

# Condé Nast **Traveller**

JULY 2014 £3.99

## **THE GREEK ISLANDS**

HOTTEST HOTELS, INSIDER SECRETS, FOODIE FAVOURITES, COOLEST HANGOUTS

**BEST BEACHES IN THE  
MEDITERRANEAN**  
FUNKY FORMENTERA

**ON HOLIDAY  
WITH**  
MICHELLE DOCKERY  
LEA SEYDOUX

**FIRST REVIEWS**

**NEW HOTELS**  
AUSTRALIA  
ENGLAND  
THE MALDIVES

# SUMMER HIDEAWAYS

FAMILY VILLAS ★ MEXICAN RETREATS ★ AFRICAN SPAS



# THE BEST OF THE GREEK ISLANDS

FICIIS ADIS IL IPIENISQUI AS APIS DOLUPTATUM SIT MOLUPTIBUS, VITAE CUM  
QUUNTASPERFE RROVITATUR REIUM ARUM AUT MAGNIS EOS  
NAT AUTEMQUI ALITATEM NONSEQUAMUS EXPLA SEQUI OPTAE ES ET FICIIS  
ADIS IL IPIENISQUI AS APIS DOLUPTATUM SIT MOLUPTIBUS, VITAE CUM  
QUUNTASPERFE RROVITATUR REIUM ARUM AUT MAGNIS EOS

# Villas

GREEK VILLAS HAVE NEVER LOOKED SO INVITING. HERE ARE FIVE SUPERB NEW ADDITIONS TO AN INCREASINGLY SOPHISTICATED



XXXXXXXXXXXX

## SPORADES 'SKIATHOS RX'

With direct flights from several European cities, Skiathos was the glamorous star of the pine-fringed Sporades islands way before *Mama Mia*. Poking out of the forest, this new glass-fronted villa looks unassuming from afar. But up close, the cutting edge architecture makes a big impact. Modern interiors are so sleek they're almost austere but it's the outdoor features that blow you away: a vast wooden deck with a palm-thatched barbeque, fire pit, and open-air home cinema. At sunrise, seagulls swoop over the 75 square metre infinity pool. It's even more dramatic at dusk as the sun melts into the sea. Although completely secluded, it's only a five-minute walk to three of the best beaches on Skiathos: Banana and Koukounaries, with their water-sports and pumping beach bars, and quieter, cooler Ampelakia. The crispy calamari with chilli and lime at Mystique beach bar goes down well with an ice-cold Septem pilsner. (Sleeps 12. Price on request. [www.fivestargreece.com](http://www.fivestargreece.com))



XXXXXXXXXXXX

## CYCLADES PEGASUS ESTATE

There aren't many secrets left in the Mediterranean, but this is one of them. At the southern tip of Evia is an archipelago of small, mostly uninhabited islands. One of them is home to this seaside villa, accessible only by speedboat and just an hour from Athens airport. Once the winter resort of the Ottoman pasha of Evia, the 1,200-acre estate is surrounded by olive, fig and pistachio trees, kilometres of private beaches and walking trails. Recently renovated, the 100-year-old house has kept its old-fashioned charm with patterned floor tiles, crocheted bedspreads, and reclaimed marble sinks. There's a wood-fired oven for outdoor feasts, with daily provisions from the organic farm and seafood delivered by a local fisherman. The semi-circular pier is lined with loungers, strategically placed for sunset views. Paradise for children, the property has two Lasers for forays to the nearby islands of Andros and Kea. There are two housekeepers. (Sleeps 10. Price on request. [www.uniquepropertiesandevents.com](http://www.uniquepropertiesandevents.com))

XXXXXXXXXXXX

## SERIFOS LIA BEACH HOUSE

Camouflaged among tamarisk and bamboo groves, beside a stream that runs into a sandy bay, this Boho beach house looks as though it's been here forever. The only other house nearby belongs to the owner and architect. He used to camp out here when he first discovered Serifos in the 1980s, so he designed the house to capture the freedom of outdoor living. A cluster of five typically Cycladic buildings house the bedrooms and bathrooms, connected by internal courtyards that double as kitchen, dining, and living areas. (There's an indoor kitchen hewn from the rock for when the blustery meltemi blows.) Interiors reflect the natural landscape, with brushed concrete beds dressed in blues, greys, and greens and mobiles fashioned from flotsam and jetsam. Flagstones lead to pristine Lia beach, usually deserted until midday, even in August. This is the definition of barefoot chic, with a sense of simplicity that feels quintessentially Greek. (Sleeps 10. Price on request. [www.hipawayvillas.com](http://www.hipawayvillas.com))



# Boats

## CALYPSO



## Hello sailor

SPOTS YOU CAN ONLY GET TO BY BOAT, AND THE PEOPLE WHO CAN GET YOU THERE

### The Skipper

British buccaneer David Sidwell spends most of his time sailing the Mediterranean with family and friends. Occasionally, he

Unflappable and unassuming, Captain Zois Skrimpias has spent his whole life at sea, first in the merchant navy, then at the helm of some of Greece's sleekest yachts.

### The Kit

When Sidwell couldn't find the perfect craft, he built his own. Entirely made of wood and metal, Calypso is designed for those who like luxury but crave adventure. She's stable, child-friendly

Built in 2010, this glossy 31-metre superyacht is kitted out like a five-star hotel and comes with an array of water toys. With a cruising speed of 27 knots and Rolls Royce Kamewa jet engines, Duke is a

### The Trip

'Every trip is tailored to guests' requirements. One of my favourite routes is travelling down-wind through the Dodecanese. In two weeks, you can zig-zag between the wonderfully unspoilt islands of Fourni, Patmos, Arki, Lipsos, Leros, Kalymnos, Symi and Tilos. Fantastic food,

'I specialise in island-hopping itineraries in the Ionian, where I grew up. The waters are the bluest in Greece and you don't get the choppy winds of the Cyclades. Plus you get the thrill of speeding through the Corinth Canal to get there from Athens.'

### Favourite Spot

'Often it's the journey that gets you there that makes a place special. On a two-mile beach on Limnos, there's a reggae bar in a boat beached up in the dunes. But the bluest water I've ever seen is on the dramatic western

'If I get lucky spear-fishing, we'll cast anchor at Varko, a hidden bay close to where I grew up, and have a barbeque on the beach.'

### Insider Tip

'The uninhabited island of Kyra Panagia in the Northern Sporades, fabled home of the Cyclops. As well as two very blue lagoons, there are sunken ruins from the Minoan age. You might even spot one of the

'On Meganisi, a tiny island opposite Lefkada, there's a fantastic fish taverna on Spilia bay. You can pick your lunch straight out of a pool

### Contact

Calypso Adventure ([www.calypsoadventure.com](http://www.calypsoadventure.com); +44 (0) 7879 815 035).

Five Star Greece ([www.fivestargreece.com](http://www.fivestargreece.com)).



DUKE