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Perched In Paradise

Mykonos, Greece

Images: C/O Kalesma

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The Kalesma Mykonos hotel is expanding this year, adding 21 serene rooms and suites to its village-esque hillside resort



Perched above Ornos Bay, where the Aegean sea gently laps at the island's southern edge, the Kalesma Mykonos hotel is an oasis of calm. Cloaked in Cycladic architecture, it conceals a bold yet quietly sophisticated contemporary aura: a place where the modern world meets grounded tranquility.

Arranged like a traditional hilltop village, the 19 rooms, 12 suites, and 15 villas graduate down the slope in silent harmony, each one a private sanctuary that even the most avid partygoers will struggle to leave. Whether it's the heated infinity pool you can slip into straight from your bedroom, the outdoor shower scented with Frédéric Malle's Cologne Indélébile, or the romantic sea view visible from both the bed and the bath, it's hard to pick my favourite part.



The interiors of the hotel, envisioned by Studio Bonarchi and K-Studio (known for the new Mykonos airport and Scorpios), speak of modern Greek design with raw, textural elegance. Think black lava stone, bleached wood, and Rick Owens furniture in natural plywood and orso black leather, softened by stonewashed linen curtains. Pieces by ceramic artist Aleksander Vac also punctuate the space, while horsehair-wrapped sconces recall Mykonos' mythic past — right on this very hill, Apollo is said to have stabled his horses.

The layout of the hotel encourages slow wandering: bougainvillea-scented footpaths weave

between rooms, courtyards, and a beautiful chapel, converging at the hotel's *agora* — Pere Ubu, a breezy open-air restaurant offering dramatic views of Ornos Bay on one side, and burning sunsets on the other.

And while you're sipping a tsipouro-infused cocktail by the poolbar, or indulging in a feta pancake, don't be surprised if Aby Saltiel — co-owner and the visionary behind Kalesma — comes over to greet you with warmth, making you feel, if only for a moment, as though you've arrived at a friend's summer house. After all, *Kalesma* in Greek means "invitation".





The property is evolving: 21 new rooms and junior suites have just opened, alongside a laid-back, classic Greek taverna serving tsaganaki and dakos salad beside yet another infinity pool. Meanwhile, Kalesma has partnered with textile artist Faye Chatzi to bring traditional Mykonian weaving into the hotel. Guests can watch her handcrafting live in the on-site atelier, join workshops to learn the craft, and take home unique woven keepsakes. Another reminder that in this hotel, Mykonos is not a party, but a pause — the kind that lingers long after you leave.