

PORTRAIT OF THE ENGLISH RIVIERA

Adrian Oakes

From its earliest days as a jewel in the crown of elegant English seaside resorts, Torbay has enjoyed its premier position as The English Riviera. While the promenade is no longer thronged by Victorian ladies and gentlemen taking the evening air, and the private villas are now largely hotels, the region retains much of the atmosphere springing from its exclusive past. While fashions and architecture may change, the scenery of the bay remains much as it has for hundreds of years – breathtaking. Even for those used to travelling to foreign destinations for their holidays, this spectacular stretch of coastline remains one of the best in Britain. Little wonder that the resorts around the bay continue to draw in summer visitors.

In this book acclaimed photographer Adrian Oakes has succeeded in creating a portrait of the area that captures the best of its many captivating features. Whether photographing the spectacular modern development around the harbour and the new Rock Walk in Torquay, Babbacombe's discrete charms, the timeless beauty of historic Cockington, or the bustling seaside towns of Paignton and Brixham, Adrian has produced a superb selection of photographs of the highest quality that all those who know the area will enjoy. Also included are many of the tourist attractions that make Torbay so enticing for visitors, among them Kents Cavern, Torre Abbey and Berry Head.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Adrian Oakes is a landscape and contemporary photographer based in Devon. He has kindled a great love and respect for Devon over the last twenty years and more recently has focused on photographing its diverse landscapes and rich history. His clients include The Dartmoor National Park Authority and National Trust who also sell prints and cards of his work in many outlets. Adrian also specialises in panoramic photographs a number of which appear in this book.

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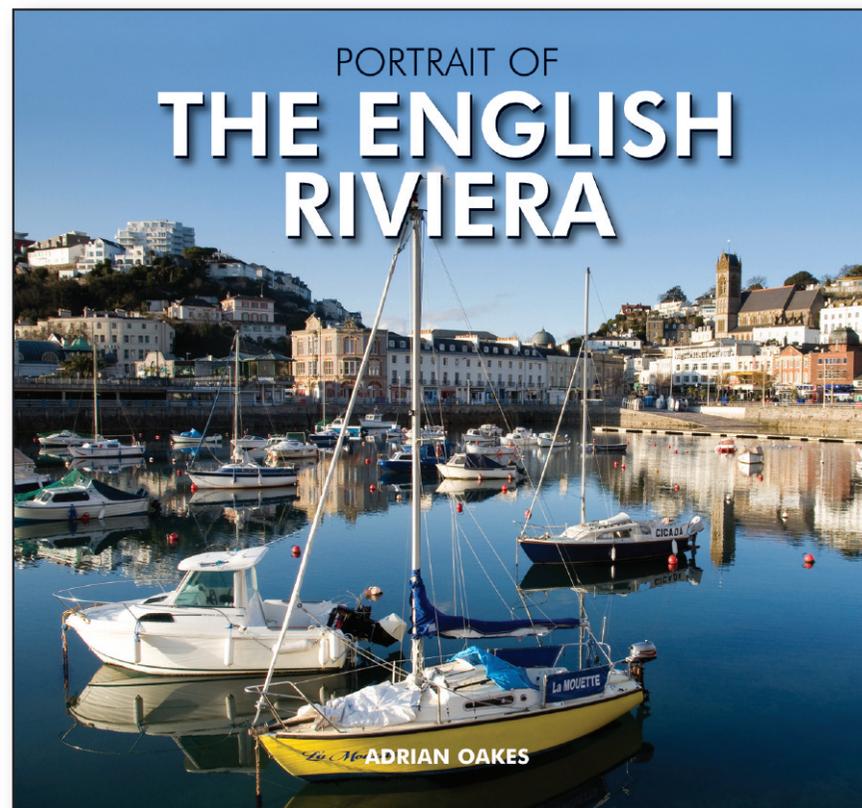
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HALSGROVE TITLE INFORMATION



Format: Hardback, 144 pages, 214x230mm,
including over 130 colour photographs

Price: £14.99

ISBN: 978 0 85704 094 7

Imprint: Halsgrove

Published: July 2011



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The Coverdale Tower is adjacent to the Paignton Parish Church and is named after Bishop Miles Coverdale who published an English translation of the Bible in 1536.



The Forge at Cockington is one of the most photographed buildings in the country and dates from the 14th century.



Oldway mansion and the gardens looking resplendent in late Summer.



Torquay inner harbour tranquillity.



A very colourful and detailed panorama of Brixham Harbour from the quayside. Characterful cottages sit in the evening sun on the top of the hill overlooking the harbour.



Torquay Pavilion and the fountain in the attractive gardens opposite. The Pavilion opened in 1912 as a 'Palace of Pleasure' to attract visitors to Torquay. It was used for music and plays, and as a meeting place. It is one of the best remaining examples of Victorian seaside architecture and was designed by Major Henry Augustus Garrett. It was not built on the pier, as many pavilions were, but adjoining it. It was originally called 'The Cucumber House' when it was being built in 1889 and became known as 'The White Palace' due to its white exterior tiles which were made by Royal Doulton. The original cost of building the pavilion was £16942 4s 4d. It currently houses a unique collection of specialty shops and galleries.



Evening light cast on the striking white tiles and copper roofing of Torquay Pavilion.



Elberry Cove in Paignton is surrounded by lovely woodland walks. Next to the cove sits the ruin of the Bath House which is visible in the centre of the picture. It was built for Lord Churston in the 1700s.

Example of a double-page spread.