

AA's TOP CAMPING ACCOLADE

Brynich Caravan Park Wins 'Best Campsite in Wales' Award

The AA has just named the winners of the AA Campsite of the Year awards, with Brynich Caravan Park in Brecon scooping the Best Campsite in Wales for 2007.

Denise Laing, Editor of the AA Caravan & Camping Guide, says:

“Brynich Caravan Park’s development over the years into a top quality destination has been a labour of love for the Jones family. The needs of touring caravanners and campers are given the utmost consideration here, and every year the facilities get better and better. A superb restaurant in a 17th-century hay barn serves home-cooked food made from locally-sourced ingredients, while a log fire burns in winter. There’s a play barn for young children with soft play facility, and always in the background are the lovely Brecon Beacons. Brynich’s toilet facilities were built and are maintained to the same high standard as everything else, and the park is highly deserving of this coveted award for Wales.

The owners of Brynich have invested heavily in the business over the past 4 years, and the new restaurant, that is open to the public, has already won recognition from the Taste of Wales and the Good Food Guide. At the same time an innovative Play Barn was opened that welcomes children from the local area and visitors to Brecon. It has won recognition from RoSPA as an example of good practice and is popular with children whatever the weather. Along with 4 new holiday cottages and the original five star, award winning touring caravan park & campsite the businesses are a flagship enterprise, not only in the Brecon Beacons National Park and Wales, but also the UK. It received a Royal seal of approval when the new facilities were opened in June 2003 by HRH Prince Edward, who also returned for a meal in 2006. Last year Brynich was awarded the Investors in People status.

“We had decided that a restaurant would be a great addition to Brynich,” said Mark Jones. “It’s such a fantastic building & run independently to the caravan park so we get a really nice mix of locals and tourists throughout the summer whereas the locals have the place to themselves in the winter, though people often drive up from Cardiff & Swansea for a meal. We decided to support local suppliers partly, as a result of Foot & Mouth, when it became apparent how fragile the local economy was and how interdependent tourism & agriculture are. The restaurant has won some top Welsh awards already and we’re really pleased how quickly it’s been noticed.”

The Wales Tourist Board estimates that visitors to Brynich contribute around £2 million to the economy of the Brecon area, which is increasingly dependent on tourism.

More than 1,000 camping and touring sites are assessed each year by AA campsite inspectors, using the AA's Pennant Scheme and the AA Quality % Score, and included in the guide. The best are nominated for the AA Campsite of the Year Awards. "We are extremely proud to have been recognised in this way," Mark Jones went on to say. "Rural Britain is becoming increasingly dependant on tourism & the standard within the industry is continuously rising as the standard of the tourism product improves. To have been chosen as the best in Wales by an organisation such as the AA is of great value to us as a business and a well deserved pat on the back for those who've help us make it happen."

AA Caravan and Camping Britain & Ireland 2007 is available from high street and on-line booksellers, including www.theAA.com.

AA inspector Colin Church will be officially presenting the AA Best Campsite in Wales for 2007 Award to Brynich at 11 am 05/01/2007. Reporters / photographers / media are welcome to join us at Brynich for morning coffee at 10:45.

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