

TRAVEL

The Greek Hotel Brand You Need To Know If You're Visiting Santorini And Mykonos

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The view from Katikies Chromata PHOTO: COURTESY OF KATIKIES

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There's no doubt that there are plenty of options when it comes to hotels in Santorini and Mykonos. But when you're planning your next vacation to these two famed Greek islands, Katikies is one brand you should keep in mind while booking accommodations. Founded by Nikos Pagonis in 1987, the

company started with Katikies Villa Santorini. Nestled in the popular town of Oia, it was, and still is, home to just seven rooms. Its intimacy, prime location, and exceptional service quickly made it one of the finest boutique lodging options on the isle and since then things have only gotten better.

Between Santorini and Mykonos, Katikies has seven hotels in their portfolio. All of them seamlessly blend into the environment, mimicking the traditional architecture of the Cycladic islands, featuring bright white facades with blue accents. Majority also feature minimalist interiors, allowing for the stunning blue waters of the Aegean Sea to shine. But in addition to an apropos aesthetic, Katikies is beloved for its attentive service, array of facilities, and consistency. At most properties you'll find an infinity pool; a range of accommodations with the option of a private oasis; a signature restaurant by Ettore Botrini, a celebrated Greek chef behind several Michelin-starred restaurants; and select locations also boast a spa. Plus, they offer a myriad of experiences on Santorini that includes tailored island tours, thematic wine tastings curated by a Masters of Wine, and luxury yacht excursions aboard some of the finest vessels.



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Katikies Santorini PHOTO: COURTESY OF KATIKIES

When it comes to Santorini, the company has five hotels in the beloved destination. Stretching from Oia to Fira, it provides guests “the chance to experience the different [facets of the] island,” says Vasileios Koumpis, the general manager of Katikies SA. The former is arguably the most sought-after area on the isle, so shortly after Katikies Villa Santorini opened they followed it up with Katikies Santorini just a stone’s throw away from their debut property, adding 34 more accommodations, two restaurants, and a spa.



Katikies Kirini's namesake suite PHOTO: COURTESY OF KATIKIES

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It wasn’t until nearly two decades later that the portfolio began to really grow, starting first with the launch of Katikies Kirini. While technically still in Oia, it’s on the westernmost edge and affords proximity to the famed town without being in the thick of the

action, making it ideal for those in search of location that's quieter and with more privacy. Then, in 2008, Katikies Chromata arrived in Imerovigli. A halfway point between Oia and Fira, many will argue this property has not only the best location, but also one of most desirable views of the caldera.

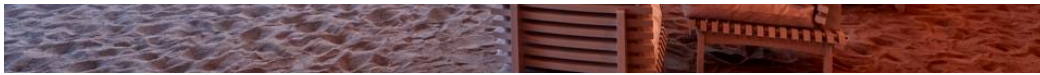


Selene restaurant at Katikies Garden Santorini PHOTO: COURTESY OF KATIKIES

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But it's the brand's most recent addition that really wins over the hearts of design lovers. Just steps from the center of Fira, Katikies Garden Santorini opened just shortly before the COVID-19 pandemic. Formerly a Catholic monastery, they've preserved the original Venetian architecture of the building and some of its characteristics like the pointed arches and pebbled flooring in the main corridor. Due to the isle's arid summer climate, Koumpis remarks that the company wanted to "create [their] own 'garden in Eden' in the very heart of the island," incorporating elements like palm trees and a fountain in the inner courtyard, floral prints, and green accents. Even the accommodations have some greenery, like faux flowers embedded into the ceiling while select suites offer a private garden with a plunge pool. The hotel also happens to be home to Selene, a fine-dining restaurant by Botrini that is arguably one of Santorini's best. And for those traveling with children, it's also the only family-friendly property out of all the Santorini outposts, allowing kids of all ages.





One of Katikies Mykonos' pools turns into Mikrasia Restaurant in the evenings PHOTO: COURTESY OF KATIKIES

Over on Mykonos you'll find Katikies Mykonos and Katikies Villas Mykonos that opened in 2018 and 2019, respectively. The former is located in Agios Ioannis, a calmer enclave on the southwestern end of the island that eschews the destination's party scene. The property offers 35 accommodations, majority of which are spacious suites that boast either a private plunge pool or jetted tubs, with white interiors and a more contemporary feel courtesy of rose gold trimmings. While it may not have beach access, the hotel crafted one of its two pools to imitate a sandy paradise, complete with a bar and sunbeds. By night, the space transforms into Mikrasia Restaurant, the property's fine-dining establishment by Botrini, that's particularly romantic thanks to light-strewn palm trees. But for those who are traveling as a group or are seeking even more space, Katikies Villas Mykonos near Elia Beach offers multi-level digs that range from one- to three-bedroom options, each with an expansive terrace with a private pool.

Given the amount of growth the company has seen over the past several years, one would only assume there's more on the horizon. And while Koumpis reveals that Katikies has "many plans for the near future" on both Mykonos and Santorini, he remains tight-lipped when it comes to the specifics. But there's one thing that's not a secret: they'll be in some of the most desirable locations and will reflect the finest that Greek hospitality has to offer.

For more information, visit [Katikies.com](https://www.katikies.com).



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