

# The Bungip

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Barossa Palms Motel owner Elizabeth Hoyt outside the 2026 SA Tourism Awards finalist motel. (Photo: File 570690)

## Local Barossa stars shortlisted

By Mahala Gainer

THE Barossa is shining bright in this year's 2026 SA Tourism Awards, with 10 local operators securing finalist spots.

The annual awards highlight South Australian businesses that excel in tourism and showcase the state's diverse experiences.

Wineries including Chateau Tanunda, Gibson Wines and Kies Family Wines were among those shortlisted, showcasing a world-renowned wine region that remains a primary drawcard for South Australia.

Following a complete makeover, the Barossa's oldest motel, Barossa Palms Mo-

tel, also made the cut. The Nuriootpa property has been transformed into a wellness hub equipped with a pool, massage chairs, cold plunge, and even goat yoga.

Motel owner Elizabeth Hoyt said being named a finalist was a significant milestone for her family and staff.

"We've poured our hearts into bringing this old motel back to life, often doing renovation work between welcoming guests and making beds. It's constant juggle! To have that effort recognised alongside so many wonderful South Australian tourism businesses makes us feel incredibly proud," she said.

Other local accommodation and tour final-

ists include Lyndoch Motel—a newly renovated 1960s retro-style retreat—as well as Barossa Bespoke Tours and Barossa Helicopters.

Food, local government, and artisan operators round out the local contenders, including Monkey Nut Cafe, The Barossa Council (for the Barossa Food & Wine Village), and bespoke skin-care producer VASSE VIRGIN Seppeltsfield.

The public can vote for their favourite business in the People's Choice Awards, supported by SA LIFE, online at Solstice Media.

All winners and medallists will be announced at a gala dinner on Friday 6 November at Morphetville Racecourse.