

Three Hills hotels feature among region's best



Stirling's Thorngrove Manor was named Adelaide's best hotel by travel website Big Seven.

By Elisa Rose

Driving down Stirling's leafy Glenside Lane, you may be forgiven for thinking you've stumbled onto the set of a fairytale.

But the baroque style of Adelaide's recently ranked top hotel, Thorngrove Manor, is part of what sets it apart.

The Big Seven travel guide website released its list of Adelaide's top seven hotels last month, with three of the seven spots – including top spot – awarded to Hills enterprises.

While Thorngrove Manor took first

place, the nearby Sticky Rice Villas were ranked sixth and Mt Lofty House seventh.

The local hotels were listed alongside some of the city's luxury hotels, including the Playford on North Terrace and King William Street's Mayfair Hotel.

Big Seven's top seven list was compiled based on feedback from some of the website's 1.5 million strong audience and Thorngrove Manor co-owner Nydia Lehmann welcomed the "unexpected" recognition.

"I think the ones that are always the best are the unexpected ones," she said.

"When something like that comes into your inbox, you think 'wow that's

amazing' because you're in really good company."

Mrs Lehmann and her architectural technician husband, Ken, began building Thorngrove Manor in 1984 as a speculative house, with inspiration from Mr Lehmann's interest in unique, timeless homes.

Awards

Since then they have worked constantly to bring the vision of Thorngrove Manor to life and stay ahead of trends.

The hotel has picked up several awards over the past three decades and is also a member of the prestigious industry group Small Luxury Hotels of the World.

Mrs Lehmann put the hotel's success down to a constant commitment to evolving the hotel in order to keep ahead of trends, offer a point of difference and a "wow" factor.

"It's like the lifelong journey to build a better mousetrap and make the rooms more interesting and just make it that much different from other things," she said.

"Being small you can do that."

Sticky Rice Villas, also in Stirling, offers luxury bed and breakfast accommodation with eco and sustainability designs, while Mt Lofty House offers boutique accommodation, fine dining and views over the Piccadilly Valley.