

SYKES STARS – DERBYSHIRE RELEASE

DOUBLE SUCCESS IN DERBYSHIRE AS PEAK DISTRICT COTTAGES WIN NATIONAL AWARD



Two Derbyshire holiday let owners are celebrating after being recognised in a prestigious national awards scheme that champions the individuals behind the UK's best holiday homes.

Claire Rabin, owner of [Lydgate Cottage](#), and Vahinerii Clerc, owner of [1 Barley Cottages](#), have both been named winners in the 2026 Sykes Stars awards, run by staycation specialist Sykes Holiday Cottages.

The Sykes Stars awards, now in their fourth year, recognise the holiday lets that have consistently received outstanding feedback from guests over the last 12 months.

Lydgate Cottage has become a firm favourite with visitors to the Peak District, with guests commenting on its character, comfort and thoughtful finishing touches. It's often described as an ideal base for exploring Derbyshire's rolling countryside, market towns and well-loved attractions.

Meanwhile, 1 Barley Cottages has earned similarly glowing feedback, with visitors highlighting its welcoming feel and high standards throughout. The cottage has proved especially popular with couples and families seeking a relaxing escape in the heart of the Peak District.

Together, the two award-winning properties reflect the strength of Derbyshire's staycation offering, as more holidaymakers continue to choose the region for UK breaks. Matlock, where 1 Barley Cottages is based, has also been named the number one hotspot for holiday let investment in 2026 according to a new industry report by Sykes, following holiday home owners earning an average of £34,000 in 2025 - 33% more than the average UK holiday let owner.

To be named a Sykes Star, owners must achieve 100% positive guest feedback across three quarters of the year.

To view the full list of Sykes Stars for 2026, visit <https://www.sykescottages.co.uk/blog/sykes-stars/>

Claire Rabin, owner of Lydgate Cottage, said: "Running Lydgate Cottage has always been about creating the kind of stay I'd want to experience myself - somewhere calm, comfortable and considered in every detail. The Peak District draws people here for the scenery, but it's the small touches we implement at the cottage that often shape how they remember their trip.

"Seeing guests return year after year - and take the time to leave thoughtful reviews - is what really matters to me, and achieving Sykes Star status feels like recognition of that consistency and care."

Vahinerii Clerc, owner of 1 Barley Cottages, added: "For me, it's about making sure guests instantly feel at ease when they walk through the door. A holiday should feel effortless, and that comes down to preparation, presentation and being available if people need anything during their stay.

“The Peak District has such a special atmosphere, and I’m proud that 1 Barley Cottages has become part of so many people’s celebrations, anniversaries and family breaks. This award reflects the work that goes on behind the scenes to make those moments possible.”

James Shaw, Chief Commercial Officer at Sykes Holiday Cottages, said: “Our Sykes Stars awards shine a spotlight on owners who go above and beyond to deliver fantastic staycations for their guests. Driven by impressive and consistent feedback, winners should be proud of their achievement and the experience they’re able to offer holidaymakers.

“Our holiday let owners, including Claire and Vahinerii, play a vital role in shaping the UK holiday let market and ensuring quality getaways, as the demand for UK breaks continues to rise and regions like Derbyshire remain popular among holidaymakers.”

ENDS

Notes to editors

Total properties in Sykes portfolio: 23,500

Sykes Stars awarded: 26

Sykes Superstars awarded: 7

Criteria: 100% positive reviews across three quarters of the last year (Stars) or the entire year (Super Stars)

Minimum reviews required: 18

Contact information:

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About Sykes Holiday Cottages:

Sykes Holiday Cottages is a holiday cottage rental agency with over 35 years’ experience in the industry.

Owned by parent company Forge Holiday Group, Sykes now has more than 23,500 properties available across the UK and Ireland, taking over three million people on holiday each year.

While the business has grown significantly over the years, Sykes commitment to offering quality accommodation to travellers – and being the best choice for holiday homeowners – remains unchanged. Sykes has been recognised in the ‘Best Large UK Holiday Cottage Booking Company’ at the British Travel Awards for 12 years running.

Headquartered in Chester and with regional offices around the country, its team of employees work with customers and owners to deliver the best British breaks available.

