

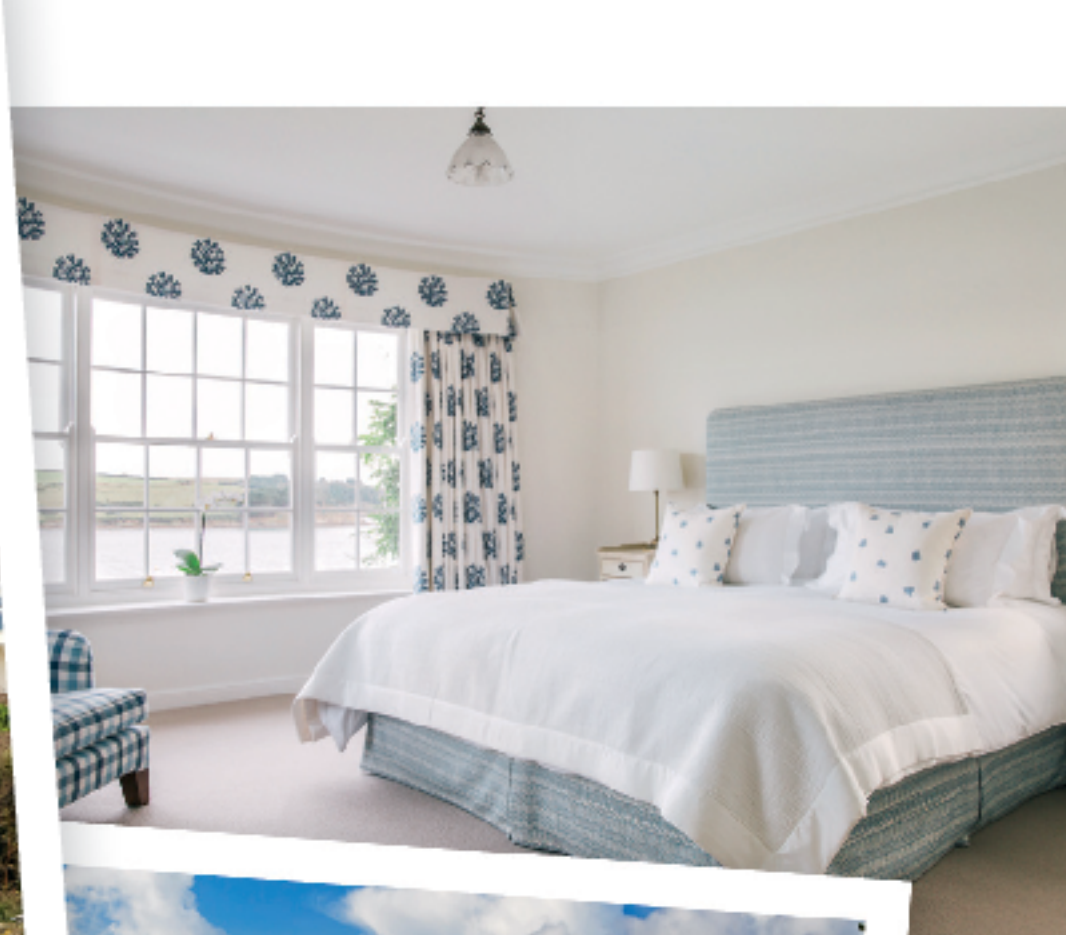


## PENOLVA St Mawes, Cornwall

**THE TOP LINE:** A sprawling harbour-side home with 180° sea views that, rumour has it, has hosted the Queen Mother and other Royals, all of whom were friends with first owner Dick Wilkins. Penolva means 'lookout on the headland' and you'll be doing that from just about every window.

**HOW MANY HENS?** The house has four large double bedrooms, all ensembles, each with striking modern art, sumptuous soft furnishings and cute coastal decor touches. There'll be no race to avoid the box room here.

**TELL ME MORE:** Penolva sits on what must be one of the most prized spots of land in the whole of the pretty harbour village of St Mawes. Moments from the castle and a very short stroll into the village for exploring,



the house is at first imposing and then, once you're inside, it transforms into a luxurious residence. Space is everything. You enter on the upper floor where the bedrooms are found; a sweeping staircase then takes you down to a formal dining room that seats up to 14, and on into a cosier kitchen, via a giant walk-in pantry. Despite its vast size, the house is always homely – essential after a day at the Cornish seaside – thanks to the seemingly never-off Aga that warms everyone and everything. Enjoy a rowdy breakfast with your gang at the farmhouse-style kitchen table while looking out to sea and watching the ferry make its regular trip from St Mawes to Falmouth and back. The house then opens into an enormous open plan living space that somehow even manages to make a grand piano look small.

**THE LUXE FACTOR:** Having so much space so close to all the foodie delights of St Mawes and beyond, with total privacy too. The gardens that lead to a private slipway – early morning dip anyone? – also hide two suntrap terraces, perfect for sinking fizz together and not in the slightest bit overlooked if bikini weather hits.

**STAYING IN:** Load up on treats from Humfrey's Farm Shop in

Tregony ([humfreysfarmshop.com](http://humfreysfarmshop.com)) or better yet, ask charming owner Amanda to organise a private chef to cook for you. If all that eating and drinking leaves you needing a little pampering, no problem. When you book a St Mawes Retreats luxury coastal property you are able to access the therapeutic services of Alexandra Holbrooke, whose aromatherapy massage will knead out every tension knot no matter how stubborn.

**ON THE DOORSTEP:** Food favourites Hotel Tresanton, The Idle Rocks Hotel and The Watch House – the latter getting our vote for the best modern, spice-filled take on the humble fish and chips. You can also jump on that ferry to Falmouth and 30 minutes later you'll be eating at Rick Stein's Fish and Chip shop, located near the National Maritime Museum.

**WHAT TO PACK:** The lot! You'll be outside getting stuck into watersports, coastal walks and fine dining, then cosying up some nights in your PJs.

**HEN HIGHLIGHT:** Knowing that you're staying in the best property in the area, with the best views, with your best girls. Life is very good at Penolva – and you won't forget it.

**GO:** From £2,950 for three nights; [stmawesretreats.co.uk](http://stmawesretreats.co.uk) **B**

