

Press Coverage 2019: Katikies Mykonos

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Two sides of my Mykonos

LAURA MILLAR TAKES A BREAK FROM ISLAND CLUBBING TO RELAX IN A COOL, CONTEMPORARY HAVEN

AS A MYKONOS veteran (I've been coming here for 25 years with my mates), I always make a point of staying where the party is. That usually translates as an inexpensive, basic apartment in the main town, Chora, where a plethora of bars, pubs and clubs keep us happy into the small hours.

This time I'm staying somewhere far less lively but even more beautiful: by the quiet, sheltered beach of Agios Ioannis, all sparkling turquoise water, golden sand and the blissful sound of near silence. About 15 minutes from the centre, Agios Ioannis has the distinction of being known as 'the Shirley Valentine beach' and you can still visit the taverna she sat at, now a restaurant called Hippie Fish.

I plan to head there for a carafe of wine later but for now I'm happy just to plonk myself by the water, dip my toes in, squeal and repeat. I'm staying

somewhere a bit fancier than our Shirl: the Katikies Mykonos. It's a slick series of stacked, snowy white cubes tumbling down a steep hill (though there is a golf buggy option if you can't bear all the steps). And up you must go as one of the two pools and the main restaurant are located up high - great for seeing beautiful sunsets.

The room: There are only 35 of them but they all have great views out over the Aegean. Mine has a small pool on its terrace, and shiny white floors and smooth white walls within - a bit like living in an Apple store. This contrasts pleasingly with pops of bright blue here and there, thanks to the throws and cushion covers. There's a spacious white bathroom with a deep-blue porcelain sink and deliciously scented olive oil-based toiletries.



Azure allure: The stacked rooms at Katikies Mykonos overlook the Aegean Sea

EURO STAR

The tribe: Sophisticated older couples and some stylish younger ones.

The vibe: A bus will take you into the town centre from a stop just by the hotel, which means you can spend ages wandering round the maze-like streets, drooling over the designer clothes and jewellery shops that seem

to take up half the town, but in the spirit of doing something less frenzied I take a boat trip (delostours.gr/en, tickets from €20/£18).

The nearby island of Delos is said to be the birthplace of Greek gods Apollo and Artemis, and there I gawp at the many 5,000-year-old ruins, enhanced by a series of installations by British sculptor Antony Gormley (here until

October 31). Afterwards, I'm drawn like a moth to a flame back to my old haunts - queuing to get into the club at the top of the Scandinavian bar (skandinavianbar.com) never gets old. Well, you can take the girl out of Mykonos... Shirley would be proud.

From about £220 per night, including breakfast, katikies.com

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