

Waitrose Magazine
The Light Fantastic
Denzil Forrester
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Travel

CORNWALL *Denzil Forrester, artist*

"Most of my paintings have been about nightlife, nightclubs and city scenes, very dark places, which I love. But because Cornwall, where I live now, is a very thin strip of land, the light here is always so exciting. And that aspect of the place will always come into my work, no matter what I'm painting. The palette is so different here to London. There are a lot of purples and violets – they're darkish, but also very bright. You have to follow nature and give yourself over to it."

"I first visited the area in the 1970s, when I was at art school: one of my tutors used to take a group of students to St Just for a few weeks to paint. The colours that came out of the trip were so clear and sharp, but at the time I didn't take much notice of that. Then I spent two years in Rome in the 80s and loved it. When I got back to England I realised how much brighter the work I'd done out there was – it was almost like someone had washed your eyes. When I retired from teaching in 2016, my partner and I moved to Truro – the Cornish light reminded me of Italy."

"I had a studio specially built here with a sheet of glass on top, so I don't have to use electric light. I try to start at 7am and work before breakfast: the morning light, the young light, when it's brand-new, that's the best. And the atmosphere of the day is so still and quiet: it's like life beginning. After a while, you realise it's working on you without you knowing it."

stephenfriedman.com/artists/35-denzil-forrester



WHERE TO STAY A handsome former Georgian inn, Artist Residence in Penzance is perfectly situated for dips in the Art Deco lido and views of magical St Michael's Mount. From £195 per night, artistresidence.co.uk

WHERE TO EAT Fitzroy in Fowey (above) serves a beautifully elegant, seasonal dinner menu from Wednesday to Saturday. At its more casual sister restaurant, North Street Kitchen, you can lunch by the river on fresh seafood and natural wines. fitzroycornwall.com

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