

# Tatler

LIFESTYLE | TRAVEL

## A Luxury Guide to Cyclades in Greece

**In Greece, the Cyclades archipelago is home to some truly stunning hotels. Rosana Lai takes us on a tour...**



**F**ew islands conjure up images of an idyllic summer quite like the Cyclades in Greece, but beyond its postcard-perfect blue domes and sparkling Aegean waters, they are also home to some of the most luxurious new hotels in Europe, boasting wellness facilities and artfully designed rooms that are reason enough to visit.

Whether you're looking for a barefoot honeymoon escape or an adventurous family retreat, Rosana Lai highlights three properties in the iconic islands worth embarking on an odyssey to experience.

## **Andronis Arcadia: For social sunbathers and foodies**

Santorini has gotten a bad rap in recent years, from its crowded cobblestoned caldera to subpar restaurants catering to the legions of tourists pouring off cruise ships. But what if there was a way to retreat into an exclusive compound after a day seeing the sights?

Andronis, the luxury hotel group behind some beloved properties around Greece, are most prominent on the dramatic, volcanic Greek island of Santorini, and quite literally has a property for whatever your needs might be. Andronis Concept, in the quiet pocket of Imerovigli, serves as a wellness retreat, Andronis Luxury Suites for large, private groups that has seen famous patrons like the Kardashian clan, Andronis Boutique Hotel is the intimate cliffside nook in Oia for couples while Andronis Arcadia is where the social sunbathers shine at their buzzy restaurants and generous pools.

After a sweaty day hiking through the iconic whitewashed villages and brilliant blue-domed churches of Santorini just a 20-minute drive away, Arcadia's groomed paths leading down to the lantern-lit hospitality area is a welcome sight. Two restaurants serve up Greek twists on international classics, like Kobe Gyros with wheat galette, tzatziki at the internationally acclaimed steakhouse Beefbar or a mouthwater torched red snapper crudo at poolside restaurant Pacman. But for a truly special cliffside dining experience at sunset, a reservation at Andronis Boutique Hotel's restaurant Lauda just a 5 five-minute walk up the road is a must. Helmed by newly appointed head chef Orestis Sotiriou and Emmanuel Renaut, the chef behind three-Michelin restaurant Flocons de Sel, the duo bring together the country's rich culinary traditions with their contemporary flair to create a menu that takes you from fava bites made to mimic volcanic rocks, to a runny smoked egg yolk confection hidden underneath a crispy cage of fava—all while dining on a white-washed deck that reaches straight into the Aegean with the plunging cliffs behind you.

Returning to our villa at Andronis, one of 114 luxurious keys, with a private plunge pool, you can soak your weary feet in what could be the largest private bathtub in the world. A giant stone square tub (which could easily fit 10 people) awaits in the romantically-lit bathroom, in keeping with its soft, clay-coloured interiors that make for a soothing escape from the hustle and bustle outside. Rounded corners and capacious closets also add to the feeling of private home.



This is perhaps one of Arcadia's greatest strengths; despite its many areas for socialisation—from the vast outdoor pools complete with submerged chaises and a buzzy swim-up bar to the glitzy boutique open late into the night—there are many quiet nooks to discover in the village-like property. Its Evexia Spa is one of such spaces, spread across several bamboo and stone covered rooms where one could enjoy holistic massages and wraps or ESPA facials. One of the more unique experiences is the Kneipp Path, two parallel L-shaped pools, one filled with cold water and the other with hot, both lined with pebbles for reflexology stimulation, while you alternate between temperatures for ultimate muscle recovery.

But whether you're visiting Andronis Arcadia as a first-time tourist or on a girls trip, it's the warm staff you will remember, the young army of friendly faces eager to curate the ideal wellness afternoon for you or make sure your hand is never without a cocktail by the pool.

