

## 2012 SA TOURISM AWARDS



Steve and Mandy Adcock from Adelaide Hills Country Cottages won best hosted accommodation.

## The Hills' winning attractions

By Genevieve Cooper

A first-time entrant and two veterans of the tourism industry in the Hills have taken out three prizes in the 2012 SA Tourism Awards.

Winners announced on Friday night included the Hahndorf Farm Barn for best tourist attraction, the Adelaide Hills Country Cottages for best hosted accommodation and Sinclair's Gully eco-certified cellar door for excellence in sustainable tourism.

Sue and Sean Delaney have won eight State tourism awards in the past five years for their eco-certified cellar door at Norton Summit which combines their passion for wine and the environment in their sustainable vineyard and sanctuary.

The icing on the cake was this year's induction into the State Tourism Hall of Fame after winning the sustainable tourism category for a third consecutive year.

Their business also collected a gold medal for the tourism wineries, distilleries and breweries category.

"Being inducted into the Hall of Fame is something we only



First time entrants and first time winners of the best tourist attraction category were Jason and Kate Carter from the Hahndorf Farm Barn, pictured with their children Eloise, 3, Brianna, 9, William, 7, and James, eight months.



### SA Tourism medal winners

- **Gold:** Sinclair's Gully for tourism wineries, distilleries and breweries category
- **Silver:** Woodhouse Activity Centre, standard accommodation category; Stirling Hotel, Deluxe Accommodation; Udder Cheese Delights Cellar, excellence in SA food tourism
- **Bronze:** Mt Barker Council Mt Barker, excellence in tourism by local government; The Manna of Hahndorf, Deluxe Accommodation; The White House Adelaide Hills, tourism restaurants and catering services

ever dreamed about," Mrs Delaney said.

"We feel very honored to be recognised up there with the very best tourism businesses the State has to offer."

The Delaneys combined their conservation interests with their wine when they hosted their inaugural wine and wildflower walk at the launch of their first vintage in 2003.

Mrs Delaney said their guests loved the experience.

"When we first started out we never thought the two (conservation and wine) would come together and that it would be something special that we would offer people who come here but I'm glad it did," she said.

Jason and Kate Carter took over the Hahndorf Farm Barn two years ago and this year was their first entry into the awards.

Mr Carter, also known as "Snowy" from the breakfast radio station Mix 102.3, attributed the win to the "stellar effort" his wife put into the award submission.

But Mrs Carter said the farm barn was a winner because it offered an "authentic experience that is fun, safe and enjoyable for kids and their parents alike".

"We've given the business a new lease on life - it just needed a big cuddle," she said.

### Rewarding

Mrs Carter uses herself as the "yardstick" for their main customer base - "mums from the city".

The Carters said winning the title of best tourist attraction in their first entry was "very rewarding".

Winning the hosted accommodation category was a welcome comeback for Steve and Mandy Adcock and their boutique bed and breakfast business, Adelaide Hills Country Cottages.

The collection of five cottages

on the Adcocks' 87ha property between Balhannah and Oakbank hadn't entered the awards for eight years after being inducted into the State Tourism Hall of Fame in 2004 and going on to win their category in the national awards.

Their win this year took their collective tally to nearly 20 regional, State and national tourism awards in the past three decades, including two Hall of Fame inductions and three national awards.

Mr Adcock attributed the cottages' success to their setting in the Hills and attention to detail when meeting the needs of visitors.

"The property is very beautiful ... and each of them is meticulously designed and decorated to give our guests that memorable experience that they are longing for," he said.

SA Tourism Industry Council chief executive Ward Tilbrook said judges considered a record 166 entries this year.

Almost 75% of winners were from regional SA.

The winners will go on to compete at the Australian Tourism Awards in Hobart in February 2013.



Sue and Sean Delaney from Sinclair's Gully were inducted into the State Tourism Hall of Fame after winning the sustainable tourism category for a third consecutive year.