



FAWLT-LESS!

B&B in Basil's old manor is best in world



Top of the pile: Guest house has voice-controlled TVs and gives new arrivals fizz and cake

By Izzy Ferris

TORQUAY still offers no vistas of 'herds of wildebeest sweeping majestically across the plain', as Basil Fawlty memorably sneered at a dissatisfied customer.

However, the Devon resort does now boast the best B&B in the world - an honour that would never have been bestowed on the anarchic Fawlty Towers in the classic TV show.

Andy and Julian Banner-Price's 25 Boutique B&B has just been awarded the title in TripAdvisor's Travellers' Choice awards.

Julian said: 'Everyone, when you say Torquay, thinks of Fawlt Towers but we don't mind because when people stay with us they say "Wow".

'I think we're helping to banish that reputation. Basil Fawlty would hate this place.'

Admitting that he is a fan of the John Cleese series, he added that the couple were 'absolutely thrilled and gobsmacked' to be awarded the accolade.

Julian said: 'For two people

who run a little B&B on their own, without any staff to help, this is a lot to take in.

'We feel like we're in the middle of a storm - but a very good one. It's so unexpected.

'We weren't even here four years ago and now we've been named the best in the world. Even saying it out loud doesn't make it feel real. We're so grateful to all of our lovely guests.'

The couple bought their six-bedroom guest house on the English Riviera in March 2015 and carried out a full renovation

before opening to the public. The rooms feature 'cutting-edge' design and technology such as voice-controlled TVs, lighting and air conditioning.

When guests arrive they are offered a glass of fizz and a brownie. Visitors are also treated to a new cake every day.

Asked about the secret to their success, Julian said that it was probably down to 'the really small things'.

He explained that every detail had been carefully thought out, such as plugs placed by mirrors

for guests to do their hair and by beds to charge phones.

He added: 'We're absolutely meticulous about everything - we're obsessed with the details.'

The 25 is one of five British B&Bs in the world's top ten.

Bindon Bottom B&B in West Lulworth, Dorset, was in third place, while The Grange in Fylingthorpe, North Yorkshire, and Swallows Rest in Brigstock, Northamptonshire, took fourth and fifth spots respectively.

Hillstone Lodge in Colbost on the Isle of Skye came seventh.



Earning their stripes: Bedroom has zebra theme



Fry-life: The Full English breakfast