

Life by the ocean

Sue Bradbury discovers an award-winning coastal cliff-top hideaway that will take your breath away



Carn Mar sits over Polzeath Beach - one of Cornwall's most desirable spots



Imagine waking up to a far-reaching, uninterrupted view of sand, sea and glorious north Cornwall coastline. From the depths of an unbelievably comfortable super-king bed, you're able to gaze out through wide windows and a Juliet balcony towards Polzeath Beach and mighty Atlantic rollers breaking onto the shore below.

Around you are exquisite pieces of bespoke designer furniture – each one a work of art. Lazily, you extract yourself from the duvet, wander into the beautifully-styled bathroom for an invigorating monsoon shower then descend sweeping curved stairs to the open plan lounge, dining room and kitchen. Perhaps you'll breakfast on the balcony overlooking the large landscaped garden and the sandy expanse beneath or maybe, if it's breezy, you'll opt instead for the sheltered terrace. On cooler days, snuggling up to the glass-fronted, double-sided log burner might be more appealing or simply picking up a book from the well-stocked shelf and collapsing onto a squishy sofa in the reading room, whilst intermittently being distracted by the constantly changing coastal panorama in front of you.

An impossible dream? Not if you choose Carn Mar as your

holiday accommodation. Having recently won gold in the self-catering category of the 2018/19 Cornwall Tourism Awards, it's a newly-constructed six-bedroom, three-storey home in a glorious location. No expense has been spared in its design (tasteful, minimalist, chic), fittings (you know you're looking at quality when tables are identified by the name of their maker) and facilities (including a handy post-surf outdoor shower, wetsuit storage and, to keep warm whilst watching stupendous sunsets, a fire pit with surrounding in-built seating).

The house was built by its current owners who live out of county but stay in the property regularly. Local contractors and designers were used in the construction process and, when the owners aren't in residence, Carn Mar is let out by local agency Latitude50 which specialises in managing exceptional properties in the Rock, Polzeath, Daymer Bay and Port Isaac area.

'We are a very experienced team who are always on hand to ensure visitors have everything they need for a truly memorable stay,' said Sales & Marketing Manager Katy Austin-Waters, who showed me around.



Carn Mar has six tranquil bedrooms, almost all of them benefitting from panoramic views



Around every corner you will discover the most exquisite design flourishes. The fabrics, the colours and the shapes have been skilfully interwoven to create a medley of delight

‘We’ve got a fantastic range of accommodation available and each cottage, house or apartment is carefully selected for the features, character or situation that make it unique. Carn Mar is superb in many ways but is also representative of a portfolio we’re proud of.’

It’s not easy to find Carn Mar as it’s down the end of an unlikely-to-lead-anywhere sort of track in New Polzeath. That of course makes it private, quiet and, because it’s not in the heart of the main village, untroubled by crowds in the height of the holiday season. The South West Coast Path is literally just outside the garden gate and a very short stroll takes you straight to the sand and inviting sea beyond.

Poet Laureate Sir John Betjeman used to holiday from a young age in nearby Trebetherick. An only child and, by all accounts, a lonely one, he clearly loved the place. Accompanied by his favourite teddy bear Archibald and far away from his main home in London, he made friends with the local children, played by the water’s edge, made ‘long barefoot climbs to fetch the morning milk’, discovered small coves and took part in treasure hunts. ‘Childhood,’ he said when referring to his time in Cornwall, ‘is measured out by sounds and smells and sights, before the dark



The interior radiates style with a calming colour palette and beautiful furnishings. A statement double glass-fronted log burner sits between the lounge and dining area to achieve a warm, convivial atmosphere.

hour of reason grows.’ When he died, he was buried at St Enodoc Church, close to Rock and surrounded by a golf course. You can’t see it from Carn Mar but it’s a relatively easy walk there along the coast path – no car required and awesomeness guaranteed.

Enjoying a millionaire’s lifestyle might seem beyond the means of most of us - but it doesn’t have to be. Carn Mar sleeps fourteen (one room has two sets of bunk beds) which, from £31 per person per night, makes it a sharing possibility

for several families or a group of friends – especially out of season when short breaks and low occupancy rates are offered. Perfect for that special celebration or whatever excuse you choose.

Imagine that. Stunning, poetry-inspired vistas, luxurious surroundings, wonderful places to explore and sheer kick-back self-indulgence.

I’m off to phone some mates. ♦

For more information, visit latitude50.co.uk/carn-mar

The beach beckons from every spot in the house



Doors in the bedrooms open directly onto the gardens and the beach beyond



The perfect day ends with a sunset over the Atlantic Ocean



Carn Mar is newly built and boasts a spacious modern open plan interior

‘Poet Laureate Sir John Betjeman used to holiday from a young age in nearby Trebetherick. Accompanied by his favourite teddy bear Archibald and far away from his main home in London.’



The South West Coast Path runs from outside the garden gate



Wonderful curved interiors are reminiscent of Bauhaus design



Curl up by the wood burner on cold nights