

Milk

DECORATION



Featuring: Giancarlo Valle – Humbert & Poyet
Louise Despont – Georges Pelletier – Brian Thoreen

DECOR: CHRISTIAN LOUBOUTIN'S PALACE
TRENDS: THE VERY BEST OF MILAN DESIGN WEEK
GETTING AWAY: WHERE TO GO THIS SUMMER

Style and inspiration for contemporary tribes

Retreat to Pátmos. — Pagostas guest house is nestled against the Monastery of St John that looks down on the medieval village of Chora on Patmos, a chic, cosmopolitan and yet still authentic Greek island lost in the Dodecanese archipelago. Monastic grace meets sophistication in this haven of peace where time seems almost to stand still. —

TEXT: ISABELLE ZIGLIARA — PHOTOS: YORGOS KAPLANIDES



Photo : Yorgos Kaplanides



The only departure from tradition is the curated selection of sublime objects chosen for their simple beauty, such as the English silverware, a Bauhaus chandelier and a Swedish tapestry by Elisabet Hasselberg Olsson.

You almost have to come across Pagostas by chance as you wander the narrow winding streets of Chora, the island's tranquil capital, but Maria Lemos and Gregoris Kambouroglou did warn us that there were no street names on Patmos! As the couple welcome us with a smile to their charming 3-bedroom guest house—that discretely opened its doors in 2022 in the heart of a maze of houses with thick whitewashed stone walls—an intoxicating perfume of Chios jasmine wafts across the courtyard evoking harmony and contentment.

Built around the Monastery of Saint John the Theologian that was founded in the 11th century, Chora has always been a place of pilgrimage, which perhaps explains its unique, almost mystical atmosphere. “The first time I came here, I didn’t want to leave. I feel calm and happy on Patmos. It’s as simple as that”,

Maria tells us. And so, Rainbowwave fashion showroom founder and director Maria and her husband, recently retired orthopaedic surgeon Gregoris, decided to share their time between London, Patmos and Athens, where they have just opened Mouki Mou, a lovely little boutique in the Plaka district.

As is customary, the house bears the name of its original owner Parthenios Pagostas, the abbot of Saint John and founder of the nearby Convent of Zoodochos Pigi who built the house in 1597. “Pagostas still belongs to the monastery. When we took over the lease, I wanted to strip everything back to the essentials and get in touch with the monastic spirit and soul of the building. As a guesthouse, it has to be both bright and welcoming”, Maria continues. Pagostas was renovated with sophistication and attention to detail by Leda Athanassopoulou from Studio



Photos : Yorgos Kaplanides



Pale. She knows Patmos and its typical aesthetic by heart, having spent every summer her in her family’s house and already having renovated several historic properties on the island. Her work showcases the marvellous craftsmanship of the island’s artisans in a constant dialogue between past and present. “I was fortunate to work with fabulous master craftsmen, both for the restoration work and the creation of bespoke elements. As Chora is a homogenous architectural ensemble of traditional houses, its inhabitants grew up in these ageless buildings that they both respect and know how to restore.”

The choice of furniture respects the island’s traditions and the history of the house itself with a clever mix of antiques, furniture made to measure locally and traditional items, such as marble sinks, iron bedsteads and ceramics. Some more contemporary objects and

works of art reflect the personality of Maria and Gregoris. Maria worked closely with Apostolos Koukidis to patiently source the contents on the island and across Greece. The hand-woven textiles come from Ifenin in Athens, the plates and dishes were created especially by the three talented young potters from Yfi Ceramics and the glasses were made by glassblower Nikos Haritakis in his workshop in Réthymnon, Crete. Finally, totems by local artist Katerina Mourati add the perfect finishing touch. There is a little of everything, but it’s never too much. Pagostas offers a chance to relax and enjoy the slow life surrounded by the magic of Patmos. ●

From €250/night (breakfast included) for a double room in the low season. You can also reserve the entire house. Pagostas (pagostas.com; +30 698 1698 256) is open all year round.



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Terracotta floor tiles are traditional on Patmos. These more recent tiles dating from the 1970s were made by hand by one of the last artisans with the necessary know-how and only sold in very small quantities on the island itself.



Photo : Yorgos Kaplanides



Patmos, an insider's guide

Getting there and away

Boats to Patmos from the port of Piraeus take around 8 hours. Check out the practical website that will make reserving easy.

► ferriesingreece.com

Food

Flivos. Midway between the bays of Petra and Grikos, this pleasant seaside tavern is a real family business with three generations busy at work. And what's more they are musicians! Pop in on Saturday night at the end of service when they swop their aprons for musical instruments and play traditional local songs. Magical!

► **+30 22470 31380**

Livadi Kalogiron. This small eatery at the northern tip of the island is a perfect spot to watch the sunset. We love it because it's right on the water's edge. PS: the owners make all kinds of little pieces in macrame.

Café Vagia. Hidden away on the cliffs overlooking Vagia beach, this café is ideal for a late, post-swim breakfast.

► **+30 22470 31658**

Trehantiri Taverna. This restaurant tucked away in a little street in Skala belongs to a family of fishermen. Where better to enjoy a simple and tasty dish made from freshly caught fish.

► **+30 22470 34080**

Beaches

Myrisini. This little pebble beach in the north of the island boasts crystal clear waters. Access is tricky and it can be a little windy in summer, but it's always empty even in the middle of August.

Kamos. One of the island's most popular beaches. In the summer, head for the little cove on the right.

Petra. Petra beach with its sculptural rock is hardly a secret, but it's still one of the nicest beaches on the island.

Agriolivadi. Agriolivadi is a perfect family beach with some welcome shade under the tamarisk tree.

Walks

Former photographer Antonis Dimas is a guide. He wrote "My Own Unknown Patmos", a book about the island's little-known paths and shares his passion for the island by organising walks for small groups.

► [@dimas.antonis](https://www.instagram.com/dimas.antonis)

Shopping

Zafiria. Zafiria on Chora's main square is a must-go shop. You'll find the jewellery collection designed by Leda Athanassopoulou..

► **+30 22470 31188**

Midas. This aptly-named store in Patmos's main port sells jewellery with a totally Byzantine vibe.

► **+30 694 8319174**

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