

# **Tatler Travel Guide 2011 - La Petite Folie, Honfleur, France**

December 2010

# TATTLER

## Travel Guide 2011

Starring  
the 101 best  
hotels in the world

In association with  
Africa Travel

Florence Brudenell-Bruce in Montenegro



## LA PETITE FOLIE

### Honfleur, France

Ah, Deauville, the little hotspot from another era: the horseracing, the grande-dame hotels, the langoustine on the boardwalk and the most delicious chocolate mousse. And the rain, the endless hours playing boules on the beach in the rain. Deauville used to be so terribly smart; now it's having a small but oh-so-gentle moment back in the sun. Antoine Chevanne, the man behind the Byblos in Saint Tropez, has opened a hotel here but it's this B&B, in the next door Norman port of Honfleur, that tugs on the heartstrings. Just a hop across the Channel, it's one of the loveliest, quickest weekends to grab. There are art galleries in the cobbled back streets, one of France's hottest restaurants – the hip two-star Sa.Qua.Na – and, of course, Deauville and Trouville for serious shopping or a night out. The five-room La Petite Folie is right in the heart of the coastal town. Most recently a doctor's practice, it was renovated as a labour of love by New York-born Penny Vincent and her French husband Thierry. They splashed out in all the right places, with clever lighting, proper antiques, Porthault sheets and fabrics from Pierre Frey, fireplaces and books, fruit trees and a Moorish pavilion – the house is historical but also crispy-fresh. Chat up Penny for restaurant and sightseeing tips over croissants and delicious Normandy butter; by the time you get back in the evening there'll be a tray of pear cognac and chocolates waiting for you in the candlelight. **Website** [lapetitefolie-honfleur.com](http://lapetitefolie-honfleur.com)  
**Book it** Chic Retreats (tel: 0845 544 1530) offers two nights from £280.

