

# GREEK TREASURES

Two destinations, two hotels to experience the best of summer on the Greek islands of Mykonos and Paros – from excitement to tranquility, with sophistication and authenticity

BY **LUIZA SOUZA**

European summer is approaching, and one of the most beloved destinations by Brazilians – and tourists from all over the world – continues to be Greece. With its paradisiacal islands, crystal-clear waters, and a great balance between beautiful landscapes and relaxation, small shops, restaurants, and beach clubs that guarantee excitement at all times, its "perfect vacation" status is undeniable. If the idea is to ensure accommodation that matches the destination, know that there are good new options in well-known Mykonos and also in Paros, a beautiful island that is part of the Cyclades archipelago, more tranquil and family-friendly. Discover two new hotel options that blend design, gastronomy, experiences, and an enchantingly unpretentious luxury.

## **KALESMA, Mykonos**

The only hotel on the island where all accommodations have their own private heated pool and terrace with sun loungers in the comfort of the suite, Kalesma Mykonos is preparing for its fourth summer. In Greek, its name means "inviting." The property wants to make guests feel at home – and what a sophisticated and tasteful home! Strategically located on the slope of Ornos Bay, just a walk from the beach of the same name, the hotel is marked by an infinity pool that allows visitors to enjoy sea views from all corners of the hotel and also watch the sunrise and sunset from the same spot.

Combining contemporary elements with locally sourced materials, the architecture stands out and received two awards at the 100% Hotel Design Awards, in the categories "Best Room/Bathroom" and "Best Lobby/Reception," in 2021. The hotel's aesthetic, designed by the renowned Greek design office K-Studio, is minimalist, with neutral colors, making use of natural materials such as wood, stone, and marble. Still, it directly refers to a typical and charming village of Mykonos, with a collection of whitewashed houses forming its 14 villas and 13 suites. Kalesma's inspiration brings several elements of horses, one of the hotel owner's loves, injecting rustic touches with sophistication.

The hotel thought about the well-being of body and mind of its guests and invested in a top-notch wellness section. In addition to a brand-new gym with Technogym equipment, it offers a complete spa with treatments signed by the German doctor Barbara Sturm, an aesthetics specialist and pioneer in creating products focused on combating skin inflammation. Her brand and her

SturmGlow signature, with products that have won over Hollywood stars, is part of the treatment menus, such as the SturmGlow Facial and the Super Anti-Aging Facial. Massages, both for the face and body, can also be done in the guest's own room.

In terms of gastronomy, the Pere Ubu restaurant, the heart of Kalesma and open all day, has views of the pool and the Aegean Sea. The menu features traditional Greek cuisine with a modern touch and makes use of seasonal and local products, as well as the wood-fired oven, used to bake a daily selection of homemade breads and pies. At night, it serves sophisticated dishes and has a more lively atmosphere.

## **ANDRONIS MINOIS, Paros**

Paros is the Greek island that has enchanted Brazilians who seek the mix of beaches with crystal-clear waters, historic villages, family atmosphere, and lots of charm. Located between Naxos and Mykonos, it is a four-hour boat ride from Athens. By ferry, it is less than two hours from Santorini. Paros Airport also receives daily flights from some Greek and European cities. In Paros, the excitement also exists, with good options for beach clubs, but the atmosphere is still less bustling compared to the well-known hype of neighboring Mykonos. Naoussa is the most visited village, where there is a picturesque port and where there is a more vibrant nightlife, with small shops open at night and several options for having a drink and dinner. Parikia, the capital, is rich in history and hosts one of the oldest churches in Greece, Panagia Ekatonpiliani, as well as an archaeological museum. To see everything, it is recommended to rent a car during your stay on the island.

The Andronis Hotels chain, which has two iconic hotels in Santorini, chose Paros to host its new venture, Andronis Minois. Opened a year ago, it is a great option for those who want to spend a few days discovering the destination – the property is less than a 10-minute walk from Parasporos beach. With 44 suites, the hotel has several categories, some of them with views of the Aegean Sea and a private pool.

With design and décor that refer to the classic Greek style and some touches inspired by Morocco, Andronis Minois offers local gastronomy – it is worth having a drink while enjoying the sunset in the upper part of the Olvo restaurant, with a balcony that extends over the sea. If the idea is to explore the brand-new hotel, one cannot fail to mention the pool, which is the soul of the space and is very centrally located, full of sun loungers and spaces with privacy to enjoy a day-off from tourism. The tip is to end the day with a massage at Aura Spa, built underground, with a cave-like atmosphere, which includes, in addition to treatment rooms, a steam sauna with a mosaic floor.