

Your Perfect Greek Escape, Decoded by Personality

Every traveler has a type. Here's how to pair yours with Greece's most compelling places, properties, and cultural pockets

BY PAUL JEBARA

JUNE 25, 2025

Greece, long typecast as a postcard fantasy, has arguably stepped into a more dimensional role. The most compelling new stays no longer trade solely on ruins or romance. Rather, they channel biophilic compounds, zero-waste villas, and heritage structures reprogrammed into culinary labs and artist studios. Beyond the usual island stalwarts, a new wave of properties is being shaped by evolving guest expectations and an ethos that honors the landscape itself. “The turning point,” Michalis Manassakis, the visionary behind newcomer Perma Serifos, says of his project, “was learning to integrate awareness into ambition.” That sensibility now underpins Greece's most design-driven addresses. Some grace islands like Sifnos, Hydra, and Mykonos; others stake a foothold in Athens or Thessaloniki, making them intuitive soft landings before the ferry sets sail.

Another option for seamlessly floating through multiple islands is the new Milos at Sea. Estiatorio Milos restaurant empire's 113-foot yacht traces volcanic coastlines while serving up seafood plucked straight from the water—no itinerary-wrangling required.

With thousands of islands scattered across the Med, jetsetters should begin the journey at home with Greek Island Sketches, Philippos Avramides' spare, transportive journal that distills the archipelago into elemental forms—shadowed rooftops, lone donkeys, flaked-paint walls. Then, let the travel fantasy unfold, whether that's savoring a rooftop supper in Athens, retreating to a breezy hillside suite in Serifos, or slipping into a wine cave tucked beneath Santorini's oldest monastery.

Here, *Galerie* distills nine destinations—one for every stripe on the Greek flag—each built around its own archetype, designed with that spirit in mind.

For the Design Devotee (with a Social Agenda): Mykonos

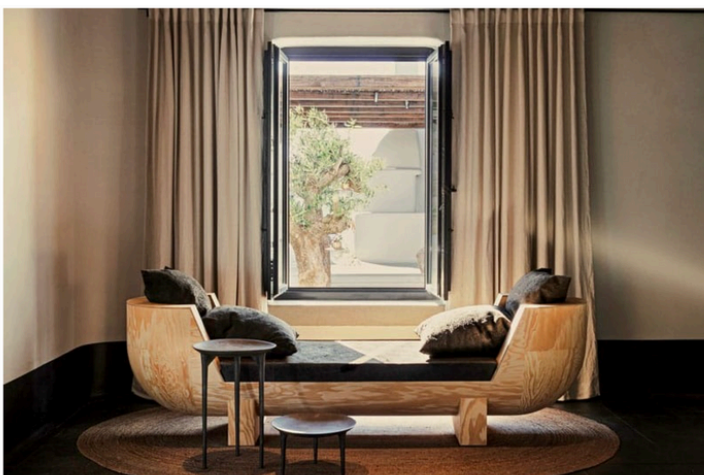
Mykonos's bottle-service din is giving way to a more considered vernacular, one that prizes materiality, craft, and a deliberate point of view. Perched on a hill above Mykonos Town, the newly debuted Anandes Hotel, designed by Studio Bonarchi, boasts custom lighting by Philippe Anthonioz, original works by Richard Serra and Thomas Houseago, and a tactile mix of local stone, pine, and linen. (Bonarchi also crafted the spectacular spaces at Kalesma, which is set to debut an expansion featuring more waterfront villas.) The hotel's Riviera-inspired restaurant, La Petite Maison, lends a subtle swagger with "tomatinis" at sunset and salt-baked sea bass framed by unobstructed views of the island's famous windmills. Nearby, Soulmates, the island's new terrazzo-clad aperitivo bar by Studio Kisko founder Fragkiskos Sarris, turns a former utility lot into a laid-back ritual space, capped with Christina Mandilari's ceiling mural—a swirling homage to the island's marine life and refracted light.



Each of Kalesma's suites and villas comes with its own heated plunge pool.
PHOTO: COURTESY OF KALESMA



The resort's prime hilltop location give guests remarkable views to the east and west.
PHOTO: COURTESY OF KALESMA



Rick Owens's Double Bubble sofa and Brazier tables displayed in Kalesma's reception piazza.
PHOTO: COURTESY OF KALESMA



"We tried to use a very sophisticated dark palette of materials that come in a real contrast with the pure blue of the sea," says interior designer Vangelis Bonios.
PHOTO: COURTESY OF KALESMA

For the Solitude Seeker: Folegandros

If Mykonos is engineered for spectacle, Folegandros is built to vanish. In its second summer season, Gundari—a 27-suite resort by Athens-based Block722—dissolves into its surroundings with unpolished local limestone, sunken rooftops, and expansive sightlines that frame the landscape rather than compete with it. Every design move is bioclimatic: suites sink into hillsides for natural cooling, pools draw heat from the sun, and even lighting is carefully subdued to protect the nesting cliffs of Folegandros' resident Eleonora's falcons. At its heart, the experience feels thoughtfully bespoke. The cocktail program, helmed by award-winning Line Athens, bypasses easy clichés in favor of unexpected pairings—try the Tanqueray highball with ripe tomato and white chocolate for a taste as surprising as the views.



Gundari.

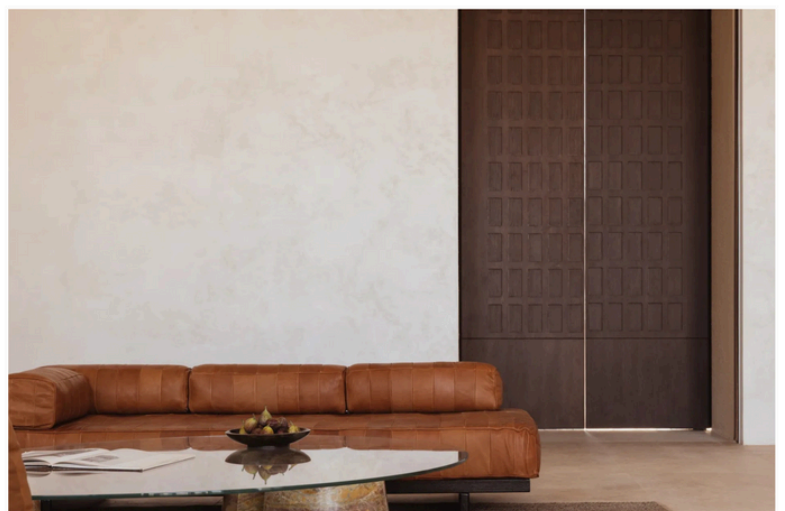


Gundari.

PHOTO: MARTHA VOSDOU



Gundari.



Gundari.