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PEROWNE CHARLES COMMUNICATIONS

Weekend getaway - *The Anassa Suite, Cyprus*

A major three-year, multi-million pound facelift ups the luxe factor for the Anassa in Cyprus. Lisa Haynes reports.

STYLE AND SUBSTANCE

Picture a small Cypriot village and you have Anassa - all white-washed walls, olive trees and herb gardens punctuated by hot pink bougainvillea. It even has its own village square complete with Byzantine chapel (note: no morning bells). Set on a hillside, the luscious gardens and swimming pools are set on different levels leading to the secluded beach so you can switch up your daily reading spots.

SLEEPING MATTERS

It's almost criminal (but oh-so satisfying) to shut the charming Cyprus-blue shutters and obscure the sea view. Rooms are decked out in white linens and nautical blues and marble bathrooms come complete with power showers and Acqua di Parma toiletries. For private types, four new villas and some signature suites - all named after Greek gods and goddesses - also feature their own pool for your morning laps.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

With four restaurants, there's everything from French fine-dining and wine pairing at Helios, to calamari and whitebait by the sea at poolside Pelagos. For something more intimate, try Basiliko. Low-vaulted ceilings and black cod by candlelight make for a romantic night, but you need to book way ahead in peak season.



The Anassa suite with private pool.

SPA NOTES

The standalone Thalassa Spa is the hotel's headliner. Think Roman-style heated pool, outdoor relaxation terrace and saltwater jet sprays. For the ultimate in rejuvenation, experience the new Anastasia Achilleos Method. The A-lister facialist has mentored spa therapists in her unique approach to massage and each treatment is completely bespoke.

NICE TOUCH

World's chicest hotel boutique? Quite possibly. Get your designer fix in 'Kult', the seriously cool anti-souvenir shop that wouldn't look out of place in New Bond Street.

ABOUT THE AREA

Sitting amidst the rugged Akamas Peninsula national park, you're in the most picturesque spot for nature trails. Just minutes away, add the Baths of Aphrodite ancient site to your must-see list. In nearby Panagia village, visit the Byzantine monastery of Chrysorroiyatissa for vintage wine tasting.

■ ITC Luxury Travel (01244 355527; www.itcluxurytravel.co.uk) offers seven nights from £1,599 per person based on two adults sharing Garden View Room on a B&B basis. Includes return economy flights with Easyjet from London Gatwick and private transfers.