

Gift from the Gods

Xenon seals its inhabitants off in sublime isolation

Located on the slopes of a hill porcupined with thick pine trees, a very special mountaintop resort marries the beauty of rural Greece with design-savvy luxury, eloping with your senses from first glance.

If you head south from Athens on the high speed ferry to the tiny island of Spetses, and venture up into the hills behind villages of whitewashed homes and sun-drenched rooftops, you'll be forgiven for straining out the window, trying to peak through the forest as the trees whiz past.

What looks like a secluded millionaire's compound is actually the luxurious hideaway of Xenon Estate. Comprising three autonomous villas, Xenon seals its inhabitants off in sublime isolation, and brings them together with stylish facilities and manicured grounds.

Featuring panoramic views across the turquoise beauty of the Saronic Gulf, the three individually-themed deluxe villas, whose names are derived from Greek mythology, boast exquisitely structured interiors, which take their inspiration from the natural elements of the island's rugged coastline.

Althea is saturated in warm, mellow timber tones and the clean Mediterranean finish of Greek island architecture. Featuring a master bedroom with a traditional built-in double bed and ensuite, as well as two additional bedrooms, there is a spacious open plan kitchen and a living area, with the juxtaposition of a modern home cinema and traditional stone-set fireplace. You can while away the warm evenings from the verandas, with views toppling down to the villages of the coast, or sip locally produced Greek wine in spacious garden couches.

Sister villa Lethe is made for smaller groups and is perfect for couples. The master bedroom comes with all the creature comforts, including mounted plasma televisions, and there is plenty of space for entertaining new found friends on the covered veranda with garden and pool access and sea views. However, it's also the perfect honeymoon destination for couples looking to disappear, if only for a few days.

Astrea is the most stunning of the sisters, featuring a spacious master bedroom with a large ensuite and balcony overlooking the island vista of red-roofed hamlets and azure ocean. There is an entertainment

system complete with flatscreen television and there is Wi-Fi throughout for when the office calls. Family and friends will be more than comfortable in the villa's additional three bedrooms, while gourmets will send enjoy visits to the local village markets for fresh island produce, which they can transform into dinner in the modern kitchen, with its Inox appliances. Alternatively a chef can come and do the hard work for you. Outside, a large veranda with wooden pergola gives easy access to the resort's extensive, manicured gardens.

Alternatively, lounge by the resort's swimming pool before nipping off for an afternoon siesta in one of the garden's comfortable pergolas. There is also a tennis court, sunrise and sunset tai chi classes and specialist Greek massage on hand.

Xenon Estate

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Rates for Lethe start from 230 Euro (HK2,600) per night, twin share. Rates for the other two villas are on request.

