

TripAdvisor's top Irish hotel picks for 2016

Planning on holidaying at home this year and looking to book one of Ireland's top hotels? Well, TripAdvisor has combined a list of some of the best, writes **Aisling Hussey**

ahussey@farmersjournal.ie

Tripadvisor has named the top hotels in Ireland in its annual Traveller's Choice Awards, with Harvey's Point in Co Donegal taking the top spot for the fourth year in a row.

The best hotels, as selected by TripAdvisor, are as follows:

- Harvey's Point, Co Donegal.
- Ashford Castle, Co Mayo.
- The Merrion Hotel, Co Dublin.
- Castle Durrrow, Co Laois.
- The River Lee, Co Cork.
- Adare Manor and Hotel and Golf Resort, Co Limerick (closed for renovation).
- Hayfield Manor Hotel, Co Cork.
- Dromoland Castle Hotel, Co Clare.
- The Brehon, Co Kerry.
- Ballygarry House Hotel and Spa, Co Kerry.

As well as claiming the top ac-



colade, Harvey's Point also ranked fourth in the best service category. Castlewood Hotel in Dingle, Co Kerry, was another big winner, scooping the top award for the best small hotel, best service and the best bargain hotel in Ireland. It also placed as 13th in the world in the small hotel category and 20th in the bargain category.

The 12-room hotel was described by one TripAdvisor user as "a truly

stunning place, [with] a very warm welcome, and a room with an amazing harbour view. The breakfast was the most imaginative and lavish we have encountered."

Helen Heaton, who runs the hotel with her husband Brian, said they were "delighted" to be recognised by TripAdvisor. Castlewood also won best bargain hotel in the world in 2014 and 2015.

"We've been in Dingle for 10 years now and we're in the hotel all the time,

Left: Harvey's Point, Co Donegal, scooped the top prize. Above: Ashford Castle, Co Mayo, picked up second place.

so the service we offer is very personal," she said. "The type of people who stay with us aren't looking for a big hotel. Dingle is a great place to stay, too. There's always something to do."

The awards also recognised the top B&Bs in the country. Kate's B&B in Doolin, Co Clare, was selected as the best in Ireland, followed by Friar's Glen in Killarney, Co Kerry, and Crevagh Heights in Carrowmore Lacken, Co Mayo. The Merrion Hotel in Dublin was named the best luxury hotel in the country.

The awards are based on millions of reviews by TripAdvisor members during the last 12 months. This is the 14th year of the awards. **CL**



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