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The perfect holiday in Santorini, Greece's most romantic island

An insider guide to enjoying this iconic Greek island, its dazzling sunsets, clifftop villages and all-encompassing volcano



Favoured by honeymooners from around the world, there's no denying the romance of [Santorini](#)'s volcanic crater with its sheer black and red walls rising steeply to a sugar-sprinkling of white villages where blue-domed churches rub shoulders with gourmet restaurants and boutique hotels – many of them carved out of the *kanaves* that were once used for storing wine.

Nourished by volcanic ash from the c.1600 BC eruption that decimated the island's Minoan population, Santorini's fertile soil is used to grow grapes that make inimitable wines, along with sweet cherry tomatoes, unique white aubergines and the yellow split pea fava that star in the island's distinctive dishes.

The caldera-side capital Fira, with its shop-lined streets, and Oia's castle sunset spot and are, understandably, the main draw for many travellers. From ancient *kalderimi* hiking paths to lost-in-the-past hamlets and family-run vineyards, however, Santorini also has another more authentic side that's well worth discovering.

For more Santorini inspiration, see our guides to the island's best [hotels](#), [restaurants](#), [bars](#), [things to do](#) and [beaches](#).

Where to stay

Luxury living

As its name suggests, [Andronis Concept Wellness resort](#) has a strong focus on wellness. A family-friendly resort on the caldera's rim near Imerovigli, its 28 suites and villas, coiled like a snail around a photogenic infinity pool and an elegant candlelit spa, are extremely spacious by Santorini standards. Food in the small restaurant is excellent.



Wellness is the focus at Andronis – be it steam rooms, sauna, treatments, yoga or even special detox menus Credit: TRYFON GEORGOPOULOS