

## The cool hotel guide

### Padstow Harbour Hotel, Cornwall

#### In a nutshell

Poised above the harbour, this revamped Victorian hotel offers views over the Camel estuary, quality dining and easy access to the town. It was formerly the Metropole, and its 58 bedrooms and communal areas were smartened up and modernised after it changed hands this year; the restaurant features bright, printed furniture, elegant parquet flooring and modern artwork. Facilities include a heated outdoor pool, and the hotel has "Harbour Experiences" that include gin tasting, cycling and yoga.

#### What are the rooms like?

Boldly coloured and tastefully styled, with royal blue armchairs, velvet cushions and zigzag patterns on headboards. High ceilings, neutral walls and white venetian shutters make the rooms feel bright and spacious. Our ground-floor room (No103, from £290) had triple-aspect windows, although two looked on to the car park. Double doors overlooked the estuary and garden, but passing guests could also see in.



#### Which is the best room?

The two suites are the most spacious, with a lounge area and bay windows with estuary views (from £390).

#### What's the food like?

Very good and mostly locally sourced. The Harbour Kitchen has all-day dining with sea views and a fire. The tempura prawn (£9) was a highlight, topped with glistening samphire, while the steak was generously sized and well cooked (£24). A breakfast buffet includes hot options from full English to pancakes.

#### Who goes there?

Holidaying families, romantic couples and groups of friends, with a mix of ages.

#### The highs, the lows, the verdict

##### Eight out of ten

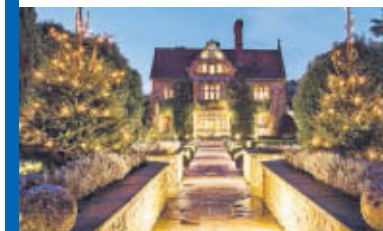
Renovations have transformed this into a cool, modern hotel with great food and nice touches (there's complimentary gin and tonic in rooms, and Hunter wellies to borrow). Some corridors feel a little unfinished, and the dredger crane in the harbour does slightly mar the view.

Ellie Ross

### Need to know

Ellie Ross was a guest of Padstow Harbour Hotel (01841 532486, [harbourhotels.co.uk](http://harbourhotels.co.uk)). B&B doubles cost from £150; two wheelchair-accessible rooms; no single-occupancy discount; dogs allowed in some rooms

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