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BRIGHTHAM HOUSE BRINGS HOME AA UNIQUE B&B OF THE YEAR 2019/20

In April 2019, Brightham House in Malborough near Salcombe, Devon, was crowned AA Unique B&B of the Year. This is another accolade for the quirky-cool and ultra-comfortable west-country wonder to add to its glowing repertoire.

A bustling boutique beauty of a B&B, celebrated for its unique Brighton-meets-Devon style and chilled vibe, Brightham House is located in An Area Of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) between coastline and countryside.



The name of the gorgeous guesthouse, a characterful three-storey Victorian-style traditional build offering views across Marlborough village and west over the hills to Hope Cove, is a portmanteau of the two places owners Scott Browning and Alistair Veness have called home – formerly Brighton in East Sussex and now South Hams in Devon.

The happy memories of living in both lovely locations – and iconic settings within, from kitsch-rich Brighton pier to the wilds of Dartmoor National Park – inspired Alistair’s design of the individually decorated guestrooms, which are sure to cast magical new memories for all that visit.

There’s no place like Brightham House

From the moment you arrive, the vintage funfair-esque entrance neon lights reveal, **“There’s no place like Brightham House”**. Go through to the luxe light and airy lounge

where you might meet resident dog and heart-stealer Lola. From there, shimmy into the conservatory dining area with its flavour of tropical tranquillity.

Venture upstairs and find among the eight rooms (twin, double and king) the Pavilion Room, with elegant Art Deco accents, and the Preston Circus Room, channelling big top brilliance that combines playfulness and panache – a show for which Brightham House’s ringmasters have received a standing ovation more than once.

“A wonderful and trendy B&B... This boutique house has completely changed my impression on a B&B experience, they have made this such a lovely and trendy memory for us.

“The house has been designed carefully to fit the character and personality of the owners, which is perfect as they have wonderful taste. Breakfast is served in a beautiful conservatory and the food is delicious (you have a very nice selection of brekkie options) and great music to go with which makes you relax and dangerously...you will not want to leave!

The room we stayed ‘Dartmoor’ was extra special, had a forest vibe and an explorer theme which we loved. Bathroom sink is incredible and the beds are extremely comfortable (have not stayed in many hotels that have the same) and so are the pillows... We hope to be back soon!” – Laura and Charles, TripAdvisor.

AA Hotel & Hospitality Services announced the winners of this year’s prestigious AA B&B Awards at an event held at St. Ermin's Hotel, Westminster, on 30th April. The annual event, now in its 24th year, recognises the diversity and originality behind the nation’s most remarkable B&Bs and celebrates the people who dedicate their lives to running them.

Scott, originally from Exeter, and Alistair, who met his partner when living in Brighton, commented on pipping thousands of other British B&Bs to the post: *“We are blown away to win, we can’t believe it. We are so overwhelmed, and very happy”.*

Since bringing home their latest AA award, the friendly hosts have made some exciting additions to their Devonshire delight. A wood-fired hot tub and koi carp pond has joined their fabulous fitness hut in the courtyard for alfresco serenity while guests can also now experience a Salcombe Gin School Staycation (from £395 for two) in the comfort of the small but perfectly formed 24-hour guest bar.

Teaming up with their local community and living sustainably is one of the pair’s passions and, as well as serving local ales and spirits, chef Scott’s dedicated to using locally sourced food for his 5-star breakfasts and pop-up bistro. Their meat and eggs come from Salcombe Meat Company just five minutes down the road. They even sell Salcombe souvenirs so guests can take a little slice of Brightham House heaven home.

Brightham House is a home from home yet an escape from the norm where the whimsical wows and the soul sings. With its attention to interior design detail and relaxed homely environment, it's fair to say that Brightham House's hosts have a hidden gem that will continue to sparkle in Devon's treasure-trove for some time yet.

From 5-Star B&B to TV stars

Soon to be featured Channel 4's *4 Four in a Bed*, Scott and Alistair have not only thrown themselves into the hospitality industry but are also upcoming TV personalities. Alistair commented on going from 5-star guesthouse host to TV "star": "When we were asked to appear on the programme we thought it would be a bit of a jolly, perhaps a holiday. But filming 14 hours a day for two weeks was certainly a challenge and a real change from running our B&B.

"We did get to meet some lovely people and visited three beautiful B&Bs in North Devon and two in Norfolk. You'll have to look out for us in September to see how we did in the competition, hopefully we come across well and people enjoy the show. We can safely say we've ticked this experience off our bucket list!"

– Ends –

About Brightham House

Our fabulously refurbished award winning boutique bed & breakfast can be found in the vibrant and stunning area of Malborough, two miles from Salcombe.

We offer the feel of a luxury hotel and the homeliness of a B&B with beautiful décor in each of our eight uniquely styled en suite rooms, comfortable beds and the finest linen for a great night's sleep. Serving freshly prepared continental or full English breakfast made using locally sourced ingredients (where possible), you'll be fuelled to enjoy Salcombe's beaches and watersports scene from the off.

Children over 10-years-old and well-behaved dogs are welcome to stay. There's bike storage and a small private car park on-site as well as a safe village car park, just a 2-minute walk away.

"Bed and breakfast with so much more... What a fabulous find! We had a lovely 3-night stay. The care and love that has gone into the transformation of Brightham House is amazing. All the rooms are individual and so stylish. Breakfast was delicious with a great selection of choices. Thank you Scott, Alastair and Lola..." – Wendy Ohare, TripAdvisor.

"You had me hooked the moment I walked up the path... "A B&B in a small village just outside of Salcombe, owned and run by Alistair and Scott, the latter a chef the former a designer (it shows) apparently they arrived from Brighton just over a year ago. It would seem

a Herculean effort to turn a rundown B&B into the place they have wittily named Brightham House what is now a truly original beautiful and quirky place to lay your head.

“To say it is chic and cool is an understatement, like saying Usain Bolt is a jogger. Each room has its own style with little artefacts and fanciful whimsical detail which will take many on a memory trip to your childhood.

“On arrival, we parked the car in their own car park and walked up the path to the back entrance and they had me hooked from the get-go what with the planting, the lighting and a hint of what was to come.

“This little gem is a sheer treat for the eyes and the senses. And if that wasn’t enough then Lola the teddy bear puppy will finish you off. Apparently they have already won several awards and [we] can see why. We were treated like old friends yet were both respectful and helpful, offering advice and recommendations for things to do and where to eat.

“We visited midweek in mid-March and yet they had a good few people visiting. Guys, you have done an amazing job and I can’t wait to come back”– Cordelia and Kim, TripAdvisor.