

Kalesma Mykonos:
built in the style of a
traditional Myconian
village



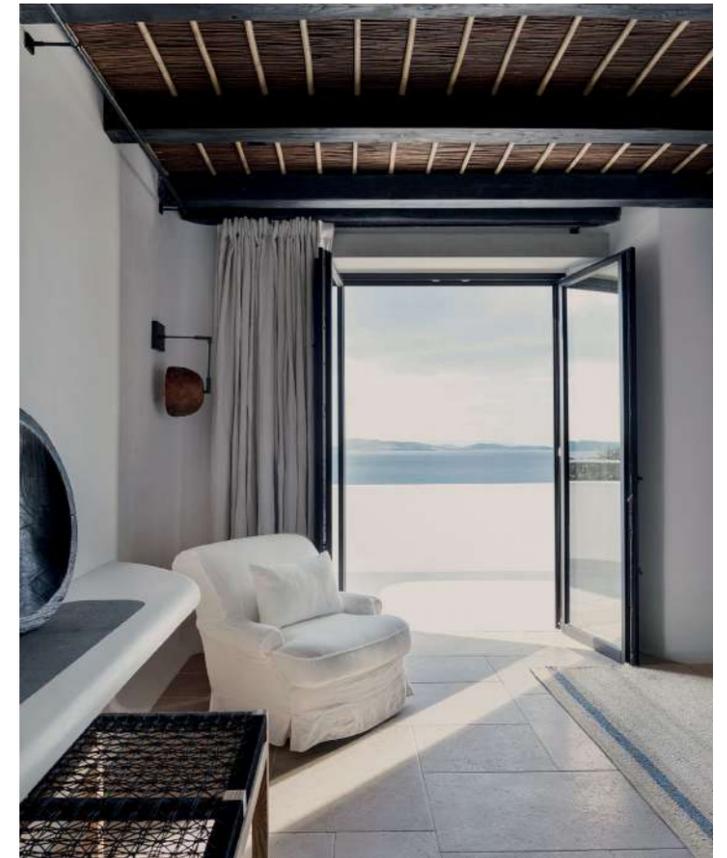
GRECIAN DREAMS

A classic destination for a summer odyssey, a new wave of resorts and boutique hotels are cropping up across Greece's ancient, sun-bleached landscape. From design-led boltholes to luxury sustainable retreats, for summer 2021, Greece really is the word



KALESMA, MYKONOS

The Cycladic isle of Mykonos is known for its towering windmills and pulsating party scene, but away from Mykonos Town the island sways to a more laid-back beat. New to the burgeoning hotel scene is Kalesma, built to resemble a traditional Myconian village and a haze of white, pink and blue almost tumbling down the cliffside. Each of its boutique 25 suites and two villas offers unobstructed views of the Aegean, coming with private heated pools, terraces and views of both sunset and sunrise. In-demand Athens-based K-studio was brought in to create a traditional Cycladic – yet modern aesthetic – and all the pistachio-hued rooms feature original artwork, spacious bathrooms with freestanding tubs and outdoor rainfall showers. The hotel also offers two earth-coloured villas, with three and four bedrooms, respectively, perfect for family and group trips. Villas boast open-plan living and dining areas and kitchens stocked with Grecian goodies, and a personal chef is on hand to cook and organise meals at home. Terraces also come with personal fitness rooms. Outside the dreamy accommodation, guests can wander through archways filled with bright bougainvillea to find a spa, fitness studio offering yoga and Pilates, pool bar, lounge and stylish destination restaurant. Pere Ubu, of Athens fame, serves seasonal and local produce, with a wood-fired oven baking fresh bread, pastries and traditional Cycladic and Greek dishes – all while looking over the peaceful bay. Of course, it wouldn't be Mykonos without a touch of flash, and those inclined can organise private yacht charters and helicopter transfers from the hotel's magic-making concierge. *Suites from AED 4,400; kalesmamykonos.com*

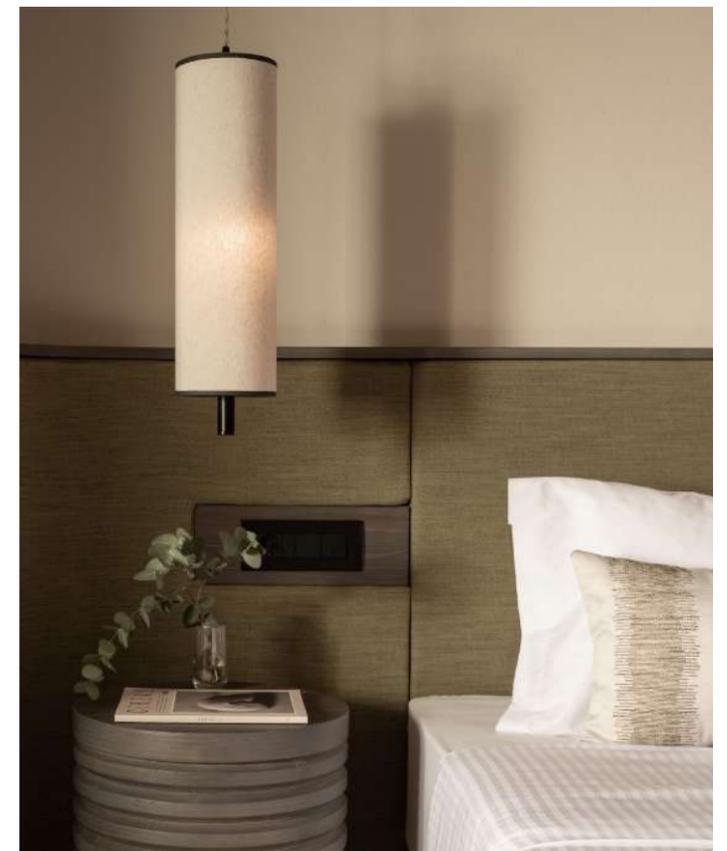


THE MODERNIST, ATHENS

With the edginess of Berlin and beauty and history of Rome, Athens is establishing itself as a European capital of cool. The city itself is the cradle of western civilisation, home to iconic sights like the Acropolis, Parthenon and Temple of Olympian Zeus. Here, winding, bougainvillea-draped alleyways hide hipster coffee shops and boutique hotels, the latest addition being The Modernist, the second Modernist hotel by Greek entrepreneur Kostis Karatzas (the original in Thessaloniki). Housed in the former Canadian embassy, the hotel brings an edgy vibe to Greece's bright and breezy hotel scene, located in the trendy Kolonki neighbourhood on the southern slopes of Lycabettus Hill. The Fifties building itself is painted dark grey, and guests step into a moody lobby with marble-topped tables, sleek leather seating and brass accents. The same theme continues into the 38 rooms, split into four categories: S, M, L, XL. Rooms are all timber floors, white walls and black ceilings and the monochrome theme continues into the smart bathrooms and out onto the balconies. The handful of XL rooms come with a drinks trolley, record player and outdoor hot tub. Finally, a rooftop bar – views of the Acropolis in the distance – offers sun loungers, a menu of fresh, Greek dishes and a drinks list curated by the co-founder of Athens most celebrated bar, The Clumsies. *Doubles from AED 510; themodernisthotels.com*

NUMO LERAPETRA, CRETE

It's always exciting when a new hotel brand begins to bubble away, bringing grand plans and fresh promises. Numo Hotels & Resorts is exactly that, a dynamic, sustainable and on-trend hotel brand that's made its debut on the largest Greek island, Crete. Numo Lera Petra lies in the lesser-trodden Cretan south, the last city in the southern end of Europe backing onto atmospheric grey-tinted beaches. The resort is the perfect antidote to the island's many overcrowded tourist resorts. Just 132 earthy design-led rooms and suites are in the complex, created by modernising existing structures, instead of rebuilding. Ranging from cosy rooms to spacious suites, décor is inspired by the light grey tones of the neighbouring sands and the soft greens of the native tamarisk trees, and some come with terraces and private swimming pools. The hotel itself has its own lick of sandy beach, dotted with tamarisk trees, sunbeds and cabanas. But the heart of the property is the 3000 sq/m bar and restaurant area, shaded by olive trees and terracotta potted greenery, and home to chic watering hole Marè Marè and three Cretan culinary concepts – all supplied by local farms. An airy spa, diving centre and enriching programme of activities – think photography lessons and horseriding – complete this fantastic new offering. *Doubles from AED 440; numoierapetra.com →*





ARISTIDE, SYROS

Hidden amongst the time-worn streets of Syros' romantic and historical capital, travellers will now find one of the hippest hotels in the Greek archipelago – Aristide. It's the brainchild of Oana Aristide, who gave up her job as a successful London-based economist to take over a crumbling mansion in Hermoupolis – eventually transforming it into a design hotel-cum-art-gallery. Focusing on sustainability and creativity, this stylish bolthole has just nine rooms, with public spaces spanning a landscaped garden, indoor bar and rooftop with views over the Aegean. Aesthetes will be charmed with Doric columns, a marble staircase and soothing green walls with high stucco ceilings, all complemented by contemporary touches from leading design houses from Copenhagen, Marseille and London. Each suite has its own theme, featuring art from the likes of Igor Skaletsky, Riccardo Vecchio and Nikolina Petolas, along with towering palms, chandeliers, free-standing bathtubs and balconies with sea or city views. A nod to the local, sustainable theme, bathrooms are stocked with natural Aegean Beauty products. Elsewhere in the hotel, a permanent art gallery displays the work of resident artists, with Aristide championing an artist residency programme and even hiding a small studio. Guests can enjoy traditional, organic Cycladic breakfasts and small plates in the tranquil garden, on their private balcony or on the rooftop, and come evening imbibe mixed drinks and local Cycladic and Greek grape. While there's no pool, the tranquil garden by local architect Iraklis Kailas and its proximity to the beach certainly makes up for it.

Doubles from AED 798; hotelaristide.com



GUESTS CAN ENJOY TRADITIONAL, ORGANIC CYCLADIC BREAKFASTS AND SMALL PLATES IN THE TRANQUIL GARDEN, ON THEIR PRIVATE BALCONY OR ON THE ROOFTOP



THE ROOSTER, ANTIPAROS

Antiparos is one of the Cyclades' best-kept secrets, a tiny isle off the coast of Paros only reachable by boat. A world away from the tourist hotspots of Mykonos and Santorini, the island is a tapestry of secluded beaches, windswept hills and charming sugar-cube houses. Elevating the island's rustic hotel scene is The Rooster, a new independent wellness retreat designed to "wake you up" to a slower pace of life. The hotel is made up of 17 farmhouse-style lodgings, sleeping two to six people in a cocoon of wood, marble and cotton. Exposed beams and bed frames are complemented by cream, terracotta and pastel-green furnishings, and open-air rainfall showers with exposed bricks and leafy palms. Continuing the rustic theme, a pint-sized spa offers holistic treatments, and an organic restaurant serves produce such as fish caught by local fisherman, local cheeses and fruit and veggies from the resort's own farm. Guests can dine in the courtyard, overlooking fields of horses and illuminated with strings of festoon lighting, or enjoy a drink in the open-air bar. A take-away picnic menu also allows you to dine on the beach below. While out horseriding, hiking, biking or beach hopping, you may even bump into Tom Hanks and his wife Rita Wilson, who own a summer house on the island.

Suites from AED 2,890; theroosterantiparos.com



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