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News Release

Historic Ash-based B&B is named one of the best in the South East!

A historic manor house which has been successfully transformed into a Bed and Breakfast (B&B) business has been rewarded for its outstanding tourism offering.

Molland House, in the village of Ash, near Sandwich and Canterbury in Kent, was Highly Commended in the Bed and Breakfast (B&B) of the Year category in the prestigious Tourism ExSEllence Awards 2006 for the South East. It was recognised in the awards, run by Tourism South East, as an exceptional quality B&B offering excellent facilities and services to business and leisure tourists.

Lovingly renovated in a 16th Century listed building, and featuring many original features, Molland House received the accolade as one of the region's very best B&Bs at a glittering awards ceremony on Thursday 5 October.

Molland House has introduced many innovations, including through a commitment to the environment and the local community (such as via sourcing local produce) and introducing appropriate added value facilities for business guests, including wi-fi internet access, evening meals as required and TV with DVD players (with a large, free-to-use DVD selection on offer) in rooms. It has retained much character and charm, combined with modern, attractive rooms.

Molland House was named as a Highly Commended entrant in the face of stiff competition in the B&B category in the Tourism ExSEllence Awards 2006. Entrants to the awards covered the huge Tourism South East region, which stretches far afield from Kent through the Isle of Wight, Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire and across to North Oxfordshire and West Berkshire.

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Tourism South East Managing Director Bob Collier said: "Receiving this accolade means not just offering a very high standard of accommodation, quality and customer service. It is the many added value extras and the overall atmosphere and welcome that led to the judges rewarding Molland House as an outstanding, relatively new business and a deserved Highly Commended B&B in this highly competitive category."

Television personality Angela Rippon presented awards across 14 categories at the Tourism ExSEllence Awards, attended by more than 200 representatives from the region's tourism industry. The Awards recognise commitment to quality, innovation and service in all aspects of different tourism businesses.

The Tourism ExSEllence Awards 2006 are sponsored by EDF Energy, one of the UK's largest energy companies supplying gas and electricity to more than five million consumers, as well as Take One Media, the South East Food Group Partnership and The Visitor Network.

Note: Tourism South East is the strategic tourism body for Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, East Sussex, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Oxfordshire, Surrey and West Sussex.