Condé Nast Traveller

MAY 2018

Secret Venice

Where the locals eat

INDIAN OCEAN
THE BEACHES THAT NO ONE KNOWS ABOUT

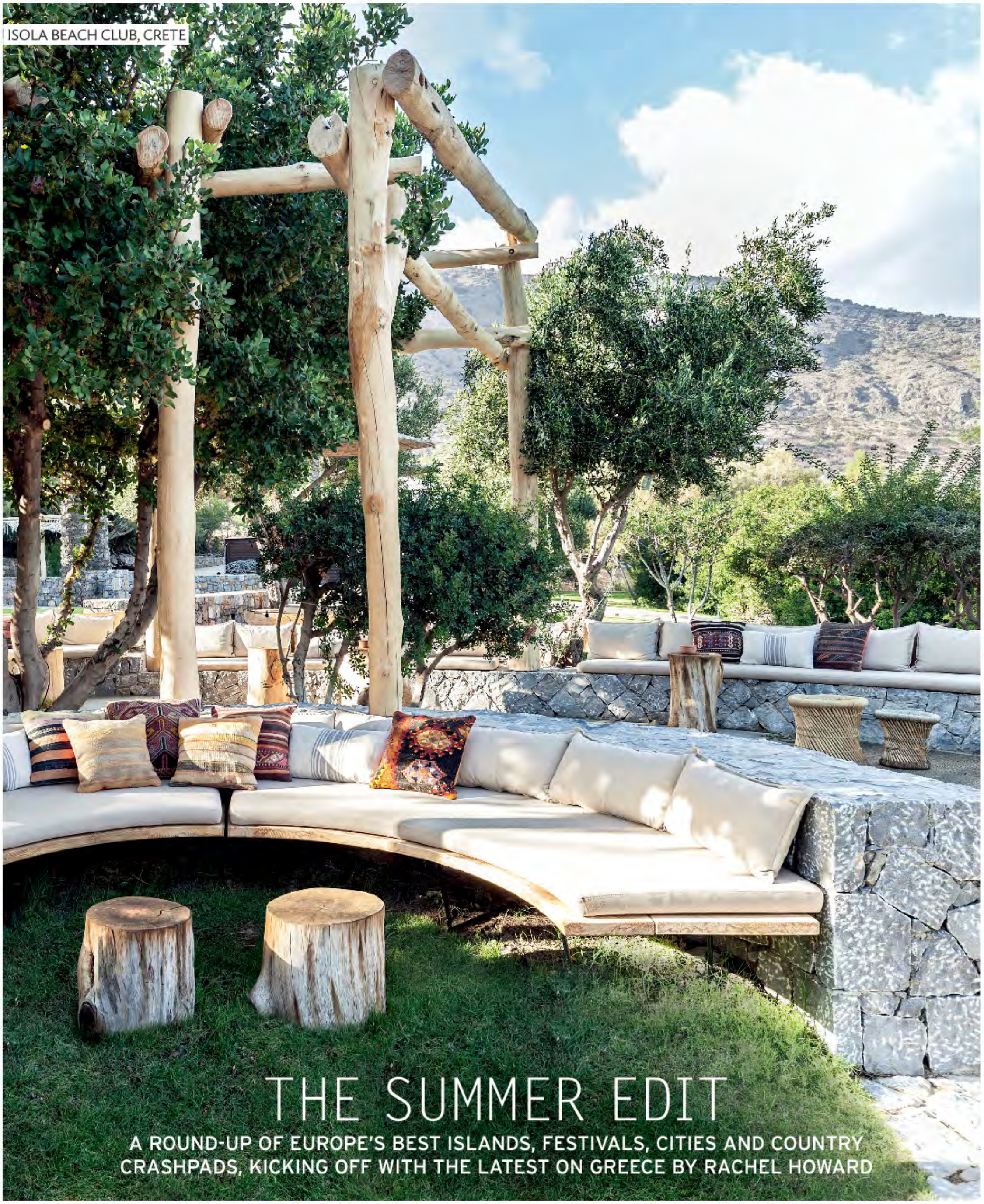
GREEK ISLANDS
ALL THAT'S NEW IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

+ THE BEST RESTAURANTS-WITH-ROOMS IN BRITAIN

WORD OF MOUTH

ALL THAT'S NEW AND GROUND-BREAKING IN TRAVEL

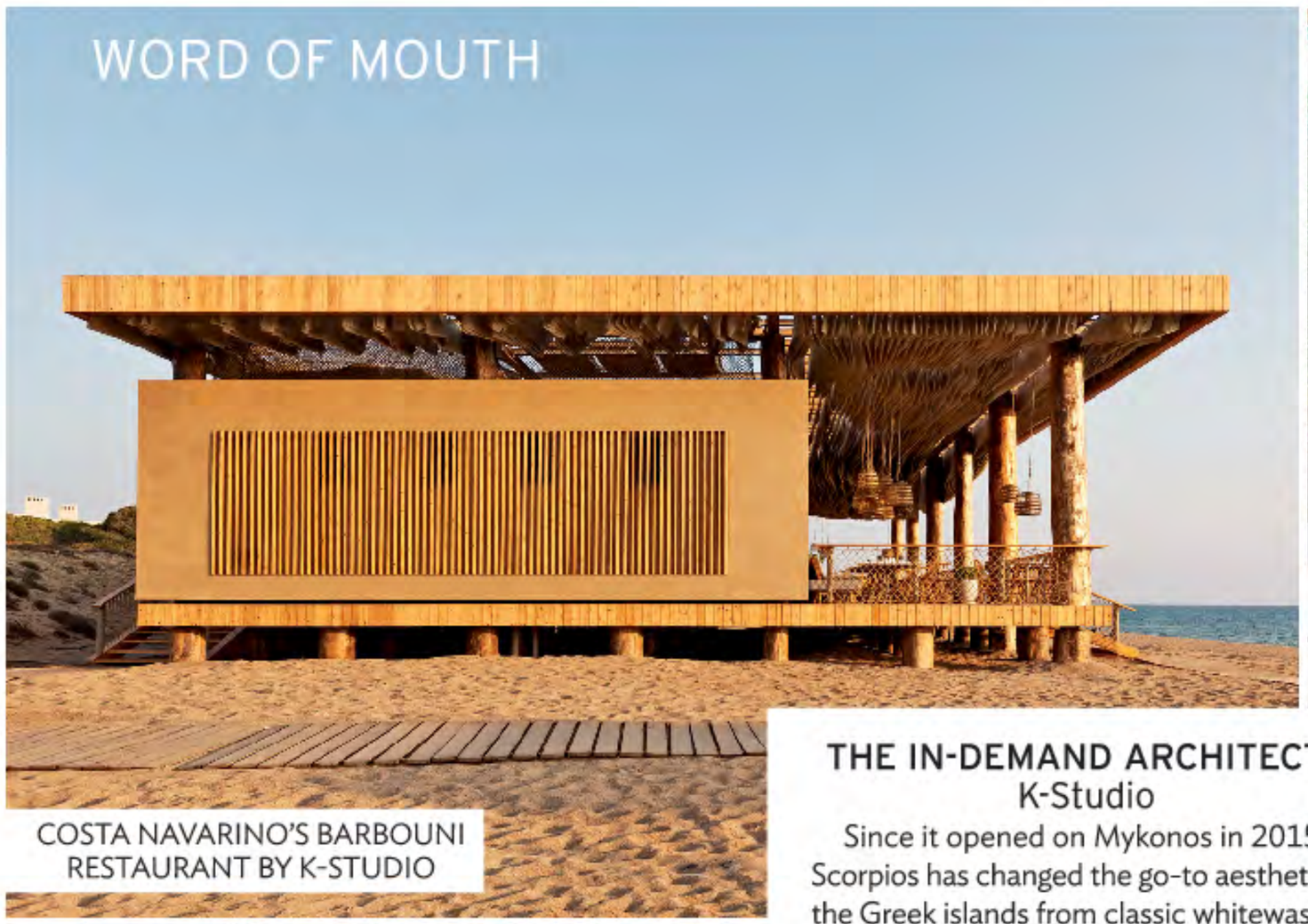
EDITED BY **FIONA KERR**



THE SUMMER EDIT

A ROUND-UP OF EUROPE'S BEST ISLANDS, FESTIVALS, CITIES AND COUNTRY CRASHPADS, KICKING OFF WITH THE LATEST ON GREECE BY RACHEL HOWARD

WORD OF MOUTH



COSTA NAVARINO'S BARBOUNI RESTAURANT BY K-STUDIO

NAVARINO RESIDENCES BY K-STUDIO

THE IN-DEMAND ARCHITECTS
K-Studio

Since it opened on Mykonos in 2015, Scorpios has changed the go-to aesthetic of the Greek islands from classic whitewash to acres of bleached wood and rattan. Dimitris and Konstantinos Karampatakis of K-Studio in Athens were behind the natural, haute-hippie style. Last year they translated it into Isola Beach Club on Crete and this summer are racking up more must-see projects with Canaves Oia Epitome and Bellonias Villas on Santorini. *k-studio.gr*

BILL & COO COAST BY K-STUDIO

THE SMARTEST NEW BOAT
Alexa J

When Russian interior designer Veronika Blomgren decided to create her dream yacht, she had zero sailing experience, didn't dive, and was a little scared of the sea. That didn't stop her conjuring up one of most indulgent vessels afloat, the gorgeously all-white, one-cabin *Alexa*, which island-hops around Indonesia carrying guests such as art dealer Jay Jopling. Now Blomgren has her course set for the Mediterranean with 36-metre schooner *Alexa J*. Again it's a boat built for two (although the downstairs library can be turned into another cabin), and the crew of five include a chef, spa therapist and dive instructor. Drop anchor off hush-hush islands Kalamos, Kastos and Meganisi. *alexaprivatecruises.com*

HOUSE ON MILOS BY K-STUDIO

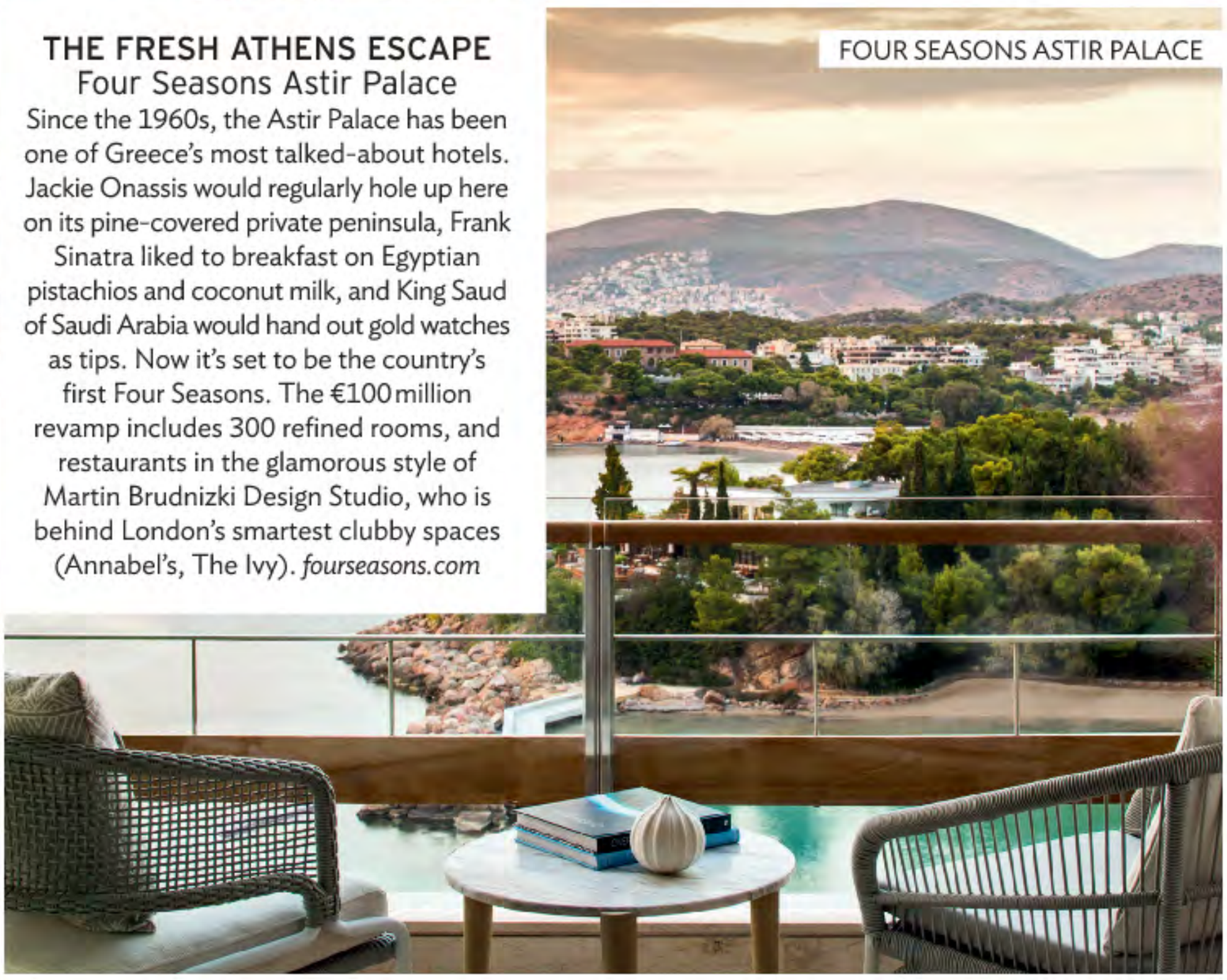
ALEXA J YACHT

ISOLA BEACH CLUB

SOSTIS VILLA ON SERIFOS FROM HIPAWAY

THE ISLAND OF THE SEASON
Serifos

Most Greeks would agree that the best beaches in the Cyclades are not on Mykonos or Santorini but on Serifos, with its miles of empty sand, even in August. This is where arty Athenians head to, charmed by the sleepy pace and rugged beauty. The most intriguing villas are gathered by Hipaway, which specialises in exactly this kind of insider island and has the holiday homes of stylists, architects and gallerists on its books. The company's latest Serifos finds are tucked away in private coves. *hipawayvillas.com*



VATOUDI RESIDENCE ON SERIFOS FROM HIPAWAY

THE FRESH ATHENS ESCAPE
Four Seasons Astir Palace

Since the 1960s, the Astir Palace has been one of Greece's most talked-about hotels. Jackie Onassis would regularly hole up here on its pine-covered private peninsula, Frank Sinatra liked to breakfast on Egyptian pistachios and coconut milk, and King Saud of Saudi Arabia would hand out gold watches as tips. Now it's set to be the country's first Four Seasons. The €100 million revamp includes 300 refined rooms, and restaurants in the glamorous style of Martin Brudnizki Design Studio, who is behind London's smartest clubby spaces (Annabel's, The Ivy). *fourseasons.com*

FOUR SEASONS ASTIR PALACE

TASTE HOPPING

THE INSIDER FOODIE TOUR
Taste Hopping

Set up by photographer Eleni Veziri and travel editor Chryssa Kakiori, Taste Hopping is launching slow-food jaunts around Athens and the Greek islands. Walking tours are a moveable feast of delis, patisseries and wineries, gathering provisions for a picnic in a secret spot. For the hungriest travellers, there are also five-day retreats, starting with Cephalonia for the grape harvest in August, followed by Aegina, the pistachio island, in October. *tastehopping.com*

MYKONOS MUSE

THE PICTURE BOOK
Mykonos Muse

'It is not cosy, it does not try to charm, it brands you like a hot iron.' Lawrence Durrell is just one of many writers, artists and designers who have fallen hard for Mykonos over the years. Now the isle of the winds has also spurred on Greek photographer Lizy Manola; her lyrical homage is about to be published in a beautiful book by Assouline. *'Mykonos Muse' is out in May (£60, assouline.com)*

EUPHORIA RETREAT

PHOTOGRAPH: IOANNA ROUFOPOULOU

THE DESTINATION SPA Euphoria Retreat

Between Amanzoe and Costa Navarino on the still-under-the-radar Peloponnese peninsula, this is Greece's first wellbeing big hitter. And it's a serious operator, having snapped up medical expert George Leon who founded Eucrasia; he's the country's answer to Dr König at Villa Stéphanie. Yes, there are state-of-the-art diagnostics and a full-spec four-storey spa, but the ley lines also run deep in these parts. Set below the mystical ruins of Mystra, Euphoria has programmes that blend the Ancient Greek Hippocratic system (the basis of modern medicine) and Chinese elemental philosophies, bringing Chiva-Som levels of holistic wellness to the Mediterranean for the first time. *euphoriaretreat.com*