

# Devon's cream really is a sight for Soar eyes..

**You never know what might be around the next bend. EMMA STONE travels the winding country lanes of Devon and chances upon a view to die for.**

**“WOW, take a look at that!” was our reaction when we first laid eyes on Soar Mill Cove, near Salcombe in South Devon.**

With the turquoise waters, rugged coastline and sandy cove below, the last part of our drive (sat nav-less and negotiating a series of single track roads) soon became little more than a distant memory.

Taking advantage of the amazing view is the Soar Mill Cove Hotel and with the tagline ‘for a different view’ the brochures have hit the nail on the head.

The family-owned 22-bedroom and four-star hotel is nestled in the meadows of a quiet valley, surrounded by nature trails, roaming sheep and cows.

## Picturesque

A hotel at one with its surroundings, the single-storey building bows down to the picturesque views and has all of its main rooms facing the sea – in particular, every table in the hotel’s Serendipity restaurant is set to face the cove below.

And it wasn’t long before we discovered the delights from the kitchen rivalled the breathtaking views.

After indulging in a tasty, home-made afternoon tea on arrival, we were keen to sample the restaurant fare.

Our order was taken in our room, as we made the most of our private garden terrace, before heading to the hotel bar for a pre-dinner cocktail.

A melon and strawberry soup with Cornish Camel Valley fizz kick-started proceedings, followed by a tender cutlet of veal with wild mushrooms and baby spinach, glazed with parmesan and finished with Madeira sauce.

A divine home-made chocolate fondant completed the night and con-



**ROOM WITH A PHEW!** A stunning view of the Devon coastline from the Soar Mill Cove Hotel.

## fact file

- Emma Stone stayed at the Soar Mill Cove Hotel, near Salcombe, South Devon.
- In mid season (April, May, June, early July and September) a room costs £190. In high season (mid July and August) rooms cost £240.
- Room rates include cream tea on arrival and Devonshire breakfast for two.
- For further details visit [www.soarmillcove.co.uk](http://www.soarmillcove.co.uk) or call 01548 561566.



firmed the restaurant’s well-deserved two AA Rosette status.

With the attention to detail at this family-owned hotel it felt as though we were guests of honour at someone’s home, rather than paying guests.

Relaxed from a day enjoying the hotel’s pool and nature walks, we set out to explore the surrounding area.

First on our list was Dartmouth. Pulling into the harbour, we were met by the sounds of the Dart Music Festival.

After a stroll around the network of narrow streets, ancient buildings and

specialist shops, we travelled by ferry to the nearby town of Brixham.

Following a recommendation we visited The Poopdeck Restaurant in the town’s harbour, where the Golden Hind takes pride of place.

The small quayside restaurant couldn’t have been closer to the harbour, and the fish couldn’t have been fresher!

With its value-for-money lunchtime menu, it was ideal location for a pit-stop before discovering what the rest of the area had to offer.

A return trip on the ferry and a short drive and we arrived in the small town of Salcombe.

Huddled close to the water’s edge, Salcombe is awash with restaurants and shops, overlooking the picturesque beaches and coves below.

If you’re feeling brave enough to drive the numerous bends of Sandhills

Road in Salcombe, you’ll eventually stumble across The Winking Prawn.

Recently named in The Times 50 best places to eat by the sea, the beach shack-style restaurant most definitely lived up to the hype.

Amazing seafood was served up to us, as we

looked out on the breathtaking view of the bay.

This place was a great find and can only imagine it goes from strength to strength in the summer months with its barbecue overlooking the sea and the restaurant’s own ice cream van parked up nearby.

This is definitely one worth a return visit during the summer season.

Rounding off our visit to the South Devon, we called into Totnes.

This medieval town has more listed buildings per head of population that anywhere else in Britain. Its long main street was full of individuals shops and cafes, which were ideal for visiting on a summers day.

With stunning scenery, excellent cuisine and picturesque villages, South Devon proves to be an ideal UK holiday destination. Now just cross your fingers for the weather.