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# Greece's chicest RETREATS

Whether you prefer back-to-nature seclusion, Belle Époque glamour, hillside tradition or regal pomp, *Bazaar* has found the perfect Greek destination for you

BY RACHEL HOWARD

## BEST BEACH RETREAT

### Onar, Andros

Miles down a bumpy dirt track, Onar is literally in the middle of nowhere – which makes it perfect for a detox from urban stress. Its eight stone cottages are camouflaged in a lush valley on the wild north-east coast of the island of Andros, overlooking Achla Beach, where the sea is dazzlingly green. These cosy bungalows have wooden beams, brushed concrete floors, and hammocks strung beneath bamboo pergolas, where you can snooze to the hum of cicadas. Communal feasts of just-caught fish and garden-fresh organic greens are served under a giant plane-tree; and occasional yoga retreats take place in a Mongolian yurt. Owner Makis Pantazopoulos gave up the New York high life for the good life on Andros. If you're lucky, he'll whisk you away on his speedboat to even more secluded bays, or lead you up the valley to taste goat's cheese from a local farm.

Onar (+30 210 625 052; [www.onar-andros.gr](http://www.onar-andros.gr)), from about £135 a room a night.

[www.harperbazaar.co.uk](http://www.harperbazaar.co.uk)



## BEST FOR ROMANTIC SECLUSION

### Imaret, Kavala

Part of Imaret's otherworldly charm is its unlikely location. Built as a seminary in 1817 by Mohamed Ali Pasha, viceroy of Egypt, it lies in the bustling, un-touristy port of Kavala on the northern mainland. In the walled compound, fountains tinkle in connecting courtyards. Spread between buildings that are crowned by more than 100 domes, there are 26 rooms and suites, each with a distinct personality. Velvet cushions are heaped in window seats; shimmering brocades adorn beds. Time seems to stand still: there is no clock by the bed, only a posy of roses and a bowl of dates.

Imaret (+30 251 0620 151; [www.imaret.gr](http://www.imaret.gr)), from about £315 a room a night.

## BEST HISTORIC HIDEAWAY

### Kinsterna, Monemvasia

The walled mediaeval town of Monemvasia in the Peloponnese has plenty of quaint guesthouses, but this hillside hotel, in a 500-year-old manor house surrounded by citrus orchards, raises the bar. Kinsterna combines traditional features (vaulted ceilings, stone arches, original fireplaces) with a strikingly modern spa and a pool that snakes through the property. The 27 rooms and suites are all different, drawing on the area's Byzantine, Ottoman and Venetian influences. The marble bathrooms are stocked with Hermès products. In the Mediterranean restaurant, you can sample the hotel's own olive oil and wine; the region has been famous for its olives and Malvasia wine since Byzantine times.

*Kinsterna (+30 273 2066 300; [www.kinsterna-hotel.gr](http://www.kinsterna-hotel.gr)), from about £220 a room a night B&B.*



## BEST FOR GLAMOUR

### Poseidonion Grace, Spetses

If you want to see and be seen, you can't beat this landmark on the harbour of the island of Spetses – where every Greek shipping magnate worth his salt has a weekend retreat. Opened in 1914, Poseidonion was a high-society magnet modelled on the Côte d'Azur's grand hotels. After years of neglect, the hotel has been sensitively restored and relaunched with many of its original fittings, including stucco ceilings and a grand cantilevered staircase. At the rear is an asymmetric pool and a Valmont spa. Watching the horse-drawn carriages glide past the elegant terrace bar, you could be back in the Roaring Twenties.

*Poseidonion Grace (+30 229 8074 553; [www.poseidoniongrace.com](http://www.poseidoniongrace.com)), from about £170 a room a night B&B.*

## BEST FOR BOUTIQUE CHIC

### Ammos Hotel, Crete

Set on a sandy bay just outside Chania, Ammos is refreshingly different to the many characterless resorts of northern Crete. Owner Nikos Tsepetsis' exacting standards and passion for design are evident throughout this small, family-friendly resort with its Scandinavian-style interiors. Everything is designed for easy living – from smoothies served at your sunlounger to Cretan treats in the all-day restaurant. The tiny spa's massages are exceptional. Tsepetsis' knowledge of Crete is encyclopedic: he will direct you to the island's most authentic tavernas and scenic trails. *Ammos Hotel (+30 28210 3300 325; [www.amoshotel.com](http://www.amoshotel.com)), from about £90 a room a night. □*

