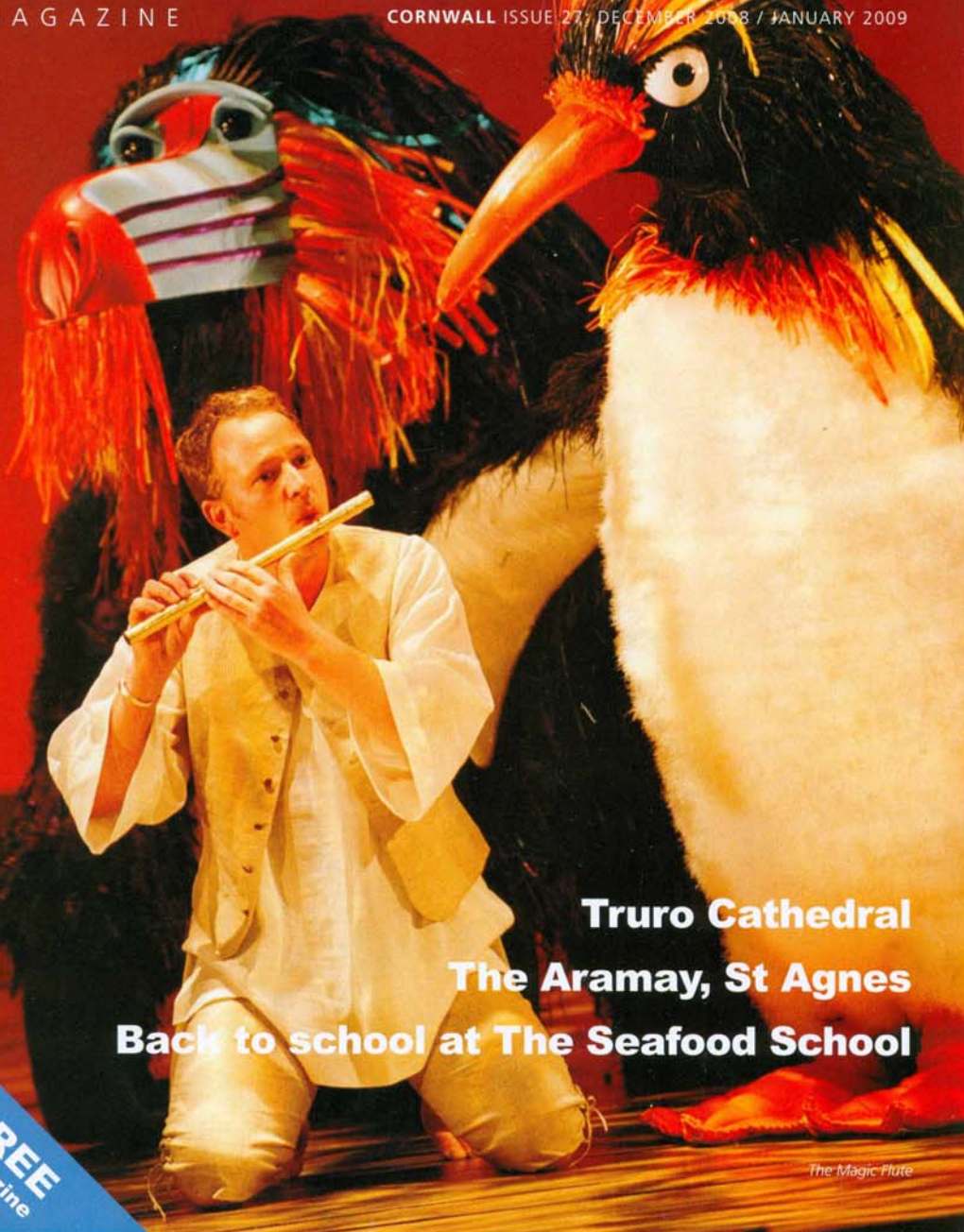


What's on and where to go in Cornwall here AND now

MAGAZINE

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Truro Cathedral
The Aramay, St Agnes
Back to school at The Seafood School

The Magic Flute

FREE
magazine

out AND about

St Agnes comes of age

If you follow Stippy Stappy, St Agnes's neat row of idyllic former sea captain's houses, down the wooded hillside to the sea, you will discover another hidden gem at the bottom. The Aramay is the north coast village's first spanking new boutique B&B, newly awarded AA 4 star highly commended status, but fittingly born of a longer history...

Owner Amie Pinfield grew up next door to the property, and her mother still lives there, renting neighbouring cottages to holidaymakers. Amie's grandfather was also in the hospitality industry in Cornwall in the 1950, '60s and early '70s, owning the Ferryboat pub in the Helford Passage before managing a number of Cornish hotels including the Angel in Helston and the Gurnards Head in Zennor.

Amie's entrance into the family profession was, however, sheer serendipity. Having moved to London to work in the digital media industry, Amie heard that the house next door to her childhood home was for sale and an idea was born. Along with friend and now business partner Kye, a talented musician who had been playing in London, Amie returned to Cornwall and bought the house. After seven months spent renovating the building, The Aramay opened for business in June 2008 – a good twenty minutes before the first guests arrived.

The results are quite something, particularly for a couple with no prior experience in running a B&B. The couple have got it absolutely right, saying they have simply drawn on everything they like and dislike about staying in hotels to create a wholly relaxing and indulgent experience, from breakfast being served until the very civilised time of 11.30am, to free newspapers in the morning – and proper mugs for the tea.



There are just five rooms, each individually styled and each given an analogy on the very witty web site, which communicates this place's refreshing sense of fun. We stayed in Room 2, likened to a 'Ford Capri' as a result of its quirky shape. Compact it was, but with no compromise on luxury, from the huge plasma screen TV to the monsoon jet shower, the homemade biscuits and the intuitively 'one touch' lights. Room 1 has a king size four poster bed and a fireplace, while Room 5 even boasts a chandelier...

Breakfast is an experience in its own right and has quite justifiably just won an AA Eggcup Award. After the usual openers of muesli and yoghurt, guests can choose from 'meaty', 'veggie', 'fruity', 'fishy' or 'flaky', meaning a whole host of delights from a mouthwatering medley of locally smoked bacon, hogs pudding and handmade chipolatas (all perfectly presented), to an orgy of seasonal fruit, a wealth of pastries or the fantastically decadent smoked salmon options. Not to mention the freshly squeezed, zingy fruit juice.

And the setting is glorious - a sizeable conservatory with windows looking over the terrace and garden (and beyond to Amie's Mum's house), complete with slate floor, funky chairs and Radio 2 in the background... You can even order soldiers with your eggs (cooked to suit personal taste). Heaven has arrived in St Agnes.

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