

A Look Inside TripAdvisor's "Best B&B in the World"

Written by: Andy-Banner Price. Photos courtesy of: The 25



No one was more shocked than Julian and Andy Banner-Price, owner of The 25, a luxury B&B in Torquay, Devon in the UK, when TripAdvisor announced their Travelers' Choice Awards at the beginning of 2019—and again in 2020 that their B&B was labeled the "Best B&B in the World"! We caught up with them to find out all about the award and the luxury B&B guests are rating so high.

"We were in the middle of a bedroom refurbishment when we got the call as we close for a few months over the winter. We had been in the number one position in our county of Devon for some time, but to be told not only had we ranked number one in the UK, but also the world was really something to celebrate. Now, finding out we received the award two years in row, we are so elated and grateful!

Our boutique B&B opened just five years ago in the tourist town of Torquay, made famous by crime writer Agatha Christie who was born here. More recently, the BBC comedy classic Fawlty Towers was set in Torquay and based on a hotel here in the 1960s, which has since been demolished. The area is known as the English Riviera due to its temperate climate and abundance of palm trees. There's so much to do here, and it's also a great base to explore from, with Dartmoor National Park just a short car ride, the Eden Project a little further, and towns such as Plymouth, Exeter and Dartmouth close by too. Within walking distance, we have the historic Torre Abbey, the stunning harbor and South West Coastal Path to name a few. Most guests come back year after year as one week is never enough.

We have teamed up with a couple of tour companies, one of which can pick guests up from the airport. Exeter is our closest airport, but there's also a direct train from London Euston station.

Before moving to Torquay we had another award-winning hotel in North Wales near Caernarfon Castle where Prince Charles had his investiture. It meant when we moved here, we had a clear plan for the type of property we wanted to create, using the experience we'd built up there. We wanted to achieve a five-star status and offer a luxury product. For some guests, it's the first time they've stayed in a bed and breakfast, having always preferred traditional hotels in the past. They are amazed at what we offer for a comparable price, not to mention the more personal service.



Bed & Breakfast

CHATEAUX & CASTLES

Although our bedrooms vary in size and price, they all have the luxury touches as standard. They all have coffee makers, iPads, Amazon Echo with voice control for the TV, air conditioning and lighting, Netflix, Elemis toiletries, high water pressure showers, robes and slippers to name a few. Rooms are decorated with boutique cutting edge design and feature our unique style.

I try to make our rooms an escapism from normal life. They have an element of playfulness and fun with lots of color whilst remaining calm and soothing to relax our guests. Some of my quirkier elements include a fake zebra head wearing yellow sunglasses called Frank, real glitter feature walls and mannequin lamps which I made myself.



Every day our guests come back to find a new homemade treat in their bedroom—usually slices of cake or biscuits, or sometimes even fudge. Guests seem to love my baking and they also receive my famous chocolate brownies with a complimentary welcome drink on arrival.

There's only the two of us and no other staff, so Julian (my husband) and I are really hands-on, and our approach sees guests return again, some several times of the year. We absolutely love what we do and whilst we're happy with the size of our six-bedroom B&B, we are planning to open a self-catering apartment in the near future for longer stays."

Book your stay at
The 25 Boutique B&B!
www.the25.uk

Most guests book direct on our own website, having found us in a variety of places including reading our excellent reviews on TripAdvisor. We've won many other awards including The AA's 'Unique B&B of the Year', 'Best B&B in the South West' at the Tourism Excellence Awards and were national winners of the 'Great British Breakfast' award.

Breakfast comprises of a self-service cold buffet including homemade items like yogurts, granola, smoothie shots and fresh fruit salad along with a menu of hot options using locally sourced ingredients and suppliers. As a bed and breakfast, it's the only meal we provide but there are lots of great restaurants locally to suit all tastes and budgets from those serving locally caught fish to the Michelin starred Elephant restaurant.

