

A Style Lover's Guide to the Greek Islands

Where to go if you thrive on good details.

BY JESS TEVES | PUBLISHED: AUG 1, 2025

I plan trips around a few things: food, culture, history, beach adjacency, and vibe typically round out my list. But if I had to be completely honest, it's the style of a region that I'm most drawn to—and visiting the Cycladic islands in the Aegean Sea was one of the most magical trips I have taken.

There's a soulful resonance to the whitewashed architecture, the dance of the sun and shadow across minimalist lines, and a hospitality culture that feels deeply connective. The food, the people, the textures; everything is quietly luxurious and deeply intentional. This trip filled my cup in every way—and for the design-obsessed traveler who finds beauty in form, function, and feeling, the Cyclades offer not just a destination, but a design journey you'll carry with you long after.

Here's a need-to-know guide to Mykonos and Folegandros tailored for aesthetes, creatives, and anyone who feels design isn't just a detail—it's the destination.

Kalesma, Mykonos

Where Cycladic tradition meets avant-garde cool



The heartbeat of Mykonos may seem like beach clubs and late nights, but for the design-devoted, **Kalesma** is your serene north star. Perched on a hill in Ornos, the hotel was envisioned by Mykonian native and former fashion insider Aby Saltiel, whose eye for sleek, sculptural design is felt in every square inch of the property.



Here, **Rick Owens furniture** sits in quiet dialogue with hand-woven baskets that nod to traditional craft (don't miss the weaving workshops—you'll depart a "crafter-in-the-making"). It's all part of the property's unique visual lexicon, thanks to a collaboration between **K-Studio**—the architectural firm behind the new Mykonos Airport—and **Studio Bonarchi**, known for its soulful, materials-driven approach. The architecture leans into the language of Cycladic cubism, but strips it of cliché, layering in local stone, textural plaster walls, and bronze accents that catch the Aegean light.



“I realized I was often quietly judging hotels, so in 2021, Makis Kousathanas and I created Kalesma to meet the standards I’d held others to. Everything here is intentional, from the panoramic sea views at sunrise and sunset, to the cooking classes, and Barbara Sturm spa rituals —it’s really all about hospitality that is rooted in craft, place, and personal story,” says Saltiel.



The restaurant, **Pere Ubu**, is helmed by a seasonal Mediterranean menu that champions farm-to-table dining—think grilled octopus with fava and capers, or handmade pastas infused with herbs plucked from the surrounding gardens. The infinity pool overlooks the horizon, and every suite features private plunge pools and views that stretch endlessly toward Delos.