

大約3500年前，一次劇烈的火山爆發，釋放出了相當於兩百萬顆原子彈的能量，全世界都感受到了這次來自地球深處的怒吼，它引發的海嘯，噴發出的灰燼，影響波及至數千公里之外，令氣候都發生數年的變化。距離希臘大陸東南方200公里的愛琴海上，聖托里尼島卻如鳳凰涅槃般地從這次火山爆發中誕生了。如今，曾經的烈火與煙塵都平息了下來，這裏成為了世界上最寧靜的所在，彷彿一切都從未發生過。

那巨大的火山口足有6公里寬，如果你登上它海拔300米的頂端，便可以觀賞到大自然留下的另一幅壯麗畫卷，雲朵在深不見底的山口中繚繞，天海的盡頭是愛琴海上最夢幻的日落。

About 3,500 years ago, a volcano erupted with a force equal to two million atomic bombs. It was greater than any volcanic event on Earth in the past 10,000 years, and its effects were felt all over the world. It caused tsunamis, spewed ash across thousands of miles, and filled the atmosphere with debris, changing the world's temperature for years.

The Greek island of Santorini was ground zero; it is the phoenix that arose from those ashes. Once a site of such great turmoil, it is now a place of lively adventure and peaceful rejuvenation.

The 6-kilometre-wide crater (called a caldera) left by the eruption gives Santorini the appearance

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Santorini

A Land Imbued with the Magic of Greek Legends

The cliffs that form Santorini's caldera are like the seats of a giant amphitheatre, and it is here that nature puts on one of her finest shows.

聖托里尼島上的希臘傳說

聖托里尼島的火山口就像一座古希臘巨大的圓形劇場，每天大自然都會在這裏上演最瑰麗的劇目。

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在聖托里尼島上的傍晚日落時分，是島上最富盛名的美景之一。

It's common in Santorini to see locals and visitors alike set up chairs to watch the sunset every evening. A sunset is always a beautiful thing, but Santorini is famed as one of the best places in the world to experience this daily miracle.

作為一座火山形成的島嶼，聖托里尼島的面積並不大，它事實上是希臘基克拉迪群島三十九座大小島嶼中的一座。島上最著名，也可能是僅有的一處古蹟是建於十三世紀的阿克羅蒂里城堡，這座城堡修建在一處米諾人定居點遺址上。早在青銅時代，米諾人就居住在這裏。這處遺址被掩埋進了火山灰中，完好地保存了下來。

阿克羅蒂里城堡的塔樓是當地文化中心La Ponta的所在地，在這裏遊客們可以切身體驗和走近傳統的希臘音樂和神話傳說。一位中心的工作人員，給了我我和我的三位朋友一人一把希臘古老的魯特琴，又名彈詩琴，還教我們演奏一些簡單的音符。我們幾個人興衝衝地舉行了一場即興演奏會，可惜效果有些「不堪入耳」。



順時針自左：從酒店無邊設計的泳池望去，火山口的景色似乎是泳池的延續；Erasantoni酒店的許多菜餚均採用當地食材烹製，有著獨特的風味；酒店的裝潢使用了許多質樸的材料，如石頭等，並保持了最上傳統的基克拉迪建築風格。主要特色就是各種白色立方體的巧妙組合。



of the caldera. It's the kind of simplicity achieved through the skillful removal of all clutter and superficialities, leaving only that which enriches the environment and the experience.

Inside, the walls are inlaid with local stone, creating a rustic contrast to luxurious fabrics and fixtures. A floating fireplace hangs from the ceiling like an olive on its stem.

Each guestroom in the hotel has a private pool and provides peaceful seclusion. In the evenings, an outdoor cinema plays movies while servers offer cocktails and homemade potato chips with Greek dips.

The Hammam steam room diffuses eucalyptus oils, providing a plethora of health benefits, including decongestion and boosted mental alertness. A so-called "emotional shower" uses a special combination of different water pressures and temperatures, with coloured lights and other sensations, to heal the body and soothe the mind.

The wine cellar is filled with local wines, grown in vineyards that are perhaps the oldest continually cultivated in the world. The volcanic soil keeps the vines remarkably free from disease. It also produces a pleasant acidity in the white wine. Vines that were planted thousands of years ago have never been uprooted, making Santorini's vineyards a living ancient monument.

The volcanic soil also produces mouth-watering cherry tomatoes, fava beans, and white aubergines, among other specialties. Tangy wild capers grow amidst the dry-stone walls and are a local delicacy.

The island is small, making its various experiences easy to reach. I enter the 13th-century castle of Akrotiri, which stands above the excavated site of a Bronze Age Minoan settlement that was preserved in the ash from the eruption that wiped out that civilization.

Clockwise from left: The view of the caldera from Erasantoni is especially impressive from the hotel's infinity pool, which seems to drop right over the edge of the caldera. Many of the dishes served at Erasantoni are made from local ingredients and have the special tenor of this volcanic island. The hotel has a natural aesthetic, making use of many earthy materials, such as stone, and staying true to the island's traditional Cycladic architectural style, which features white cubes that are clean and minimalist.