

# PACK A PUNCH ART TRIPS

COMBINE YOUR LOVE OF TRAVEL WITH YOUR LOVE OF THE ARTS WITH ONE OF THESE CULTURAL BREAKS, EACH PROMISING A SUMPTUOUS FEAST FOR THE SENSES



## VILLA LA COSTE

DISCOVER STUNNING NATURAL BEAUTY AND UNFORGETTABLE ART WORKS AROUND EVERY BEND. BY LORNA DAVIES





**WE DRIVE UP** the sandy road past the seemingly endless sunkissed vineyards, and are greeted by two friendly security guards. “Miss Davies?” one asks the driver, “Oui” ours replies. He nods and we continue up to a hill-edge entrance, flanked by three silver Range Rovers. I am half expecting Goldfinger to step out and tell me he’s been expecting me, such is the Bond-villain-lair-like nature of the place. But really, I think that would be doing Villa la Coste a disservice.

Around 20 miles north of Aix en Provence, 40 minutes from Marseille airport, Villa La Coste is the newest addition to Château La Coste, a 1682 farmhouse, hamlet of ancient buildings and 18th-century winery, now gallery space, surrounded by vineyards. The stunning site is owned by Irish property developer and collector Patrick McKillen, the man behind Mayfair’s Claridge’s, The Connaught and The Berkeley.

The whole place is like a who’s who of modern, post-war and contemporary art and architecture. We pass the Frank Gehry-designed music pavilion; an amphitheatre by the late Oscar Niemeyer; a yet-to-be-completed drawing gallery by Richard Rogers; a photography gallery by Renzo Piano; and an unmistakable Louise Bourgeois spider crouching over a lake.

Once inside Villa La Coste, the jaw-dropping art tour continues. Bourgeois’ drawings fill the walls, while rare photographs of Picasso by David Douglas Duncan, and vibrant paintings by Damien Hirst and Sean Scully are



hung among the stylish design furniture in the lobby and bar. Downstairs there’s a Warhol dollar sign; in our room a seascape by Japanese photographer Hiroshi Sugimoto above the bed; a Picasso sketch in the loo; and achingly cool coffee table books at every turn.

There are 28 villa suites, each surrounded by gardens and with their own terrace overlooking the vineyards and glimpses of astonishing sculpture. As we sit on our sun-dappled terrace enjoying a bottle of last year’s Château La Coste rosé, a helicopter arrives with the Villa’s latest guest.

At dinner, we’re greeted with a theatrical, dramatic show of art-like dishes, expertly created by renowned chef Gérard Passédat, owner of the restaurant Le Petit Nice in Marseille. Le Louison is named in honour of Bourgeois, and seemingly floats at the edge of the vine-covered hill, the perfect place for sundowners.

Early morning is the perfect time to head out and take a tour of the undulating woodland trails that are dotted with artworks. Pass through Tadao Ando’s iron gate to the pool with Alexander Calder’s kinetic spider and Bourgeois spider. Tracey Emin’s work is at the edge of the trail, a long walkway reaching out to a barrel containing a cat. Explore further and find works by Liam Gillick, Andy Goldsworthy, Richard Serra and Ai Weiwei.

This is the ultimate art, architecture and natural beauty destination. It feels authentic, despite the luxury, developed with an eye for detail and a clear passion for beauty – both in nature and in art.

[villalacoste.com](http://villalacoste.com)





# ST IVES

SOME OF THE UK'S FINEST ARTISTS HAVE GOT A NEW HOME AT TATE'S WESTERN OUTPOST. BY LORNA DAVIES

**BEAUTIFUL ST IVES**, with its golden sands, picturesque fishing harbour and eclectic art scene – made famous by the likes of Barbara Hepworth, Ben Nicholson, Peter Lanyon and Patrick Heron – is a wonderful place to visit at any time of the year. But you might want to schedule a trip in the next few months, as a missing piece of the cultural jigsaw will return on October 14 after a four-year hiatus.

Tate St Ives has had a facelift, with 600 square metres of new galleries, new studios and a public roof-top garden. The gallery is now able to give a permanent presence to those iconic 20th-century artists who lived and worked in the town, demonstrating the role of St Ives in the story of modern art. This will be combined with a new programme of large-scale seasonal shows.

The original building will offer a chronological overview of 20th-century art from the perspective of St Ives, including British and international artists from Nicholson, Lanyon and Hepworth to Piet Mondrian, Naum Gabo and Paule Vezelay. In 2018, these spaces will be used for an exhibition of women artists inspired by Virginia Woolf, a retrospective of Patrick Heron's vibrant paintings, and a specially commissioned project by contemporary artists Rosalind Nashashibi and Lucy Skaer.

To rest your art-filled head, why not try the lesser-known town of Mousehole. Pronounced "mowzall", it's a pretty village with plenty of art galleries, shops and pubs to spend a day pottering around in, and is located just 30 minutes south of St Ives.



Tate St Ives reopens on October 14



Rebecca Warren, *Los Hadeans*



Harbour Moon cottage



For a comfortable, welcoming stay, we highly recommend Harbour Moon in Mousehole. Small but perfectly formed, the one-bedroom, cobbled brick and wood-panelled cottage sits

right on the picturesque harbour of the Cornish village – you can hear the waves lapping onto the harbour wall and watch little boats bobbing on the water from the bed. It looks like an old ship house or fisherman's cottage, with a clever mezzanine level for the huge squashy bed, and luxurious shower and kitchen-diner below.

Like something from a film set, Harbour Moon is heart-breakingly romantic. And with a cosy log-burner, it is the perfect setting to while away an autumn evening dreaming of Hepworths, Lanyons and Herons. Bliss.

[beachspoke.com/properties/harbour-moon](http://beachspoke.com/properties/harbour-moon)



Harbour Moon mezzanine