

Cornwall calling

Oh, we do like to be beside the seaside, especially when staying in a chic, Thirties-inspired hotel

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Perched on a hill between Polzeath Beach and Rock, and only a brief ferry hop from foodie heaven Padstow, the new St Moritz Hotel in Trebetherick is the ideal place for a chic weekend by the sea.

The white, Art Deco-tinged façade has a stepped curve of balconies, meaning that nearly every room has a sea view. If it weren't for the Daphne du Maurier scenery, the postcode could be Miami. The imminent arrival of a stainless-steel pool and sundeck will no doubt add to that South Beach feel.

The architecture (and name) pays homage to the legendary Thirties-built hotel that once stood here and attracted the great and the good in its heyday. Absolute Design (which also designed Jamie Oliver's

Fifteen restaurant, in nearby Watergate Bay) has given the rooms a coastal vibe, with white tongue-and-groove panelling (glammed up with Cole & Son or Osborne & Little wallpaper), reclaimed oak floors and nautical-toned throws. Great British board games like Scrabble, Fifties Penguin paperbacks and photos of the old hotel's interior infuse the rooms with the character of its predecessor.

The reception, gym, indoor pool, restaurant and lounge bar are all in a separate building, where there's also a Cowshed Spa – the first to open independently of the Soho House group. Book ahead, (it's very busy) – a salt scrub, facial and pedicure will get you shipshape for the beach.

GET THERE Fly to Newquay Airport from a host of UK and Irish destinations (newquaycornwallairport.com). The 40 minute trip to the hotel costs £40 by biodiesel taxi from biotravel.co.uk.

STAY IN Double rooms at the St Moritz Hotel cost from £180 per night in July: 01208 862242, stmoritzhotel.co.uk.

GO OUT Surfers and watersports fans are spoilt for choice, but if you prefer terra firma, hire a bike and take in the scenic Camel Trail, making pint and pasty pit stops at pubs along the way.

EAT The Blue Tomato Café in Rock is a great brunch spot (bluetomatocafe.com). For dinner, No6 in Padstow offers divine seafood (number6inpadstow.co.uk).

DRINK Padstow's binTwo is a little quayside wine-shop-cum-bar where you can soak up the harbour view with a glass of rosé (bintwo.com).

SHOP For coastal-inspired homewares, Teri Walters has three outlets dotted through the winding streets. We loved the stacked-pebble lamps (01841 532292).



EXCLUSIVE ONLINE OFFER

For a special discount on dinner, bed and breakfast, and a bottle of champagne on arrival at St Moritz, visit livingetc.com/offers.



LEFT The Art Deco-style façade. BELOW Clean lines and luxury in the Penthouse suite. BOTTOM LEFT Make time for a pamper session at the Cowshed Spa. BOTTOM RIGHT Clever architecture means most of the rooms have a balcony.

