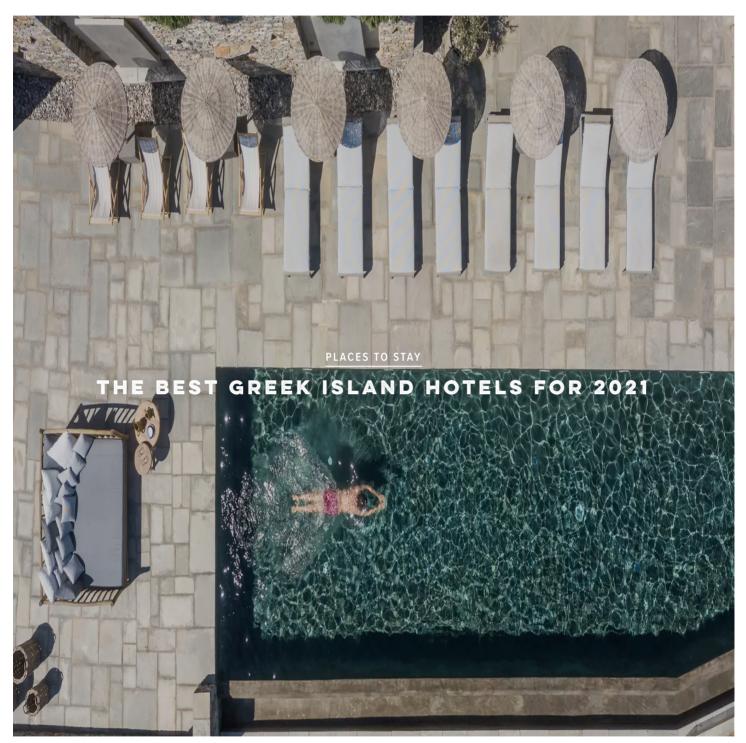
## Traveller



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Condé Nast Traveller's editors reveal their pick of the best Greek island hotels, spanning the coolest island hideouts on Santorini, Skiathos, Zakynthos and Mykonos

by ROXY KAVOUSI-WALKER AND BECKY LUCAS

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## KATIKIES, MYKONOS

The after-party pad

Few consider Mykonos their Aegean go-to for social reclusion. But among the island's more wholesome secrets are its covert refuges – even Dionysus needed a break from the fun. Most discreet yet on point is the new Katikies Mykonos, ensconced on a misshapen beanbag of land on the south-west coast, just east of the island of Delos, where the god's toga-clad cult engaged in rituals of ecstasy. It opened in June 2018 as the equally shy, 30-year-younger sister to the adored Santorini original – a local design pioneer in its day – and was an instant classic, recalling the go-slow, get-lost spirit of pre-1950s Cyclades that second-wave bohemians fell in love with. It's even hard to find: just a hamlet-like stack of pristine sugar cubes above Agios Ioannis's quiet smile of sand. In fact, owner Nikolaos Pagonis's amphitheatrical layout conceals 35 rooms with private terraces and plunge pools within a labyrinth of alleyways, creating illusions of space, solitude – and that little thrill of discovery.

## "ROOMS ARE RETINA-CALMING WHITE COCOONS"

There is a surprise at every turn: a spa, a boutique (with a judicious edit of Vitamin A bikinis) and two infinity pools extending an unmarred cyan sightline to Delos, angled just so, to be sheltered from the relentless Meltemi winds. Rooms are retinacalming white cocoons, accented with cobalt and shades of ink; free of art and jarring design fads. Still, even Aegean-gazing hermits will be lured out at 7pm by the citrus-infused aromas created by young chef Angelos Bakopoulos at both Asian-fusion restaurant Seltz and poolside Mikrasia. The sandy beach-bar vibe belies the star-standard of his Anatolian and Byzantine twists on dishes such as cod on risotto in a spinach-and-dill emulsion. The shenanigans at Nammos and Scorpios are within 15 minutes toe-dipping and fleeing distance. Unlike the island's bigger, brasher retreats, Santa Marina et al, Katikies is a place to beloup, not be seen in – by Mykonian standards at least. *By Roxy Kavousi-Walker*