

Where to stay

Round up The five best boutique hotels on the Cornish coast

Whatever next?

The south-west county of legend and stunning coastline is also home to some fabulously modern places to stay, says Lisa Johnson



Left, the staircase at St Moritz Hotel, between Rock and Polzeath

rooms are smallish, so book a superior or the Celebration Room if you can. Breakfast includes Annie's honey-roasted muesli; the dinner menu makes the most of seasonal produce prepared in uncomplicated ways. The beaches of St Ives Bay are below you, the museums of St Ives, including the newly restored Leach Pottery, are a three-minute train ride away, and the hallway wallpaper doubles as a map of Cornwall flagging up the family's other favourite haunts (such as a walk to the Gurnard's Head for lunch). The couple want the Boskerris to exceed expectations; it certainly did mine. *Carbis Bay, St Ives (01736 795295; www.boskerrishotel.co.uk). Doubles from £95*

THE OLD QUAY HOUSE

Bristling with yachts, and with views to Polruan and Daphne du Maurier's old house in Bodrinnick, Fowey is preposterously picturesque – in a good way. The Old Quay House was built in 1852 as a seaman's mission and, viewed from its terrace on the estuary, the building looks almost too narrow to contain a plush boutique hotel. Londoners Jane and Roy Carson bought it as a B&B in 2002 and Jane, who used to work for the marketing consortium Leading

ST MORITZ HOTEL & SPA

UNDER £100 The fact that Elliot Ketley has come to the St Moritz after four years as head chef of Soho House New York is indicative of the calibre of this venture from Virgin Atlantic chief executive Steve Ridgway and his brother Hugh. The British chef's superb, uncomplicated food and restaurant – an open-plan deli stocked with fresh fish, vegetables and goodies from The Cornish Chilli Company – is the warm heart of this Art Deco-inspired hotel. And Ketley is not the only asset. The new-build is in a prime spot above Daymer Bay between the sailing haven of

Rock and surfer's paradise of Polzeath. The 63 apartments, suites and rooms, which can be bought (from £645,000 to £1.6 million) as well as rented, have been furnished by Falmouth-based Absolute Design in smart Hamptons-meets-Miami style (oak floors, tongue-and-groove walls, wallpapers and bed runners in shimmery blues and greens). Half have sleek, ocean-going balconies with views over the swimming pool to the Camel Estuary. There's also an indoor swimming pool, a sauna, steam room and gym, and a Cowshed spa. *Trebetherick, Wadebridge (01208 862242; www.stmoritzhotel.co.uk). Doubles from £95*

BOSKERRIS HOTEL

UNDER £100 On a sunny day you can sit out on the decking at Boskerris Hotel with a glass of New World white, and gaze past dolphins to the lighthouse at Godrevy. The 1930s-built hotel has been transformed by Cornishman Jonathan Bassett and his wife Marianne (with help from Jonathan's parents, Annie and George), and now features a gentle blend of whitewashed wood, soft-blue fabrics and piles of interesting books in the bar and living room. The 15 bedrooms are decorated with a vibrant mix of Designers Guild wallpapers and raw-silk curtains. The standard

