

Pleasure seeker

From Mykonos' high glamour and hedonistic nights to seriously laid-back Miss in Ibiza, our vibrant designer MATTHEW WILLIAMSON takes our reader's tour of two of the most decadent party-island destinations

My Mykonos

Mykonos days start with a breakfast of mint tea and fresh fruit in the hotel gardens at the Belvedere – it has a really friendly vibe and feels more like a private club than a hotel. I then go back to my room for a private yoga lesson, which relaxes me for the day. From my window I can see the whole of Mykonos town, with its bright white villas, and the mountains beyond.

Yoga is followed by beach. The best of these are on the southern shore of the island. I like the buzzing Psarou beach or Kalo Livadi. For lunch, there are so many beach restaurants to choose from, but I usually head to Kiki's on Agios Sostis. It's a quiet taverna serving traditional Greek cooking. In the afternoon, I sketch (I never go away without my sketchpads), or meet friends in town.

Cocktail hour is always best at the Caprice Bar down in Little Venice; we have an aperitivo while watching the sunset. The Belvedere also mixes a mean martini, by Dale de Gruff – arguably the world's best barman. The real highlight of the evening is a meal at Matsuhiisa Mykonos – the island's Nobu – at the Belvedere. If it's a night off, I go to Sea Satin market in the old town for traditional fare and delicious grilled fish. This is one of the most peaceful places in town; meze at sunset here feels truly decadent.

Mykonos has more of a bar scene than actual clubbing, but if we are going to dance till dawn, as I did recently with an immaculately attired Heather Kerzner, we go to Cavo Paradiso on Paradise Beach. If I feel like a more relaxed night, I go to the lounge at Remezzo.

Every year I absolutely love the White Party at the Belvedere, when hugely

glamorous people, like designers Valentino, Stefano Gabbana and Domenico Dolce, come off their yachts to join hotel guests to party by the pool. This is the most sought-after invitation of the season, and sums up the wild hedonism of Mykonos. The owners expect all their guests to look unbelievable, though even the most designer-clad end up in the pool by the end of the night.



THE LOWDOWN

SLEEP

BELVEDERE From €362 a room a night, with Small Luxury Hotels of the World (00800 5254 8000; www.slh.com).

MYKONOS THEOXENIA A Sixties hotel next to the windmills. Seven nights, from £710 a person B&B, including flights and transfers, with Contempo by Elegant Resorts (01244 897111; www.contempohotels.com).

CAVO TAGOO An elegant, out-of-town cliffside hotel, from €230 a room a night (+30 228 9023 692; www.cavotagoo.gr).

VILLA INFINITY Amazing panoramic views. Seven nights, from £6,650, based on two people, including maid service (0870 850 1144; www.wimco.com).
MYKONOS BLU Set above the town of Mykonos. From €300 a night, with Contempo by Elegant Resorts (+30 850 1144; www.grecotel.com).

EAT

KIKI'S Legendary meat and seafood restaurant on Agios Sostis beach. Having no outdoor seating, it closes at sunset and has no table service (0229 228 1699; www.kikis.com).
KATRINE (+30 228 9022 1699). Known for traditional Greek appetisers and a selection of deservedly famous chocolate truffles.
MEDITERRANEO (+30 228 9026 2900). A selection of Tuscan repertoire of gnocchi and pasta dishes. After dinner, sashimi and cocktails to the atmospheric bar.
SOL Y MAR (+30 228 9071 745). Try the 'greek sushi' – spinach, rice and codfish. Stay all afternoon until the sun goes down, when the vibe really

PARTY

ASTRA (+30 228 9024 767). I like the Mykonos-based international jewellery designer Mimi Katsiari, who always a trend-conscious designer grooving here.
CAPRICE (+30 228 9023 692). An incredibly popular bar with a mix of young and old drinkers. If you can't