

## PARILIO HOTEL PAROS, GREECE

THE SCOOP FROM ABOUT £190

As Santorini and Mykonos become ever more crowded, savvy hoteliers are shifting their focus to the lo-fi Greek islands. That's certainly the case for husband-and-wife owners Kalia and Antonis Eliopoulos who, for their fourth venture, pinpointed the peaceful north-east coast of Paros. The setting is spot-on: Parilio is a stroll away from sandy Kolymphres beach and 10 minutes' drive from Naoussa, an elegant harbour town with a waterfront full of tavernas and late-night bars tucked away in higgledy-piggledy, boutique-lined back streets. Then there's the hotel itself, a series of simple white cubes, all sharp lines, wooden shutters and huge terracotta urns. Inside, the rooms have cool porcelain floors, a grown-up earthy palette and interesting decorative touches (an embroidered wall hanging, a handmade abstract-patterned plate). Couples snooze under cream umbrellas by the lap pool, where courgette fritters are served for lunch and the barman mixes zingy Mojitos. Bag a table for supper on the terrace of the buzzing Mr E restaurant. Named after a fictional aristocratic explorer, it puts a global spin on traditional Greek dishes such as beef fillet with Malvasia wine or bream baked in lemon leaves with chickpea stew. It's all exactly what you want for a laidback escape, away from the thrum.

BOOK IT +30 21 0899 3791; [pariliohotelparos.com](http://pariliohotelparos.com)



## MAISON CERONNE NORMANDY, FRANCE

THE SCOOP FROM ABOUT £135

Parisians love Le Perche, a nature reserve in lower Normandy that's a two-hour journey from the capital, winding through rolling green fields and forests, small medieval villages and plenty of *brocante* stops to furnish that imaginary country crashpad. Architect Vincent-Louis Voinchet and his partner were regular visitors who one day stumbled upon two abandoned barns that they originally planned as a place to bring friends. But after three-and-a-half years of renovating, they've opened this contemporary eight-room guesthouse. Every aspect of the interiors has a story to tell: the lamps above the marble-topped kitchen were salvaged from an old theatre; there's a screen made of Mercedes-Benz panels designed in the 1960s; two Coquetier chairs had a bit part in the film *Mon Oncle*. Bedrooms, too, are testament to the owners' good taste, sprinkled with art, books and records. This is much more than just a base to bed down, with plenty of options for lingering – an indoor and an outdoor pool, a cinema, a sauna lined in stained black Nordic wood, a white-tiled hammam, Japanese computer games and a karaoke bar. There are even Maison Ceronne candles designed for the hotel by hit brand Cire Trudon and a cool soundtrack loaded onto the Maison's own Spotify playlist. And make sure to borrow the baby-blue classic Simca P60 Aronde to drive to the country outpost of Michelin-starred restaurant Septime. An expertly curated hideaway in this burgeoning rural corner. BOOK IT +33 7 63 54 71 17; [maisonceronne.com](http://maisonceronne.com)