



TRAVEL

Why Mykonos is the place to be for a slower pace of life this September

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Mykonos may be famous for its bustling nightlife and lively restaurants, but a new wave of hotels is giving tourists the chance to embrace [a slower pace of life](#). Stylist's Lauren Geall took a trip to the island to check it out.

There's nothing quite like a trip through Gatwick Airport at 5am on a bank holiday weekend to place you in dire need of some peace and quiet - although that's not always the first thing people think of when they picture a classic trip to Mykonos.

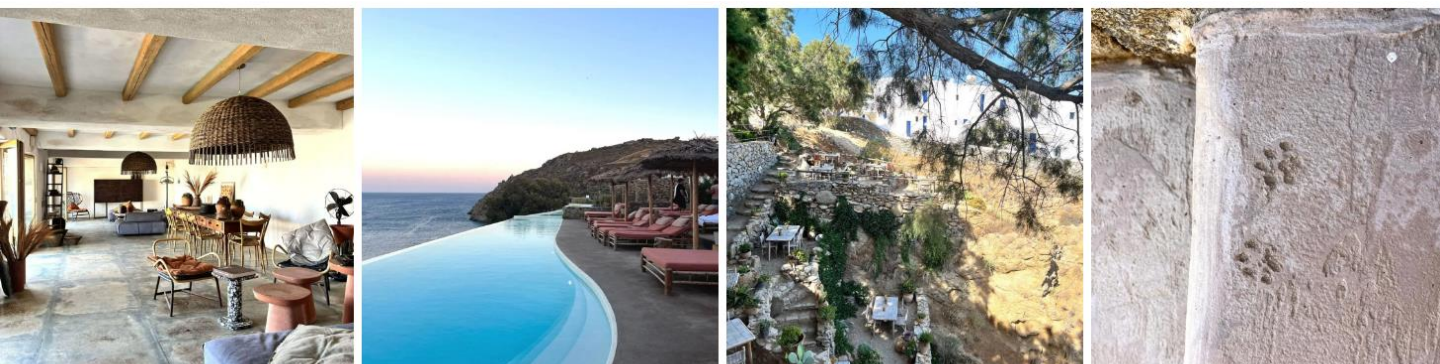
Located in the middle of the Aegean Sea in the heart of the [Greek](#) Cyclades island group, Mykonos has long been known for its vibrant nightlife. But over the last couple of years, there's been a shift. Mykonos is still the lively destination it's always been, but a growing number of boutique, luxury hotels are setting up shop in a bid to showcase the [slow-paced lifestyle](#) the island's locals have been leading for generations.

But The Wild's status has done nothing to diminish its charm. When I arrive, I'm greeted by the hotel's resident cat Milos, whose paw prints can be found imprinted in the stairs that snake up the cliff to the rooms above.

This is a hotel with definitive style, and my room, located on the hotel's first 'level', is no exception. Pared back and effortlessly comfortable, the interior style is an eclectic mix of wood, rattan and terracotta set against white walls and simplistic textiles, and it doesn't take long for me to feel at home.

This non-manicured, welcoming style continues throughout the hotel, which is decorated with a variety of authentic Greek vases, bowls and art work – all of which were handpicked by the owners, brothers Philip and Alex Varveris.

But as tempting as it is to spend days soaking in The Wild's charm, a true Mykonos experience isn't without a trip to some of the island's most charming spots. While The Wild has its own private beach (although you'll have to tackle plenty of steps to get there), the island is home to plenty of sandy spots.



From left to right: the hotel foyer, the pool at sunset, the RAW and Milos' paw prints.

I'd also recommend a short trip to [the quiet village of Ano Mera](#), where you'll find a restored 16th-century monastery nestled among Mykonos' signature white houses and cobbled streets.

For a taste of something even more ancient, however, there's no place like Delos – a small island located a 20-minute boat ride away from Mykonos' south-westerly tip. Entirely uninhabited, [the entire island is a designated UNESCO world heritage site](#), thanks to the incredible array of monumental antiquities that can be found on its surface. Rumoured to be the birthplace of Apollo, a trip to Delos is a true once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Once you're back on Mykonos, you'll want to find time to sample all the incredible food. As a lover of Greek food, I was particularly excited to try out The Wild's flagship restaurant, Taverna, which serves a range of traditional dishes including one of the best Greek salads I've ever had.



The hotel's second restaurant RAW – which only opened this year – is also a must-visit. Serving a fusion of Japanese and Mediterranean flavours, the dishes on offer were like nothing I'd ever tasted (in a very, very good way).

Further afield, Mykonos' famous capital Hora (also known as Mykonos Town) is perfect for those looking for a livelier experience. Famous for its brilliant white buildings and pedestrianised cobbled streets, we took a trip there on my final night on the island – and as much as I loved the peacefulness of The Wild, it felt right to spend a night wandering among the bars and restaurants Mykonos is known for.

There's a lot to take in here. A trip to the town's iconic windmills is an absolute must, as is a visit to [Little Venice](#), named as such because of the houses that balance precariously over the sea on its edge. The bars here offer incredible views – especially at sunset – but you'll want to book to make sure you get one of the best spots.



Once the sun's gone down, you'll want to start your search for food.

[Koursaros](#) and [Noa](#) both come highly-recommended, but if you're looking for something a bit different, you'll want to check out [Cine Manto](#) – an open-air cinema and restaurant located in the centre of Mykonos Town.

There's also [Interni](#) – also owned by the brothers behind The Wild. The food here is fantastic (I was a big fan of the wagyu beef souvlaki), but it's the outlandish atmosphere – including the loud music and sparkler-filled performances from the waiting staff – that makes this place worth the trip.

At the end of the night (which became early morning), I was more than ready to slip back into the slow lifestyle that encompasses life on the other side of Mykonos. But I guess that's exactly what The Wild is there to offer.

Rates at The Wild Hotel by Interni, Mykonos, start from £290 per room per night on a double room basis, including breakfast. www.thewildhotel.com

