

SUPPER

HOTEL FOOD & DRINK



FARI MARINA VILLAGE – MALDIVES • ANNE-SOPHIE PIC • ACE HOTEL – TORONTO



The Wild Hotel by Interni

MYKONOS

The Varveris family add to their empire with a new dining offer inspired by land and sea.

Words: Matt Turner

Wild by name, wild by nature, this 40-room hideaway perches on a windswept cliff overlooking a former fishing village in the south of Mykonos. So brave and foolhardy were its fishermen, they became locally known as 'the wild ones'. Today, it is a tranquil spot reminiscent of simpler times, before the arrival of the jet-set and uber-luxury properties that have come to define the island in more recent years.

First opened in 2019, The Wild Hotel by Interni is owned by the Varveris family, whose founding father Nikos is a well-known entrepreneur and restaurateur on the island, having created Moda Bagno Interni, a showroom and distributorship for many leading design brands, over 30 years ago. Interni – a restaurant and bar designed by Paola Navone – followed in Mykonos Old Town in 1997, quickly establishing itself as a popular party spot, and its success has led to further restaurants, including The Grand by Interni on the rooftop of Grand Hyatt Athens and The Twenty Two in Belgrade's Metropal Palace.

Now, Nikos' sons Alexandros and Philip are taking the business forward with the opening of The Wild Hotel by Interni, designed in collaboration with architects Sofia and Matina Karava. "We were always captivated by people, hotels and good taste," Alexandros explains. "A hotel in Mykonos was a natural next step for us; however, it took time to find the perfect place that could turn our dream into reality. We fell in love with this spot on sight."

Given the brothers' background in both design and gastronomy, it's no surprise to find that The Wild is a beautifully appointed property with a strong F&B offer. Interiors see artisanal objects combine with handmade lamps and woven textiles for a decidedly rugged aesthetic, while the dining programme centres around Taverna, serving modern interpretations of traditional Greek recipes: aubergine, courgette and beetroot with yoghurt and dill; grilled octopus with fava beans; and pork gyros with tzatziki. As one would expect given the seafront location, perched above the Hills of Aphrodite,



© Christina Vahouts



© George Drakopoulos

seafood features heavily. Shrimp giouvetsi flavoured with ouzo, and, on Supper's visit, freshly-caught red mullet simply grilled and served on a bed of greens.

Summer 2022 saw the launch of the latest addition to the hotel's food offer. Raw is a dramatic multi-level vertical dining courtyard shaded by pine trees with mesmerising views over the hotel's secluded beach. The cuisine here is more adventurous in outlook and international in its influence – a menu divided into 'Land' and 'Sea' roams from turf to surf with dishes such as roasted shrimp marinated with coffee and vanilla; tamarisk wild greens with spearmint, citrus and poppy seeds; Bloody Mary sea bream ceviche; beluga lentils with miso-marinated mushrooms; and grilled rib-eye with aubergine purée, chimichurri sauce and grilled bok choy.

Washed down with signature cocktail The Wild – a heady mix of mezcal, mandarin purée, black salt and egg white – or a bottle of crisp Greek wine, looking out to the Aegean

over the twin hills of the Divoumia peninsula (affectionately named 'the breasts of Aphrodite' by locals) it's not hard to imagine what led the Varveris brothers to fall for this heavenly spot at first sight. The goddess of love and beauty would surely approve.

The hotel also offers food-loving guests the opportunity to immerse themselves in the island's culinary culture with visits to local farms, bread-making lessons, intimate picnics and tours of the fish market. From next season, guests will also be able to take a traditional sailing boat out to nearby islands.

Concludes Alexandros: "The Wild Hotel is an expression of our family philosophy and embodies everything we love about this beautiful Cycladic island and its original ethos stemmed from the artists and free spirits who discovered it first. The hotel is like a living entity and a work-in-progress that will evolve with us over time as we collect new artwork and antiques, listen to our guests' desires and get inspired by our own travels to dream up new experiences."



IN A BITE
 Owners: Varveris Family
 Architecture and Interior Design:
 Sofla and Matina Karava
www.thewildhotel.com