."

Currently they are running at reduced capacity so guests can social distance at breakfast and leaving a 24-hour gap between room bookings.

Andy added: "With so many people holidaying in the UK now, it's reminding them what is on our own doorstep."

Cary Arms owner Pete de Savary said: "These awards are extremely prestigious and we

value this accolade most highly. The award also highlights Torbay as a destination of excellence and will have a positive effect in the local community. The tourism industry has suffered greatly this year and positive accolades highlight the good idea of having a holiday in England rather than overseas. I offer a big thank you to our staff, guests and Visit England."