



5 WOW HOLIDAY HOMES

A beach hut, a barn with a view and a design classic – just three of the houses you could call your own on your next holiday. The only downside? You might not want to hand back the keys



3 CORNWALL

A luxurious five-bedroom house with sweeping sea views across St Mawes keeps holiday-makers of all ages happy

No expense has been spared at Moonrakers, a five-star holiday house in the pretty harbourside village of St Mawes. Taking self-catering standards to a new high, it offers a level of luxury most of us will find hard to beat. For a start, it's huge. With two expansive living areas, a games room and five en-suite bedrooms, sleeping up to 12, it's the kind of space that allows a large group to holiday happily. There's always somewhere to escape to. I could have stayed in my master bedroom all day, staring at the sea views from the floor-to-ceiling windows. One of two master suites, it has a superking Hypnos bed (the Queen's bed of choice, apparently), and a terrace with sun loungers. Even the freestanding bath at the other end of the room looked out to sea. I was spoilt for view-choice.

Downstairs, there's more luxe living, with two areas opening up on to the patio and sweeping garden. We needed some junior guests, who would have screamed with delight at the games room and the huge trampoline outside.

Grown-ups are well looked after, too, with a concierge service I've never experienced in a self-catering rental. Nothing is too much trouble. Our online food delivery had been unpacked by the housekeeper prior to our arrival and a boat ride arranged to the 13th-century Pandora Inn (pandorainn.com) in the neighbouring bay. Did we want to book an in-room spa treatment? Yes, please. How about a chef to cook Saturday night's dinner? Oh, go on

then. Even our towelling robe sizes had been pre-ascertained.

The beauty of Moonrakers is that you can take advantage of its many extras, or simply enjoy the house, its gardens and the village of St Mawes. A drink at The Idle Rocks hotel (idlerocks.com) and a visit to the Onda boutique (ondarocks.co.uk) were highlights. I only have one complaint - I'm not sure future holiday rentals are ever going to match up. SASKA GRAVILLE

TRIP NOTES

Moonrakers is one of five houses in the St Mawes Retreats portfolio, from £950 for up to six guests and £1,250 for up to 12 guests for a three-night weekend break; stmawesretreats.co.uk. The nearest train station is St Austell. Transfers from Roseland Taxis; 01872 501 001.



THE
FIVE-STAR
STAY

FROM TOP: The vast living space is surrounded by sea views, with five en-suite bedrooms and a full concierge service. The house offers complete luxury, its beautiful gardens

