

Extra incentive to enjoy the wonders of St Ives

The Cornish town's September festival has top music, film and art

Tony Dawe

Fine beaches, atmospheric narrow streets, the artists' colony and award-winning restaurants are just some of the very good reasons for visiting St Ives in Cornwall — and from September 12 there is an extra one.

The St Ives September Festival swings into action with an eclectic range of formal music events at the Guildhall and plenty of informal ones in the town's pubs and streets. The festival runs for a fortnight and coincides with the final weeks of the summer season at Tate St Ives. The town's School of Painting will also be hosting life drawing and painting courses.

A good choice of cottages and new apartments is on offer during the festival and rooms will be available in some of the many guest houses and hotels. Although at the extreme western end of England, St Ives is served by road and rail and flights from many UK airports land at Newquay, up the coast. Air Southwest flies there, for example, from London City, Gatwick, Manchester and Leeds Bradford airports among others.

The festival features pop, folk and big band concerts but starts on September 13 with the lugubrious wit of Arthur Smith, who brings his stand-up show to the Guildhall. The veteran disc jockey Johnnie Walker takes centre stage the following night with tales of his colourful life.

Then the music takes over, with the gentle tones of Ralph McTell, whose songs always tell a story, Chris Wood, the 2009 BBC Folk Awards Singer of the Year, Jackie Oates, singer, fiddler and another BBC award winner, and the Syd Lawrence Orchestra & Singers.

The event comes to its conclusion with Elkie Brooks on September 25 and the Queen tribute band, the Bohemians, performing on the last night. In the calm of the Tate, the summer season exhibition draws to a close, con-



A choice of cottages, apartments, guesthouse and hotel rooms is on offer in St Ives during the two week event

trasting the work of historic and contemporary figures.

The exhibition includes painting, film, text and sculpture created by Barbara Hepworth, Lucie Rie and Alfred Wallis, each associated with the St Ives colony during the 20th century, and shows them alongside the work of Katy Moran, Lawrence Weiner, Bojan Sarcevic and Carol Bove.

Surfers will enjoy the waves on Porthmeor Beach, while sunbathers

might prefer the quieter Porthminster Beach and the highly praised café behind it with a Mediterranean and Asian seafood cuisine. In Carbis Bay, a

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20-minute walk or short train journey from the town, the newly opened beach-house style Hawke's Point apartments offer a 20 per cent discount from Friday until the end of the festival. A balcony apartment for two with Atlantic views, large flat-screen TV, DVD player and Bose digital sound system costs £384 for a week.

A three-bedroom penthouse, with the added attraction of a brass



Husky-voiced Elkie Brooks will sing

captain's telescope, is £1,088 for a week. All guests are welcomed with a Cornish cream tea and award-winning sparkling wine from the Cornish Camel Valley vineyard.

Properties close to the town, available with Cornish Traditional Cottages, include Cowslip, a newly renovated single-storey barn conversion for four, with views across fields to St Ives Bay. It costs £354 for a week from September 12 and 19. A 19th-century house in the village of Phillack, which sleeps up to six and looks down over the tidal Copperhouse pool and bird sanctuary, is £422 for a week from September 19.

The company also has properties a few miles away available for the same week: Fuchsia Cottage, a pretty wisteria-hung stone property in Madron, and the Malt House with views across Mounts Bay in Newlyn. Both sleep four and prices are £384 and £354.

The St Ives Hotel and Guesthouse Association is the organisation to contact for catered accommodation.

● www.stivesseptemberfestival.co.uk
 tickets from tourist information centre — 01736 798577
www.tate.org.uk/stives
www.hawkes-point.co.uk
 — 01726 884072
www.comcott.com — 01208 821666
www.stives-cornwall.co.uk

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