

Forbes

Secret Santorini: 3 Hotels To Hide From Island Crowds

Between the thrums of crowds clogging Oia's little streets, to the Insta-hungry couples shooting fantasy photos in Megalachori, several hotels hiding in plain sight offer oasis.

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Published Jul 15, 2026, 08:29am EDT, Updated Jul 15, 2026, 09:37am EDT



The pool at Canaves Epitome outside of Oia.

CANAVES EPITOME

Santorini's story begins with the Minoans, who sailed over from Crete and built a Bronze Age city at Akrotiri. A catastrophic eruption around 1600 B.C. buried that settlement and carved the caldera cliffs travelers photograph today. That volcanic backdrop has since become the main event of a very different kind. Cruise ships anchor by the thousands each season. By mid-morning, their passengers pack into Fira and Oia, jamming the cliffside paths until the last ships and ferries depart at dusk. Though other destinations in Greece, like the cooler north, now attract more travelers than ever, Santorini remains on the wishlist of every first-timer.



Aerial view of the pool at Andronis Concept Hotel.
ANDRONIS CONCEPT

Andronis Concept, Imerovigli

Andronis Concept is the wellness-minded sibling in the Andronis Hotels group, whose flagship properties cluster around Oia's sunset strip working the postcard caldera view for all it's worth. Set instead along the quieter Fira-Oia road in Imerovigli, the resort keeps its distance from the crowds while delivering the views you flew in for. All 28 suites and villas were newly renovated, and feature private terrace and infinity pools.

The centerpiece of the property is Kallos Spa, an ESPA-outfitted program that keeps wellness-inclined guests busy cycling through cryosauna sessions, red-light therapy, and guided meditation on a headset. At night, Throubi Restaurant serves a reimagined Greek Mediterranean menu, offering hands-on Greek cooking classes for guests who want more than a meal to fill their evening.