

## Where to stay

THE WEEKENDER THE OLD COASTGUARD, MOUSEHOLE, CORNWALL

# Cornish to a tee



**WHAT IS IT?** A Victorian hotel on a narrow street close to the harbour in Mousehole, on Cornwall's south-west coast. The property faces the sea and St Clement's Isle. A large bar and garden at the back have all the requisite features for long Sunday lunches in summer and for lingering autumn afternoons, with a real fire in the grate, big tables for convivial gatherings and windows affording views of sun-dappled water. At the foot of the garden there are steps to a beach with a rock pool.

**BEHIND THE SCENES** This is the third project for brothers Charles and Edmund Inkin, who own The Felin Fach Griffin inn near Abergavenny and The Gurnard's Head at Zennor. Last year they bought The Old

Coastguard, which, with 14 rooms, is their largest property to date. Most of the bedrooms and the bar, hallways, landings and exterior have now been done up.

**SLEEP** Beds are soft and comfy, linen beautifully crisp, colours an inoffensive if unadventurous palette of butterscotch and cream. It is simple pub accommodation rather than boutique-hotel standard: expect a plain bathroom with a shower attachment over the bath rather than a sexy wet room. There are family rooms, and others have balconies or double-aspect views.

**EAT** The Inkens have a knack for finding talented young chefs prepared to quit big-city life. The Old Coastguard's kitchen is overseen by Bruce Rennie (formerly at Martin Wishart in

The garden and a bedroom at the newly renovated Old Coastguard hotel in Cornwall

Edinburgh), who also heads up operations at The Gurnard's Head, and sous-chef Tom Conway, who has come west from Nobu. Seafood is the mainstay of a brasserie-style menu which includes plaice, pollock, mussels with coriander and lemongrass, grilled sardines, and Newlyn smoked salmon (with beetroot risotto at lunch, scrambled eggs at breakfast). That said, there is no shortage of Cornish-reared meat, and there are decent pints and yummy wines.

**WHO GOES THERE?** Locals dropping in for a pint of Skinner's Heligan Honey. Regulars who stayed pre-takeover continue to visit, mostly out of season (in high summer it's colonised by families).

**WHAT IS THERE TO DO?** The coast-path walk to Lamorna Cove is fantastic. Cyclists are spoiled for a choice of routes. If a storm rolls in, watch it from the conservatory with a coffee, then visit Penlee House Gallery and Museum in Penzance to see a collection of works by Newlyn School artists.

**WE LIKE** The morning sunlight glittering on the water, the granite cottages that hug the hillside on which the village is built, and the dog-friendly vibe.

**WE DON'T LIKE** The colour scheme is too similar to The Gurnard's Head, and therefore dated. There is a lack of decent showers and the toiletries are screwed to the wall, gym changing-room-style.

**THE PRICE** Doubles from £110 B&B; a dinner-inclusive deal costs from £150 per night; Sunday sleepover (lunch, dinner and B&B) from £195. **SALLY SHALAM**

THE OLD COASTGUARD, THE PARADE, MOUSEHOLE, PENZANCE, CORNWALL (01736 731222; WWW.OLDCOASTGUARDHOTEL.CO.UK)

## SUITE TALK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE HOTEL WORLD

**CHINA** Elizabeth Taylor was a huge fan of **The Peninsula Hong Kong** and Charlie Chaplin lived there in 1967. This year, all 297 guest rooms

are being refurbished; and this month the first will reopen in the Peninsula Tower. (00 800 2828 3888; www.peninsula.com). Superior rooms from £440



**PORTUGAL** A restored 1836 farmhouse on the eastern Algarve is due to open this month as **Fazenda Nova**, a stylish hotel in 10 hectares of orchards and vegetable gardens. It has 10 suites, nine with private gardens or terraces. A Cozinha, the traditional restaurant, will serve bread baked in a restored 200-year-old oven. (00 351 911 11 3039; www.fazenda-nova.eu). Garden suites from €170

**TURKEY** Created by Zeynep Fadillioglu, the first woman to design

a mosque, the **Marti Istanbul Hotel**, right, opens this month in the city's Taksim neighbourhood. The hotel will have 270 'contemporary Ottoman' bedrooms around a central atrium, a traditional tented lounge, four bars and restaurants, and a Turkish spa. (00 90 212 361 5210; www.marti-istanbulhotel.com). Doubles from £166

**USA** The old Point Breeze Hotel on Nantucket, built in 1891, reopens this month as the **Nantucket Hotel & Resort** after a complete overhaul.



Despite doubling in size to 60 rooms, it is designed to feel like a private summer residence. There are two pools and a bar with an outdoor area. (00 1 508 310 1734; www.thenantuckethotel.com). Doubles from \$175 **FRANCESCA SYZ**