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THE AGORA HOTEL,
CYPRUS

FOOD &
TRAVEL 107

The quieter side of **CYPRUS** is revealed in a boutique hotel that takes its name – and aspiration – from the ancient Greek



Being handed a proper key with a tassel on arrival at The Agora is a good sign. As Cyprus's first independent boutique hotel, set in a quaint village, it more than lives up to this promise of old-world charm. Although it may no longer be a hidden gem – a Michelin Key saw to that last year – as shoulder season heats up, The Agora tops our list for sun, sea and seclusion.

Located in the foothills of the Troodos Mountains in Lefkara – all cobbled streets, age-old architecture and handicraft workshops – this is another side of popular, sun-touched Cyprus:

calm, rooted in heritage and steeped in nature. True to a name inspired by the ancient Greek gathering space, the hotel centres on a courtyard pool framed by chic candy-striped cabanas and the balconies of 18 rooms and suites, creating a daytime spot for creative types to rub shoulders. Interiors have warming terracotta and olive tones, velvet furniture and rattan accents combine with artisan craft pieces.

All-day bistro *Novél* serves refined Mediterranean dishes and there's a cocktail bar whose tipples include the Agora Lace (clarified bourbon, lemon juice,

honey and ginger syrup topped with soda water), a delicious nod to the village's renowned lace-making traditions.

Mornings might begin with *çibir* (Turkish eggs) and za'atar toast or shakshuka made with farm-fresh eggs, followed by yoga or Pilates. Stroll to a local winery, lace-making workshop or the 14th-century church, or expand horizons further by cycling or hiking the mountain terrain. It's match-made for the active traveller looking to socialise in a stylish boutique pad. **MD.** *Doubles from £160. +357 24 726000, theagorahotel.com*

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