

TRAVEL

The Wild, the five-star hotel where it is possible to enjoy Mykonos in peace

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View of the Aegean Sea from The Wild's infinity pool in Mykonos, Greece.

Even in the middle of summer you can enjoy the Greek island calmly. This is what the sustainable five-star The Wild offers. With a private cove and spectacular views over the Aegean Sea, it is a haven of peace and good taste with 39 suites spread across a cliff.

At about eight o'clock in the evening the sun begins to set. As the light goes down, the sky blue water of the **infinity pool mixes with that of the Aegean Sea** that is right in front of us. Nothing interrupts the view of a sunset that the photographs do not do justice to, no matter how many filters are applied. In the atmosphere, somewhat cool in mid-May, there is only silence, the couple occupying the neighboring hammocks is just as absorbed as I am. Nothing interrupts this moment of peace despite being in **Mykonos, one of the most touristic islands in the Mediterranean**. "We have the best location on the island, at least that I know of," Alex, 49, one of the two **sons of Nikos Varveris**, owner of The Wild, and founder in 1974 of Moda Bagno, a distributor in Greece of the most important designer brands in the world, will tell me later.

In 1997, led by Nikos' good hand in the kitchen, they opened **Interni, a restaurant in Chora, the capital of Mykonos** that, 25 years later, still has a waiting list every day [it is only open for dinner, a DJ performs every day, it has two cocktail bars, and it is usual for people to stay for a drink and dance until two, which is when it closes]. The family group today includes the management of **The Grand by Interni, on the rooftop of the Grand Hyatt Athens**); the **Twenty Two restaurant at Metropol Palace in Belgrade**, and the **Twentyone hotel in Athens**.



One of 39 rooms and suites at The Wild.

Private cove

The Wild, a **20-minute drive from the island's capital**, opened in 2018 in the **Kalafatis** area with the hallmark of the Varveris' philosophy and eclectic tastes. We can confirm that the chundachunda that invades most of the beaches of Mykonos does not reach here. Although if someone wants to go looking for that atmosphere, there are **free transfers from the hotel until 12 at night**. At The Wild, guests are mostly French and Americans who spend three or four days staying in one of the **39 rooms and suites (divided into four categories, with one or two bedrooms, from 300 euros)**, all with **sea views**, which are distributed, in the style of **villas** perfectly fitted into the landscape, on top of a cliff that ends in a **private cove**. Alex calls it "secret", it is protected from the winds and fifty sun loungers have been arranged in it, attended by hotel waiters. From here also depart the **yachts and catamarans** that, upon prior reservation, take guests to small uninhabited islands where ruins of houses and temples from the first and second centuries BC are still preserved; or to swim in the middle of the Aegean Sea, or through a romantic sunset route to celebrate birthdays or a marriage proposal.



View of the private cove.

Everything is handmade

"People started coming to The Wild because they noticed that here the **napkins were made of linen, the glasses were made of Moroccan glass, the sun loungers were made of bamboo and the parasols were made of palm ...** For us, the important thing is the texture of the objects. Nothing is perfect here, it is not what we are looking for. **Anything you see may or may not be local, but it is surely handmade,**" explains Alex. Open **from May to late September or mid-October** depending on the weather each year, the hotel is constantly evolving.

While **no two rooms are exactly alike, they** do share codes such as natural **material** finishes in a soothing, earthy palette. **Bare wood, rough stone, molded clay,** terracotta, and whitewashed plaster are reminiscent of the traditional style of the Cycladic islands.

The **furniture** is, in many cases, designed by **the big international firms,** and is mixed with handmade lamps, handcrafted objects, antiques and quality fabrics. In addition, every season they usually add something new from **the huge Bagno Fashion** catalogue, whether it's a Baxter chair or a new wicker basket, always in the vein of simple and authentic. Customers are also renewed every year. "Many of the visitors to Mykonos are just looking to put a check. They come, they do it, and the following summer they look for another destination," says Alex.

Two restaurants

What does remain unchanged is the quality of the **gastronomic offer.** The Wild has two restaurants, both open-air and overlooking the sea. One, called **Taverna,** where breakfast is served from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., with homemade breads and biscuits and freshly squeezed energy smoothies, offers hamburgers, souvlaki [the local Moorish skewers], salads and vegetarian and vegan adaptations that can be eaten at the table, by the pool or in the cove. In the evenings, the menu focuses on traditional Greek cuisine, with options such as Giouvetsi with shrimp, lamb wrapped in grape leaves or Moussaka. You can also dine at **Raw, a dining concept that offers Greek-Japanese fusion sushi dishes,** ceviche, and salads with local ingredients. The tables are spread out on small terraces carved into the cliff and are illuminated by lanterns and moonlight.



View of the Raw restaurant.

The common areas of this small Greek paradise are completed with a **gym and a spa**, where in addition to treatment cabins (70 euros approx.) they have built a **swimming pool with a hydrotherapy waterfall**.

The days pass quietly with the only company of a herd of goats that go up and down the neighboring hills, but that, accustomed to the idle humans with whom they share privileged space, do not break the stillness of the place. If you are thinking of leaving The Wild bubble and visiting the island, and you don't want to be swept away by the crowd, it is best to go the **first weeks of June or leave it for September**. The season can be extended until mid-October if the weather lasts good.