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9 best secret hotels in the world

BudgetTravel

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The charming Mount Haven Hotel in Cornwall, England, overlooks the ocean and the island of St. Michael's Mount.

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- Rockhouse Hotel provides seclusion in the party town of Negril, Jamaica
- Les Deux Frères on the French Riviera is housed in a 19th-century stone building
- Tenuta di Roccadia in Sicily looks over citrus groves to the peak of Mount Etna beyond

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(Budget Travel) -- Each year, Budget Travel scouts out undiscovered hotels in popular destinations, from Italy to California wine country. Here, we pull the best of our picks from around the world, all for less than \$210 a night.

Mount Haven Hotel, Penzance, Cornwall, U.K.

Orange Trevillion was drawn to Penzance, at the end of Cornwall, because of the town's proximity to St. Michael's Mount, an ancient craggy island that looks a lot like a lopsided volcano.

"It's a sacred place," says Trevillion, an eccentric with carrot-colored hair (of course) who believes that four of the Earth's energy lines come together here.

Formerly the site of a Benedictine priory and rumored to have once been home to a giant, the island got its name when a fisherman claimed to have seen the Archangel Michael there many years ago. Trevillion and her partners bought Mount Haven in 2001. They knocked down walls and reconfigured the old coach house to maximize views of St. Michael's Mount and the ocean.

Most of the 18 rooms look out on the water. They have a distinctly Asian feel, with silk bedspreads and throw pillows covered in embroidered fabrics from Trevillion's frequent trips to India. (Room 6 is the quietest, away from both the front desk and the terrace.)

Even the restaurant, where many dishes are flavored with curry and lemongrass, has views of the Mount. But the best seats are on the terrace: You can see the island rising steeply out of the water, a medieval castle on its tippy-top. (Owned by the National Trust, the castle is open to the public.)

At low tide, when people stroll across a granite causeway to visit, it appears as if they're walking on water. Beyond Mounts Bay and Penzance, the city made famous by Gilbert and Sullivan is Land's End. 011-44/173-671-0249, mounthaven.co.uk, from \$206, includes breakfast.



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