

GALAVANTE

KALESMA MYKONOS

Christine Drinan, Founder

First, let me frame that there's nothing wrong with bottle service by noon, DJs until dawn, and measuring a good time in beach clubs and prime resses at the coolest restaurants in town. At various stages in my life, I have been that person dancing on the table at Nammos. At that stage in life, the accommodations in Mykonos to me were secondary, and the standard wasn't as high. Hotels that were "luxurious" were mid-tier lux at best. So nowadays, for me to return to a destination again, especially to Mykonos, there needs to be a compelling place to stay. Though there was a lull in hotels that leveled up on Mykonos, Fouquet's and the Four Seasons are checking into town. Before them though, [Kalesma Mykonos](#) brought ultra luxury to this Cycladic isle.

Atmosphere

What I liked so much about Kalesma was the effortless, chic and quiet luxury it exudes. I love that it isn't garish luxury, but rather what luxury really is. It's like seeing Kaia Gerber with no makeup on but still being completely stunned by her natural beauty. To me, that is Kalesma. The hotel is modeled after a traditional Mykonian village and blends into the hilltop above Ornos Bay. Known as the quieter western side of the island, this is a pocket of Mykonos that is both authentic and still with the Greek summer philosophy of living the good life. From the moment you arrive, you know that Kalesma is something special. I felt like it was an elevated Greek farmhouse vibe, though that doesn't do justice to the hotel. The high level of design, attention to detail, and elegance is clear from the architecture, decor, and service. Everything is in coordinated alignment to let you know you've arrived at arguably the most luxurious hotel on Mykonos. And if Kalesma was in any other place in the world, it would still be indisputably one special hotel.

A hotel of this caliber attracts a certain kind of guest who summers in Mykonos. Indisputably, this guest is one with a high level of taste and a certain elegance. There is nothing stuffy about the people or the hotel at Kalesma Mykonos. Instead, there's a confidence that no one has anything to prove, as you're among the top of the food chain.



Photo courtesy of Kalesma

Rooms

The suites are stacked down the hillside in tiered clusters of Cycladic white, the kind of architectural restraint that only reads as beautiful when it's done exactly right. From almost any point on the property, the views of the super-yacht-scattered bay below are the kind you'd fly a long way to see. You feel like you're above the fray — because you are, both literally and figuratively. Villas are standalone properties on the isle with outdoor courtyards and showers, infinity pools and large backyards. These are the kind of rooms that feel like a home and are appointed with the highest end materials. The architecture is simple yet with so much attention to detail throughout the suites. I tried taking videos but nothing does justice to understand the level of luxury until you stay at Kalesma yourself.

The entry-level suites are generous enough that you won't feel like you're making a compromise; every room is a good one at Kalesma. But the upper suites and villas — the Apollon (three bedrooms) and Artemis (four bedrooms) — are legitimately spectacular. The Kalesma Leto Villa goes even further, operating at a scale that's practically its own resort. If you're going with a group, don't overthink it — just book the villa.

Food & Beverage

The main restaurant, Pere Ubu Mykonos, sits steps from the upper infinity pool with panoramic views of the Aegean. I think we can stop now as that's really all you need. The menu is guided by executive chef Costas Tsingas and leans into Greek and Mediterranean cuisine. Like the vibe of the hotel, the cuisine has nothing to prove. Dishes are elevated farmhouse in style that lean into simple ingredients and local Greek recipes. Breakfast is always leisurely; I'm still missing my ginger apple celery and cucumber juice to cleanse me for the day. Portions border on huge — I was mostly not hungry, even at the beach clubs. Kalesma hosts a party on Saturday night that amps up the serene vibe and replaces it with a DJ. It's the party to be at for the elegant crew on the isle. I normally do the 10pm reservations on Mykonos, but when you're at Kalesma for a Saturday, opt for the 7:00pm reservation so you can partake in the revelry back at the hotel.

I don't have all the background on the particulars, but [Noema](#) is my favorite restaurant in Mykonos. They have some sort of affiliation with Kalesma, which doesn't superpose me at all. Both have that effortlessly cool vibe to them and are the version of each other in hotel and restaurant format. So to wrap it up on F&B, don't miss breakfast, the Saturday party at Kalesma and dinner at Noema.



Photo courtesy of Kalesma

Spa + Gym

The spa operates in collaboration with Dr. Barbara Sturm, which immediately sets it apart from the standard hotel spa. The treatment rooms are intimate, and the therapists know what they're doing. If you're looking for a deep tissue, make sure to specify that you want it American-style. The natural Greek method is relatively gentle. Yoga and Pilates sessions are available for those who want to balance out the wine at lunch. The gym is equipped with Technogym machines, which is a small detail that tells you a lot about how seriously the property takes the whole package. We enjoyed the gym enough that we worked out three times during our stay.

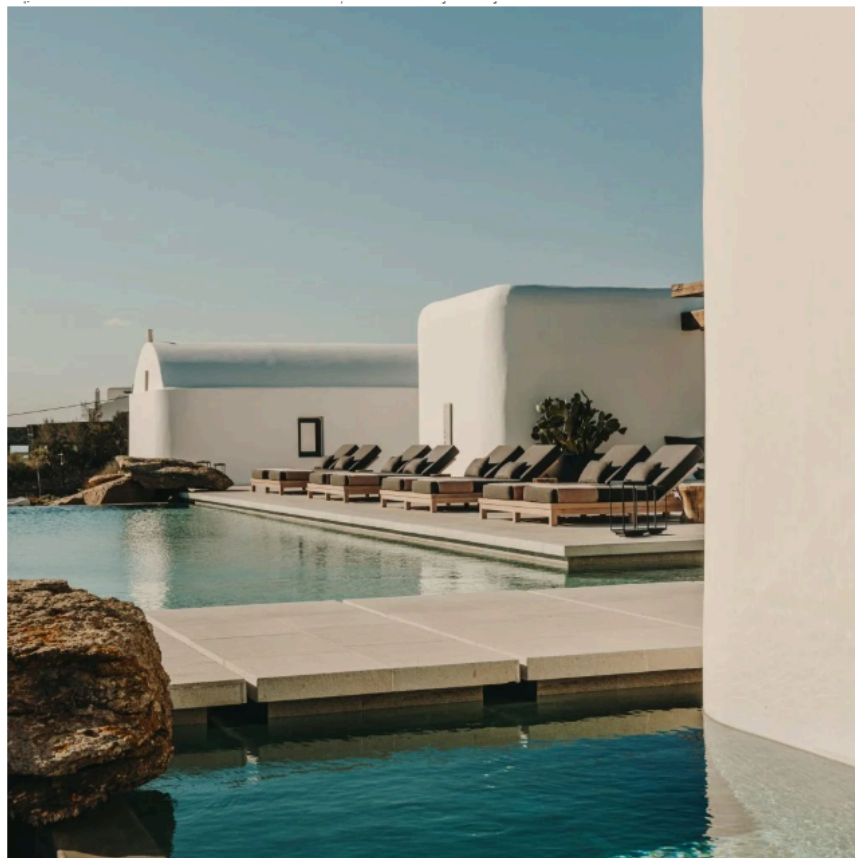
Service

This is where Kalesma really earns its place. The staff has absorbed the Greek hospitality instinct — genuine warmth, not the rehearsed kind — and applied it at a luxury level. In lieu of having you stand at some hotel counter on arrival, you are ushered over to the restaurant and offered a welcome drink. That sets the tone for your entire stay. The team is exceptional at Kalesma from the restaurant, bar, reception, all the way to housekeeping.

There's a hotel shuttle takes you down to Ornos Bay and into Chora without any drama. The concierge can arrange the full Mykonos menu: boat charters, beach club reservations, a guided tour of Delos — whatever you need. The service doesn't miss.

Overall: 8.8/10

Kalesma Mykonos has figured out something that most hotels in party destinations get wrong and delivers a top international level of luxury experience. For the rooms, hotel common areas, location and above all service, it's the most luxurious hotel on Mykonos. Kalesma gives you Mykonos at its best; views of the Aegean, beautiful whitewashed architecture and an unhurried pace — without requiring you to fight for it. If you're looking to actually experience the island and come home restored, this is where you stay.



Kalesma Mykonos. Courtesy of Kalesma Mykonos on Facebook.