

Condé Nast Traveller



JUNE 2014 £3.99

EUROPE'S BEST

SECRET SEASIDE HOTELS

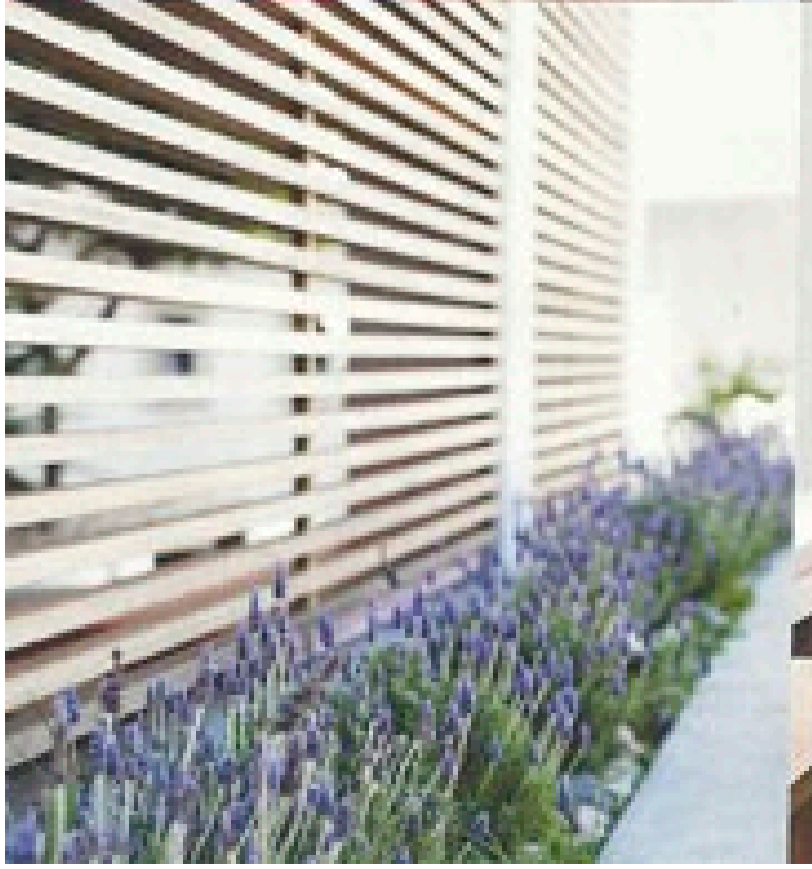
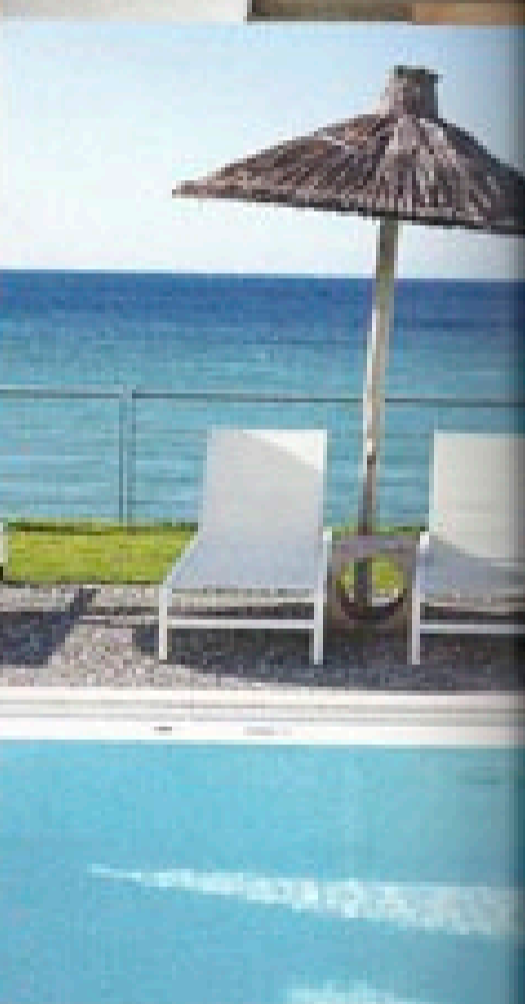
SMART
SWEDISH
SUMMERS
THE INSIDE TRACK

STYLISH &
AFFORDABLE
HOTELS IN
PARIS

OUR GUIDE TO
THE YEAR'S
MOST EXCITING
FESTIVALS

ON HOLIDAY
WITH
HILARY SWANK
EMILY BLUNT

OFF-RADAR CARIBBEAN



AMMOS HOTEL

CRETE, GREECE

DISTANCE TO THE WATER Right on the beach

TRAVEL TIME Three-hour, 50-minute flight to Chania, then a 20-minute drive

PRICE Doubles from about £85

Breakfast alone makes the trip to this chic little beach resort on the west coast of Crete worthwhile. You could stay for a week and still not try everything: freshly baked spinach pie; orange cake; sesame cookies; Cretan yogurt with honey and nuts; mini barley rusks piled high with feta, olives and tomato. All are served in the groovy, Moroccan-tiled dining room with its primary-bright mismatched chairs until a very Mediterranean 11.30am (practically lunchtime for the many new parents who have wised up to this family-friendly getaway). Tables at the laid-back restaurant spill out past the swimming pool and down to a shallow, sandy beach, where the hotel has its own sunbeds and umbrellas. There's a playroom if you want to keep toddlers out of the sun, and babysitters are on call in the evening. Bedrooms in the low-rise, sugarcube-shaped building are perky, with bright, colour-blocked walls, Marimekko cushions of clashing patterns and African-print Moroso stools adding a grown-up touch. The best are the deluxe sea-view studios – freshly revamped for this summer – where you can watch the sunset from your balcony and nod off to the sound of the waves. This is a feel-good hotel without any formality; most of the staff have been around for years and many guests are regulars, which comes as no surprise as the place is astonishingly good value. Owner Nikos Tsepelis, a self-confessed design junkie, has a black book packed with insider information about the region's stunning beaches and remote mountain villages, plus details on where to go in the lively Venetian harbour of Chania.

INSIDE TIP Ask Nikos for directions to Dounias, a taverna hidden in the foothills of the White Mountains. Everything from the goat to the aubergines comes from the owner's farm and is slow-cooked in a wood-fired oven.

BOOK IT +30 282 103 300 325; www.ammoshotel.com

