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Hotels That Scream: Art!



By Anthony Grant

Pumpkin spice lattes everywhere you turn is a sure sign Halloween season is upon us and perhaps like me you're haunted by the memory of a generic hotel that's more Bates Motel than Four Seasons. Sadly, as a recent road trip across the vast wastelands

of Arkansas, the Texas Panhandle and Oklahoma revealed, the more interesting boutique hotels of America are still largely confined to it coasts. Happily, however, there are a growing number of hotels that positively scream art--in a good way--and many of these are outside our borders.

One find is the Pallas Athena, a Grecotel Boutique Hotel in the heart of Athens, Greece (www.grecotelpallasathena.com). The hotel is within walking distance of the Plaka, the colorful neighborhood at the foot of the Acropolis. The artistic sensibility is on display

from the moment you enter the lobby: there's a stuffed white fox in a blue box, and oversized white armchair that looks like a glove, and vintage travel photographs. Some of the guestrooms feature pop art flashes of whimsy such a sculptured blue hippo or yellow pig, while others have wall murals of comic book characters, in a nod to the street art one sees around Athens. Add a gourmet restaurant that features many products from Agreco Farm, the hotel's own organic farm in Crete, and you have an ideal place to stay while exploring the vibrant Greek capital.

There are many other hotels in Athens that are worth a visit. The Pallas Athena is a great choice for those who want to stay in the heart of the city. The hotel is within walking distance of the Plaka, the colorful neighborhood at the foot of the Acropolis. The artistic sensibility is on display from the moment you enter the lobby: there's a stuffed white fox in a blue box, and oversized white armchair that looks like a glove, and vintage travel photographs. Some of the guestrooms feature pop art flashes of whimsy such a sculptured blue hippo or yellow pig, while others have wall murals of comic book characters, in a nod to the street art one sees around Athens. Add a gourmet restaurant that features many products from Agreco Farm, the hotel's own organic farm in Crete, and you have an ideal place to stay while exploring the vibrant Greek capital.

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