

SANTO MARIS

Santorini, Greece

Postcard-pretty Oia, with its quaint white houses and azure-domed churches, has a stylish new retreat – and the recently opened Santo Maris is a calm refuge from the charming downtown chaos. It's a homage to Cretan simplicity, with sprawling, boho-luxe suites tricked out in shades of milk and honey; infinity pools blending seamlessly into the blue beyond and shady verandahs for escaping the blazing sun (or watching the sky turn pink at sunset – creating the ultimate Instagram shot). Life is simple; the food fresh; days pass slowly – leaving ample time to enjoy the spa. A cool, subterranean space, it recalls Cycladic cave houses, with treatments that channel the volcanic energy of the island: think deep cleansing facials with black lava and hot stone rituals using naturally sourced basalt and massages. (For those who can't summon the energy to leave the pool, an orange-infused olive oil massage in the outdoor gazebo brings newfound zest.) *Double, from £380 (santomaris.gr).*



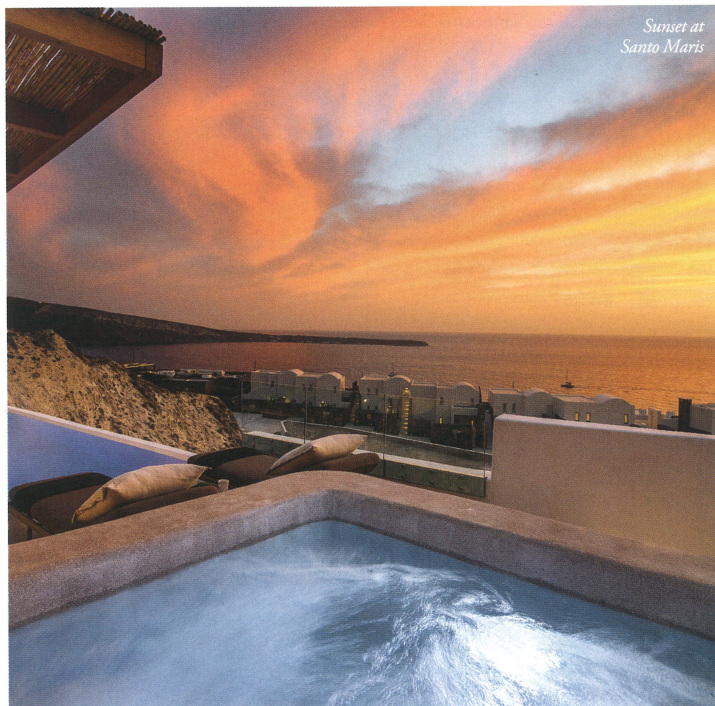
*The Château,
Domaine des Etangs*

DOMAINE DES ETANGS

Massignac, France

Turrets, topiary and top cuisine feature at this exquisite 11th-century chateau, but what really nourishes is the art – which is extraordinary, and playful, and all around. Paths are dotted with bronze starfish by Scandi artists Elmgreen & Dragset; Richard Long's 'Stone Circle' casually blazes on the lawn, and next to the Michelin-starred restaurant there's a high-security barn filled with Antony Gormleys and Anselm

Kiefers picked up by the owner Garance Primat (daughter of the late billionaire Didier Primat). The lakeside spa, housed in a working water mill, is bijou and bursting with bon amour. Nothing new-fangled; nature is the focus here – herbs from the garden for compresses and Charente salt for scrubs. There's massage and meditation in the forest, and waterside yoga, but what counts is the powerful creative jolt La Domaine delivers. *Double, from £340, including breakfast (domainedesetangs.com).*



*Sunset at
Santo Maris*

*Hacienda
Zuleta*



HACIENDA ZULETA

Northern Highlands, Ecuador

Located in the northern foothills of the Andes, this historic working farm and hacienda has belonged to the family of Galo Plaza Lasso, a former president of Ecuador, for more than 100 years. Today, guests seeking a slice of away-from-it-all wellness are greeted with open arms by the Plaza Lasso dynasty. Forget lounging by the pool: mindfulness comes in the form of trailblazing through 4,000 acres of forested mountains among pre-Inca pyramids, riding with Zuleta's own breed of Andalusian horses and hiking to the condor-breeding project. There is also local cheese-making to watch and heritage embroidery to master under the guidance of villagers – not to mention healthy yet hearty farm-to-fork cuisine that makes meals feel like family affairs. Rooms are comforting and colonial in feel; beam-lined and warmed by log fires. Come evening, enjoy a nightcap in the president's former study complete with Mambo, the Plaza Lasso family's Bernese Mountain Dog, snoozing on the floor. *Audley Travel (audleytravel.com) offers 12 nights from £8,100, including three nights at Hacienda Zuleta (full board), two nights in Quito (with breakfast), three nights in the Mashpi Reserve (full board) and three nights in the Yasuni Biosphere Reserve (full board), plus flights, transfers and some guided excursions.*