



St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, TR21 0JA, United Kingdom | 01720 422317 | info@star-castle.co.uk | www.star-castle.co.uk

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ISLES OF SCILLY



Summer Diary 2016



Dear Guest,

Warm greetings from us all at the Star Castle for summer 2016. With July, August and September now upon us we enclose details of our summer treats, autumn breaks and packages for the festive season. There is also some detail on our forthcoming themed breaks, such as the wine weekends, the autumn Walk Scilly festival, and a taster of offers for spring 2017 incase any of you are thinking well ahead!

We would like to extend our thanks to all our return visitors for coming to see us in 2015/16. With 2015 being another reasonable summer the islands seem quietly confident that 2016 is set to see visitor numbers continuing to improve on last seasons progress. We are further encouraged by the early season at the castle, which resulted in the conservatory opening in March and staying open through into May and onwards. This is virtually unheard of with an early Easter and is perhaps our busiest start ever. We even need to apologise for not being able to offer May gap filling summer treats with forward booking being stronger again this year. After having had a very rough winter, hope, as always abounds for another good summer. The weather in late May and early June is inspiring us with confidence, as has the long range forecast, and has certainly given a boost to the vineyard which is in leaf earlier than last year, Robert will expand on this later.

We would also like to reinforce the islands continuing commitment not to inflate prices, including transport, specifically for the summer holiday period. Of course we have a seasonal tariff but there is no further rise for the high season in question. Considering how contentious this issue has become we would like to continue our support for this stance by extending our children stay for free policy through 2016.

In the political arena James has been continuing to work with his fellow councilors to support the tourism industry and continue to improve the transport infrastructure. He is pleased to announce that the latest large-scale project is now all but complete for summer 2016. Our new quay is now fully functional, extension and all, and is far more user friendly. It offers a lot of extra space and a smarter new Harbour building with improved facilities. It will also be able to accommodate a wider variety of options for a replacement Scillonian in the years to come due to the extension. On a social front the project to demolish the ghastly bit of architecture that was the old school building will begin in October this year. The construction project will result in smarter new housing for the community and a significant improvement to our public realm, making the Porthmellon and strand areas more visually appealing.

This summer the council is also embarking tentatively on the new 'smart islands project'. This is designed to improve the energy efficiency of Scilly and make the islands an even cleaner and greener environment; it encompasses many areas including

renewable energy, water supply and waste management. Do not panic this does not mean wind turbines, certainly, we have been assured, while James still draws breath!!!

Positive news on the internet front is that 3g has now made its way to the islands and is supplementing our superfast broadband, which is still suffering from a few hiccups.

Due to a particularly 'fresh' winter we were a little delayed in completing our winter refurbishment programme this season, especially on the externals, finally finishing in early May. We have completed several full refurbishments of bedrooms and installed a new range of external furniture, particularly for the sea view verandas. We hope you will agree that it has increased the comfort and spruced up the appearance.

On the family front, April saw the wedding of Robert and Theresa's youngest son David to Miss Chloe Fuller at the church in old town with the reception at the Star Castle, it was a splendid occasion and a novelty for all to be able to fill the hotel with family and friends for the weekend and celebrate the nuptials.

All three boys are now off their hands and the responsibility of three very special girls Ella, Laura and Chloe all of whom will in due course need to be canonised!

Robert has also purchased a new fishing vessel the 26 ft. catamaran 'Sterenn Gwynn' to replace 'Gallos' and give him extra scope for netting as well as the lobster pots.

Although they are thoroughly enjoying school life, Thomas and Sophie are desperately looking forward to the summer holidays which they plan to enjoy with the latest addition to the Francis family, Ella and James' new lab 'Rupert'. Still just a pup he is already trying to fill the role left vacant by Monty last year but he is aware he has big boots to fill.

Gary Hodge has stepped up to replace Zoe as assistant manager and is giving James some much-needed support. We wish Zoe all the best in taking over the business of running 'Radio Scilly' and assisting Robert as events coordinator with the 'Island tourism and business partnership' of which he is chairman. She has already organised some excellent new events on Scilly including our inaugural Regatta weekend in August, which will be graced by the red arrows, a first for the islands!

We hope this newsletter finds you all well and we look forward to welcoming you this season.

Best wishes,

The Francis family

Special Offers



Last Minute Summer offer

Available throughout July and August

The Isles of Scilly is the perfect place to visit and relax this summer, with its white sandy beaches, islands to explore, tropical gardens, stunning walks and delicious locally sourced seafood. Enjoy the summer at the Star Castle with its breath taking sea views, indoor heated pool, complimentary golf and tennis and its two award-winning restaurants serving freshly caught seafood.

Throughout the summer months of July and August we are offering stays of three nights or more a 20% discount!

To book please contact reception on 01720 422317 or email info@star-castle.co.uk, Sarah and the team are looking forward to hearing from you. This only applies to bookings made after 1st July.

Gourmet Wine Weekend

14th October – 17th October

With the success of the years wine weekends we are to continue our series this autumn. Stay for three nights and enjoy; a tour of our Holy Vale Vineyard and a wine tasting with matching canapés on the Friday. On Saturday, experience a gourmet dinner with matching wines in the Castle Dining Room hosted by Robert Francis and on Sunday indulge in a special wine flight dinner. Autumn is a fantastic time to visit the islands and you will have plenty of time to enjoy the surroundings whilst with us.

Prices are from £450.00 per person for the three nights stay. These prices are based on two guests sharing a double or twin garden room with Dinner, Bed & breakfast each day. Book before 31st July and receive a free upgrade.



Walk Scilly Weekend

13th – 17th October

Time to get walking! By popular demand, Walk Scilly is back in October 2016!

There will be many guided walks across all inhabited islands and one or two of the uninhabited ones too. Get up close with the wildlife, go foraging, visit flower farms and learn about the islands history.

The Star Castle (located on St Mary's) provides the perfect base for you to enjoy this event and will certainly provide you with a hearty breakfast to get you going in the morning and offer you the comfort to relax in the afternoons with the indoor heated pool, the Dungeon bar and the award-winning restaurants.

Prices to stay over this special event are from £599.00 per person Dinner, Bed & Breakfast based on two sharing a garden room for 5 nights. Or, stay on a Bed & Breakfast basis from £475.00 per person for 5 nights based on two sharing a garden room.

To book contact our reception team on 01720 422317 or email info@star-castle.co.uk, they look forward to hearing from you.



A spring in your step

Christmas Package

23rd – 28th December

Your Christmas stay at the Star Castle Hotel includes; dinner, lunch, afternoon tea and bed and breakfast everyday plus a boat trip to one of the islands. On Christmas day itself enjoy our traditional Christmas lunch followed in the evening by a sumptuous seafood buffet. To make your life easier our reception team can also organise return flights for you from Lands End or Newquay.

Our Christmas package is from £135.00 per person per night based on two people sharing a garden room and this package includes all extras as noted above. We welcome you to stay with us for 4, 5 or 6 nights from 23rd December. Book quickly though as there is limited availability!

To book just contact our reception team on 01720 422317 or email them at info@star-castle.co.uk

Love Scilly

13th February – 6th March

Escape the mainland for an island paradise and start the year on a high. Stay with us and enjoy a welcome glass of champagne and Star Castle hand made chocolates to begin your romantic break. The Isles of Scilly is quieter in February offering the perfect opportunity for bracing walks along the coastline. The dungeon bar is the perfect place to enjoy a pre dinner drink before heading to our 16th Century Castle Dining room for your gourmet five-course dinner.

Prices are from £95 per person per night based on two people sharing a Garden room. Book before 31st December to receive a complimentary upgrade to either a Castle room or Garden room with sea view and veranda. This package includes a room upgrade (subject to availability), welcome glass of champagne per person, hand made chocolates and five-course gourmet dinner for two each evening.

New Year Package

28th December – 2nd January

Your New Years stay includes dinner, lunch, afternoon tea and bed and breakfast everyday as well as a boat trip to one of the other islands. Celebrate the incoming year with our very own exclusive party, sumptuous seafood buffet, live music and fireworks. To make your life easier our reception team can also organise return flights for you from Lands End or Newquay.

Our New Years package is from £135.00 per person per night based on two people sharing a garden room and this package includes all extras as noted above. We welcome you to stay with us for 4 nights from the 29th December or for 5 nights from the 28th December.

To book just contact our reception team on 01720 422317 or email them at info@star-castle.co.uk

Spring over to Scilly

March & April

As always we are offering special Spring breaks from as low as £99 per person per night based on two guests sharing, Dinner Bed & Breakfast.

Included in this break you will enjoy a five-course gourmet dinner each evening in either of our award-winning restaurants, a sumptuous breakfast each morning and the chance to upgrade from as little as £10.00 per person per night.

What's on Guide



What's On Guide to Scilly

From the beginning of April to the end of October, the islands come alive with events and experiences across the islands. From live music, food and drink festivals and exhibitions, to local produce markets, island fetes and charity events, come and join us! If you're planning your visit to coincide with a particular event or simply want to see what awaits you when you arrive, take a look at what's on so far this year.

Sevenstones Beer & Cider Festival

15th – 17th July

A fabulous weekend awaits at the Sevenstones Inn on St. Martin's. Beer and cider from all over the South West, UK and the world! Amazing lunches and dinners with 'The Barnacles' returning to play on the Sunday afternoon after a hugely successful show last year.



Ale & Music Festival Tresco

26th – 30th August

Once again, Tresco hosts a weekend of local ales from Scilly and southwest at the New Inn accompanied by top quality bands. Sit back, relax, and watch the world go by at Tresco's best (albeit only) pub!

Islands Regatta weekend. St Mary's

26th – 29th August

Join us for Scilly's inaugural Islands' Regatta on St. Mary's over the August Bank Holiday Weekend! Four days of celebration of our amazing maritime heritage, with a colourful parade of sail, tall ships, sailing regatta of Red Wings, and more, plus live music and entertainment, pop up stalls and beach activities for all the family!

Taste of Scilly

Month of September

Throughout September, the Isles of Scilly will host the inaugural Taste of Scilly food and drink festival - an opportunity to indulge you in the best of what Scilly has to offer, across all the islands. You'll be able to feast your eyes and savour the flavours on a vast range of food and drink as the islands bring together bakers, growers, brewers, fishermen and chefs for foodie nights, chef demos and more. There will be a number of special events including Taster evenings, pop-up restaurants, special local produce markets, master classes and children's activities.

Low Tide Experience – Tresco

18th September

At certain times of the year, it's possible to walk between Tresco and Bryher at low tide. Join us for this surreal experience - a channel crossing with a difference. Take the opportunity to search for Razor fish and join the myriad birds making the most of the low tide feast.





A chance to wine down

The Holy Vale Vineyard

Our year in the Vineyard has fortunately got some promise after our disastrous flowering period last year. We are about three weeks late in view of the cold spring that we have all experienced. We are now however enjoying some really good weather so the vines are very happy too and are coming on well with flowering expected later this month. We are hopeful the good weather will continue and the vines will gradually catch up the lost time and that they will power on to a good harvest in October. In the Winery we are about to bottle the small amount of Pinot Noir we got last year, but it is showing promise.

I also spent some time with Willi Opitz in Spain last winter where he is reviving a vineyard and I helped him make some wine there. If it is good enough we may bottle some of that and bring some here to the Isles of Scilly, a joint effort! Watch this space!

Our tastings in the winery are going from strength to strength and fortunately getting some good reviews. We are still showing our 2014 Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, which is improving noticeably with age, not that it is very old yet! Hopefully our stocks will hold out at least for the remainder of this season. The wine is also going very well in the hotel restaurants which considering it is our first effort is very pleasing. We still have one or two spaces left for our wine weekend commencing on October 14th so do call Sarah if you would like to join us for this feast of special food and wine as we normally run out of space. Details are shown separately.

Votre Santé

Robert



Holy Vale Wines

Special Offer – 20% discount

We are offering you a special discount of 20% off any of the wines on our wine list. Our minimum order is 6 bottles. Do visit our website at www.holyvalewines.co.uk to view our full wine list.

Robert, David and James carefully choose the wines on our list and many of the wines you will recognise from the Star Castle wine list as well as Holy Vale Vineyard tastings. We also offer a concierge wine service and aim to help you source any wines that you are searching for whether it is the grape variety, a wine from a particular country or a particular budget and food match

To place your order or should you have interest in our wine concierge service, just contact Victoria either by phone 077790 80751 or email victoria@holyvalewines.co.uk