

The cool hotel guide

The Old Quay House, Fowey

In a nutshell

Among the Cornish galleries and gift shops, this converted Victorian seamen's mission sits on the edge of the River Fowey, with great views from its sunny terrace. The hotel has undergone a redesign since it was taken over by Providence Hospitality in 2015. The feel is light and contemporary, with a nod to the nautical: Chesterfield armchairs in sea blues, barrel-shaped coffee tables, a driftwood-style bar and sand-coloured headboards. Two new rooms will open on July 7, bringing the total to 13.

What are the rooms like?

Extremely comfortable and in neutral tones, each with its individual style. Mine (Room 6) had light grey carpets and walls, with a roll-top tub, waterfall shower and White Company toiletries. Some rooms face the street, others have views of the river. Waterproof jackets, binoculars and earplugs (to block out the seagulls) are a nice touch.

Which is the best room?

Rooms 6 and 12 (deluxe rooms) have



superb river views (both cost from £215 B&B). The Loft is the biggest, with a private lounge overlooking the water (from £245 B&B).

So what's the food like?

Richard Massey, the head chef, sources ingredients locally. This is top-notch modern British fare, with spiced duck breast and pickled grapes, cod loin and confit fennel served in an elegant dining room with large folding doors facing the water. My starter of Cornish dressed crab was encased in wafer-thin slices of radish and my main of roast monkfish

was perfectly cooked, served with broad beans and a pancetta gratin packed with flavour. The strawberries and basil cream were delicious. Three courses cost from £45 (two courses from £37.50).

Who goes there?

Walkers (maps are provided) and city folk seeking Cornish coastal views.

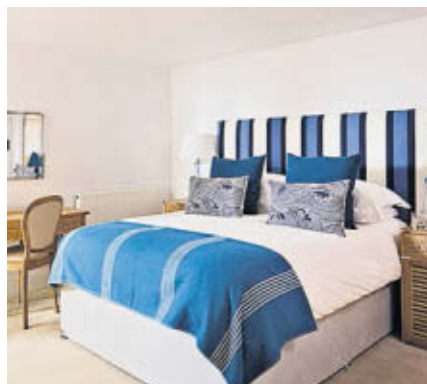
The highs, the lows, the verdict

Eight out of ten

Stellar location and fabulous food, but the car park is eight minutes' walk away.

Ellie Ross

CHETWODE RAM ASSOCIATES



Need to know

Ellie Ross was a guest of the Old Quay House Hotel (01726 833302, theoldquayhouse.com), 28 Fore Street, Fowey, Cornwall PL23 1AQ; B&B doubles from £135; no wheelchair access; £30 single-occupancy discount; no dogs allowed

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Times hotel rating: 8/10

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