Towering cliffs, an explosive past and Olympian luxury. Stunning Santorini offers all the magic of a Greek myth.

by DANIELLE DEMETRIOU

AVA CLIFFS, black sandy shores and a jagged coastline: a volcano once explosive it may have given rise to the Atlantis myth may not be the most obvious setting for a late summer beach holiday.

But the island of Santorini is as stylish as its landscape is dramatic. Parsons for the most beautiful settings in the Greek Islands, Santorini is the perfect destination for those who like a touch of style with their sunscreen. Forget simple food, drab decor and questionable connections. Santorini is limited to some of the best boutique hotels in the world.

The distinctive honeycomb shape of the island was created in an apocalyptic burst when an earth-shattering volcanic eruption in 3,600 BC.

Today, the island juts out of a perfect blue Aegean sea in the southern Cyclades. Whitewashed houses and blue domes, framed by flame-shaped towers with yellow or orange bases, climb to terraces of deep blue where the turquoise waters of the submerged caldera of the volcano.

Minimalist hotels, fashionable bars and stylish designer boutiques line the pretty cobbled streets and almost crowds of beautiful people, local artists and summer tourists. It is amazing that the island is volacanic, nature will be expected to see that there has been an eruption for more than a century.

So, go back and enjoy a classic Mediterranean meal.

BEST HOTELS

Expect for the see or sea. Perfect positions take center stage - look at every stylish boutique hotel that sits on the island’s pristine coastline. And a chilled glass of white Santorini wine is the perfect companion.

Cosmopolitan Suites

Home to a traditional white Cycladic house, this retreat sits on the edge of the island’s main village. In the morning, the suite offers a calming escape from the outside world with modern antique furnishings set a stylish white-washed patio.

Beach Front Suite

The rose pink facade of this ground-floor suite is the perfect setting for a romantic get-away. The room is decorated in soft pastel tones with a modern touch. The bathroom features a walk-in shower and a spacious balcony with sea views.

Santorini Secret Suites

Located in a traditional Cycladic house, this suite is designed in a modern style with traditional touches. The bedroom has a king-size bed and a cozy living area with a view of the caldera. The bathroom features a walk-in shower.

BEST RESTAURANTS

The restaurant scene is exquisite on the island, with the best exploring the traditional Cycladic cuisine with modern twists. The food is a must-try experience, with dishes like roasted lamb, fresh seafood and traditional sweets.

Santorini Wine Bar

This cozy bar offers a selection of local wines, along with traditional Greek dishes and a stunning view of the caldera. The outdoor seating area is perfect for a late evening drink.

Santorini Foodies

Santorini features a vibrant nightlife scene with an array of bars and clubs. The most popular one is the Santorini Foodies, which offers a range of international cuisine and a lively atmosphere.

HOTEL SERVICES

Many of the island’s hotels offer a range of services to make your stay comfortable. These include butler service, private chefs, and exclusive beach access.

HOW TO GET THERE

The easiest way to reach Santorini is by flight. There are several daily flights from Athens, as well as other major European cities. Alternatively, there are several daily ferry services from Piraeus Port in Athens, as well as from other Greek islands.

Airport

The island is served by Santorini International Airport located in Thirassia and is connected to the town of Fira by a network of buses. The airport is a 10-minute taxi ride from the town.

Getting Around

The island is relatively small, with most of the main attractions within easy walking distance. Taxis are also readily available.

Tourist Information

For more information, consult the Greek National Tourism Office (www.gov.gr/en/).