

GREAT BRITISH & IRISH HOTELS

2017/18



250
perfect
PLACES
to stay

COUNTRY & TOWN
HOUSE



CARY ARMS & SPA

BABBACOMBE BEACH, DEVON

Its location is nothing short of spectacular, approached by a steep lane that descends the cliff. Once ensconced, the Cary Arms feels like a setting from a Mills & Boon romance and a *Famous Five* adventure rolled into one, its delightful bedrooms each supplied with a stick of rock on snow-white pillows. Eat Devon beef and Lyme Bay lobster in the stone-walled, slate-floored bar, or on pretty terraces that hang over the bay. Bedrooms in the house are sumptuous and seaside fresh and now there are beautiful beach huts and beach suites to choose from as well. Just when you don't expect such sybaritic luxury at an 'inn on the beach' – there's a state-of-the-art spa offering indulgent marine Thalgo treatments. Romantic, family (and dog) friendly, for walkers, fishermen and sailors, or just for fun: the Cary Arms has something for everyone.

NAME TO KNOW... Head chef Ben Kingdon, who can talk you through his recommendation of Lobster thermidor with garlic roasted new potatoes and lemon buttered samphire.

Doubles from £245

+44 (0)1803 327110; caryarms.co.uk

CHAPEL HOUSE

PENZANCE, CORNWALL

Owned by an ex-banker with an aesthetic as sharp as her mind, Chapel House is an airy Georgian marvel, idyllically positioned over Penzance's harbour and steeped in maritime history. Susan Stuart washed the once imposing home of an admiral in airy white, bringing this grand canvas into the modern world.

Waterfall-showers and Nordic chairs sit alongside opulent marble fireplaces and mahogany chests, the six-bedroom house is as elegant as it is relaxed. Guests who bag the top floor room can bathe under the stars – a glass roof opening above their heads. Bruce Rennie's infamous The Shore seafood restaurant is just a stone's throw away, as is Penlee House Gallery and Museum. Chapel House's walls themselves are awash with modern pieces from Newlyn School of Art. And despite the local antique shops, galleries and otherworldly beaches to explore, this elegant haven's exceptional wine list and cuisine, its crispy linen and books galore beg the question: 'Why ever leave?'

NAME TO KNOW... Susan Stuart, an oracle whose speciality is recommending excursions that are off the beaten track.

Doubles from £150

+44 (0)1736 362024; chapelhousepz.co.uk

