

The cool hotel guide Chapel House PZ, Penzance, Cornwall

From Penzance's end-of-the-line railway station, it's a ten-minute stroll up a hill with many an antique and collectibles shop to Chapel House PZ. This small, new, six-room hotel is near the harbour on Chapel Street, a distinguished run of houses dating from the 18th century, the good-value Artist Residence boutique hotel (artistresidencecornwall.co.uk) and the ornate Admiral Benbow pub, stuffed with colourfully painted shipwreck finds.

In a nutshell

Susan Stuart, a former City banker and charity chief executive, bought Chapel House (built in 1790) three years ago. It had previously been the Penzance Arts Club — and, long before, home to Admiral Samuel Hood Linzee of HMS *Temeraire*, the ship made famous by Turner's painting *The Fighting Temeraire*. It had been in a dilapidated state. Stuart invested in an overhaul, removing rotten



Need to know

floorboards, restoring original cornices and fireplaces, getting rid of pebbledash (to reveal fine red bricks beneath) ... and creating a chic hotel.

What are the rooms like?

There are six bedrooms kitted out to a high standard with bathrooms with rainforest showers, grapefruit, lemon and bergamot Pure Nuff Stuff toiletries (made by a Penzance company), and good-quality towels. Most of the rooms have bathtubs; room No 1, which has a splendid view of St Michael's Mount,

comes with a giant tub nicknamed the "swimming pool" by Stuart. The look throughout is uncomplicated: white-grey floorboards, pale green throw-cushions, aquamarine headboards and soft-grey sofas. Stuart says the colours "take their lead from the sea". Rooms 4, 5 and 6 are on the top floor, each with a sea view (room 5 overlooks St Michael's Mount).

Which is the best room?

Room 2 is on a corner and is especially spacious, with an ostrich egg-shaped bath and a super-king bed.

Tom Chesshyre was a guest of Chapel House PZ (07810 020617).

chapelhousepz.co.uk), Chapel Street, TR18 4AQ; B&B doubles from £150; £30 single occupancy discount; Paddington-Penzance singles from £23.50 in advance from firstgreatwestern.co.uk

So what's the food like?

Dinners and breakfasts are served in the flagstone-floored basement. It opens on to a back garden with a terrace with sea views, where canapés and drinks are served. Meals are a fixture on Fridays, Saturdays and at Sunday brunch (sausage sandwiches, avocado on sourdough toast, kedgeree on spinach with poached egg). Food, prepared by Stuart, can be requested a day in advance during the rest of the week. My spicy crab cakes, followed by a warming bouillabaisse with crab and scallops (a little short of seasoning), and a gin and tonic jelly pudding made for a light, fresh and memorable meal. You can dine at your own table or join others. Three courses are £22.

Who goes there?

Nicholas Serota, director of the Tate.

What else is there to do?

Peruse the colourful works of art in the airy lounge, produced by students of the Newlyn School of Art (newlynartschool.co.uk); these are for sale. Go for a walk along the coast, or visit Land's End.

The highs, the lows, the verdict

Nine out of ten

This is Cornwall's best new hotel, though the dining area is a little cramped.

Tom Chesshyre

Do you agree?

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The impressive Magellan - traditional chic!
Combining comfortable surroundings and friendly service with stylish entertainment and delicious cuisine, Magellan's expansive decks with swimming pools and whirlpools are ideally



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