

# MONOCLE

## MEDITERRANEO



ISSUE  
01  
SUMMER  
2010

A completely sun-  
water-tanning oil-  
and-sweat-friendly  
print media product  
from the editors  
of Monocle

- A AFFAIRS** The geopolitics of the Mediterranean and the factors shaping them
- B BUSINESS** A host of ideas for those in search of a fresh start
- C CULTURE** The elements to make the most refreshing media stack on sea
- D DESIGN** A report on Italy's long-awaited design renaissance
- E EDITS** The products, places and people who make life that little bit easier in the sun



**50** Things to improve the way you live – our annual round-up



**5** Crafty vessels – for day, weekend and week-long excursions at sea



**1** Port worth calling on – Alexandria's ever-changing faces and forces



### Back to the building blocks: *A fix for Greece*

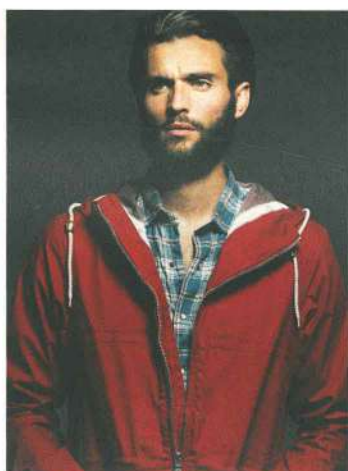
*Monocle travels to Athens and the islands beyond to find a recipe for fixing a nation and meets a new generation of aspiring Greek business heroes*

### Monocle on the Med

Monocle Mediterraneo is a new venture from the Monocle media stable that incorporates both this super-premium newsprint edition and a weekly audio series. Inside, our editors and correspondents have penned essays on topics serious and saucy, uncovered businesses you wish you'd invented and gathered garments and goods you'll want to collect. You can also listen to a sunny mix of banter and songs every Friday by downloading the Monocle Summer Series from [monocle.com](http://monocle.com) or iTunes.



**Ottoman influence:** How Turkish foreign policy is reshaping not just the eastern Mediterranean but the entire world. Our correspondent reports from Ankara



**Fashion:** The basics for creating a solid wardrobe this coming autumn



**Design:** A selection of welcoming residences in country, town and city



**Food:** Four of our favourite chefs offer up simple signature dishes for late afternoon on deck or terrace



**History:** How did our ancient ancestors spend their summers?

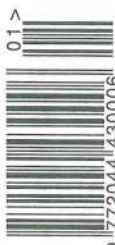


**Radio:** Our pick of the best radio stations around the Med basin

A  
MONOCLE  
SPECIAL  
EDITION

£3.50

EUR 5



9 772044 430006





- 01 All walls were white-washed
- 02 Almond tree outside the house
- 03 Simplicity continues in the kitchen
- 04 Original stonework
- 05 The beach is a short walk away
- 06 Simple furnishings in the house
- 07 The owners chose to keep the house free of electricity
- 08 Porcelain crockery and tin mugs



02 Patmos, Greece

*Island villa untouched by time*

WORDS by Alicia Kirby  
PHOTOGRAPHY by Yiorgos Kordakis

There aren't many places in the world where it's possible to experience life as it was 200 years ago (unless you're flying out of Gatwick), but this Greek dwelling on the island of Patmos is an exercise in preservation. The couple who own this rustic stone house were introduced to the property by Thessaloniki-based architect Katerina Tsigarida, who shares a similar passion for the remote, airport-free island of Patmos. They use it as a dacha-type bolthole – a place where they can escape to three times a year with their children, grandparents and friends and live at one with history and nature. "It's a very spiritual place where time stands still," says the tenant. "I feel I could spend my dying days here."

The house is on a former vineyard in Geranos – a remote northern region of the island. The couple enlisted the help of Tsigarida to preserve the original elements of the 200-year-old property. Her advice was unusual for an architect, though: "It was a conscious architectural decision to do absolutely nothing to the property," she says. "I wanted to keep the original fittings and furniture because they were steeped in history and were of the highest quality." No structural or decorative changes were made to the property and the owners decided not to add electricity.

"I cleaned and cleaned and rearranged the original fittings," says Tsigarida, so although spartan it feels immaculate. The walls were coated with *avestis*, a natural, locally produced whitewash used since ancient times for its antibacterial and insect-repelling properties. It is particularly effective as a preservative, filling damaged pores in walls. Tsigarida also restored the *katrani* wood windows and doors. "Katrani was imported from Asia Minor and used by the local carpenters from even before the 16th century. When we cut the window fittings to fix them, they smelt amazing, even after 200 years," she says.

The surrounding 55,000 sq m of land is tended to by a goat-herder who maintains the house for the owners when they are away and provides them with milk, cheese and locally produced groceries. He uses the fields to cultivate fig trees and wheat for his 200 goats to graze on. In August he collects the ripe figs with his mother, who then dries and prepares them with bay leaves and local myrtle as snacks that will see them through the winter.

Life here has followed the same pattern for centuries and history is felt in every inch of the house and landscape. The previous mistress of the house ran one of the island's biggest wineries from the property. Nicknamed *Kazanou*, after the process of making *souma* (local raki), she's still something of a legend on Patmos and though the vineyard no longer exists, her presence lives on. In honour of her memory and in keeping with the spirit of preservation, the new owners have replanted part of the vineyard, producing the same, almost extinct, Fokiano wine. —



Five best places to build

*When research is far from taxing*

**1. Arki Island, Greece**  
Buy a plot on this barren beauty and build a get-away-from-it-all bolthole. One of the least inhabited islands in the Greek archipelago, the terrain may be rocky but the views are dramatic. Keep it simple and craft your home from local stone.

**2. Gharghur, Malta**  
Venture from Malta's busy coastline and come inland to scout for land around the pretty village of Gharghur. Tucked away between two valleys, Gharghur is perched on some of Malta's highest ground, surrounded by fields and farms. The perfect spot for a rural retreat.

**3. Cala Luna, Sardinia**  
Renowned for some of the Mediterranean's most beautiful beaches, you're spoilt for choice along Sardinia's underdeveloped east coast. We'd suggest narrowing the search – Cala Luna bay is an exquisite half moon overlooking the Gulf of Orosei. Make the most of the view with expansive decking.

**4. Polis, Cyprus**  
Quaint and quiet, this coastal area in the northwest region of Paphos remains one of the island's most unspoilt spots. With gentle mountains and crystal-clear waters, we're holding out for a slice of land near the Akamas Peninsula, a Unesco-protected nature reserve – it's great for hiking, too.

**5. Cadiz coast, Spain**  
For an uninterrupted stretch of white sand choose the surprisingly undiscovered Cadiz province. Home to one of the largest collections of Blue Flag beaches in any coastal province in Europe, the constant wind might not be to everyone's tastes but if sea sports are your thing this is the place to go. —