

Hotel Tresanton

St Mawes Cornwall

Tresanton was bought in 1998 and lovingly restored by Olga Polizzi. It is made up of a cluster of five white houses above Tavern Beach in St Mawes, which is one of the prettiest fishing villages in Cornwall. All rooms have stunning views across the sea towards St Anthony's lighthouse.

Tresanton was one of the first 'designer hotels' in Cornwall and its understated seaside look has spawned many an imitator; it is even said that it kick-started the Cornish revival in tourism which is still going strong. To its loyal guests, who come back time after time, there is no equal. Many of our staff have worked at Tresanton for years and have come to know several generations of the same family.

Each of the 31 bedrooms has its own distinct style, some with period furniture and all with Cornish art which gives them a strong sense of place. There are small rooms and large rooms, some with terraces, some with balconies; there are family suites; a bar open to dogs and locals; a light-filled restaurant with a mosaic floor and huge terraces, and a pretty sitting room with a log fire which burns all winter. Children and dogs are very welcome; we have a children's garden and playroom as well as four dog-friendly rooms.

Paul Wadham, our much-loved chef, specialises in working with all the wonderful local produce which includes an abundance of fresh fish and a wide variety of vegetables and pulses. Lunch might include a crab and dandelion salad or a wild garlic soup, or mackerel line-caught in the bay and homemade ice cream and sorbet. The renowned Sunday barbeque, served on the main terrace during July and August is a highlight for our guests and locals alike.

The Beach Club, across the road from the hotel, is a series of breezy terraces set just above the waterline, a place for guests to relax, serving juices, coffee, tea and a simple snack lunch menu.





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Pinuccia, the hotel's magnificent 8 metre classic yacht, was built in 1939 to race for Italy in the European Cup. She is the most beautiful boat in St Mawes. From May to the end of September our skipper and mate can take you sailing around Falmouth Bay or up the Helford River, enjoying the wind in her sails.

There is also a lovely Georgian Methodist Chapel, bought and restored by Olga Polizzi, where a cultural programme of events takes place; one of the highlights is the annual Music Festival held in November.

Past St Mawes Castle there is a 2.5 mile walk to the 14th century church of St Just-in-Roseland, which John Betjeman called 'to some the most beautiful churchyard on earth'. A regular ferry during the summer months will take you to the other side of the harbour where there are longer walks past the lighthouse, and there are miles and miles of coastal footpaths to hike.

The particular light of Cornwall has always inspired artists; work from the St Ives and Newlyn colony are exhibited at the Tate Gallery. Adjacent, Barbara Hepworth's studio is preserved exactly how she left it in 1975; the Bernard Leach pottery is also well worth visiting. In Penwith, The Minack Theatre is carved into the cliffs above Porthcurno.

The great gardens of Trelissick and Caerhays are very close and are known for their magnolias, azaleas and rhododendrons, which are at their best in March and April. Trewithen and The Lost Gardens of Heligan, Glendurgan and Trebah are a short drive away.

Our sister hotel, Endsleigh, in Devon, is set in 100 acres of gardens designed by Humphry Repton, one of the greatest English landscape designers of the eighteenth century. At the other end of the South Coast is The Star, Alfriston, in East Sussex that opened as the newest member of The Polizzi Collection in June 2021.

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Olga Polizzi

Olga Polizzi is Deputy Chairman and Director of Design at Rocco Forte Hotels, a company she helped her brother Rocco Forte create; it owns well known, historic hotels worldwide including Brown's in London, the Hotel de Russie in Rome and the Amigo in Brussels.

Olga is the owner of The Polizzi Collection, a group of three elegant hotels across the South of England; Hotel Endsleigh in Tavistock, Devon, Hotel Tresanton in St Mawes, Cornwall and The Star, Alfriston, East Sussex.

Olga is chairman of the Trusthouse Charitable Foundation and is on the board of the Landau Forte Academy Trust and President of the British Italian Society.

Olga is married to the author William Shawcross. She has two daughters, Alex, who is Channel 5's Hotel Inspector and Charlie, who owned and ran Onda in St Mawes for many years and now works as a women's wear buyer for a large fashion company. Her two stepchildren are Eleanor Wolfson and Conrad Shawcross.

@olgapolizzi



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- Opened 1998
- 5 hours by car from London
- 4 hours by train
- 31 rooms and suites
- From £270 per night (B&B)
- Three family suites
- All rooms have sea views
- Many have terraces
- Dogs welcome
- 60 cover restaurant
- 120 cover terrace
- Beach Club
- Bar and dogs' bar
- Sitting room
- Cinema
- Playroom/garden
- 8 metre classic private yacht

