



Andronis Concept, Santorini: A Cycladic hotel that does things differently

The Andronis Concept Wellness Resort, Santorini, is a hotel that pushes boundaries with its architecture and amenities...

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STYLING: GEORGINA POLAKIS

From the sea, you would be hard-pressed to point out Imerovigli's biggest hotel. While most of Santorini's buildings are painted bright white, contrasting sharply with the vertiginous rocks to which they cling, the Andronis Concept Wellness Resort is hidden in plain sight. Its earthen-coloured frame stretches sleekly across the clifftop, camouflaged into the surrounding volcanic landscape.



The Andronis Concept hotel

Yet, up close, its architecture packs a punch, all sweeping clean lines and heavy concrete forms. The concept is at its most striking in the bathrooms, which are wall-to-wall black stone, including black sinks and toilets. Coupled with its spaciousness – a luxury in Santorini, where most hotels are a higgledy-piggledy cluster of rooms tucked into nooks and crannies in the cliff face – the design is cool-headed and grounding. It anchors the hotel's wellness ethos.

That spaciousness also affords the Andronis Concept an equally atypical array of facilities. The hotel has a double aspect, with its biggest pool stretching 52m across one side of the complex, allowing more energetic guests to actually swim lengths, while those more here for relaxation can soak up the morning rays from the loungers arranged along its edge. In the afternoon, the sun floods the other side of the resort, where 24 of the 28 rooms – all of which have private infinity pools – offer views out on to the island's caldera.



The private pools connected to the hotel rooms Tryfon Georgopoulos

For those who like to do more than simply sunbathe, there is also a tennis court, yoga deck, cooking class and cinema, but the spiritual heart of the complex is the Kallos spa. In its restful treatment rooms, you can enjoy a range of therapies, from a “myofascial release” to Tibetan body treatments. The quality of the massages is outstanding.



A two-bedroom villa TRYFON GEORGOPOULOS

If you want to venture off-site, it's a five-minute walk up the caldera-edge path to Imerovigli itself, where you can admire the blue-topped churches and take the steps to the ruined medieval fortress on Skaros Rock. Further afield, you can find vineyards, hot springs and hiking paths to take you from one picturesque settlement to the next.

In town, there are a number of Greek restaurants serving traditional fare but, if you're in Santorini on a wellness break, you'll want to make the most of the food at the Andronis, where the menus have been drawn up with help from a nutritionist. The culinary offering begins with breakfast served on your private terrace and extends to the Throubi restaurant overlooking a further swimming pool. Many of the kitchen's ingredients are grown in the hotel's terraced gardens, although some big-ticket items such as wagyu beef are flown in. While the food is health-conscious (rather than butter, for instance, the hotel serves churned olive oil), it is far from austere. *GQ* opted for the tasting menu, where highlights include lobster with homemade pasta and root vegetables; seabass ceviche with orange and carrot gazpacho; and beef fillet with sweet potato cream and Greek coffee. There is an extensive wine list, too, all of which is available by the glass, but why not try the local Argyros Estate or Mavrotragano?



Throubi restaurant Tryfon Georgopoulos

As you sit down to dinner, you'll have a premier view of Santorini's famous sunset. While visitors to Oia crowd to the streets to watch the sun dip beneath the waves, at this hotel the show unfolds right in front of you. Of course, you could take dinner later and soak it all up beforehand from your private pool. You are on holiday after all.

From £430. andronis.com/hotels/andronis-concept