

Condé Nast Traveller

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THE GOLD LIST 2019

OUR EDITORS' ALL-TIME FAVOURITE DESTINATIONS & PLACES TO STAY

+ THE WORLD'S MOST
EXTRAORDINARY
TRAVEL EXPERIENCES

THE GOLD LIST 2019

PERIVOLAS GREECE

There are plenty of hotels on Santorini with giddy views – the most desirable places to stay teeter on the rim of a 300-metre cliff that plunges into the flooded volcanic caldera. But none have the spare, ethereal bone structure of Perivolos. Rooms are sculpted from brushed concrete, pressed into arched doorways and barrelled ceilings with the builders' bare hands. Bright hits of pink and purple – a sprig of bougainvillea, a heap of floor cushions – bring the cool white interiors and black volcanic walls into sharper focus. This fierce purity defines every detail at Perivolos, a family dream that materialised in the early 1980s and is still run with great passion and precision by the Psychas clan. The line-up here is scant but special: a hushed restaurant beside a pool almost indistinguishable from the blue horizon, where the chef cures, smokes and ferments local ingredients into artful yet unfussy dishes; and a small, soulful spa streaming with natural light. It takes confidence to leave so much out of a five-star hotel, but Perivolos defines luxury differently than most hotels on the island – or anywhere else for that matter. One of the things that draws devotees back season after season is the fact that time seems to stand still here. Sure, discreet additions might appear, such as the purpose-built gym, lap pool and yoga studio last year. But while the rest of Santorini is engaged in an unseemly scrum for more tourist dollars, life at Perivolos remains blissfully unhurried, unflashy and yes, unspoiled.

+30 22860 71308; perivolos.gr. Doubles from about £500

