



PORTO ZANTE, GREECE

SUPER-STYLED CRASHPAD WITH ALL THE KIT

The promise of a villa that has all the bells and whistles of a hotel is pretty irresistible. The space, yes, the privacy too, but also the bed-making in your wake, the sweeping up of toys and trails of crumbs. So it's surprising that this tucked-away spot on Zakynthos's green east coast, with its nine houses on a hillside above an immaculate bay, remains so under the radar. This is not driftwood, sun-faded, rustic Greece. Rooms are decked out in Armani Casa and Bang & Olufsen, with Bulgari soaps and lotions (and special kids' versions) in the bathrooms, while outside teak sunbeds shaded by zingy, canary-yellow umbrellas surround each pool (stocked with a menagerie of inflatables plus baby pool seats and armbands). It's the kind of supremely well-thought-out place that means for once there isn't more luggage than people travelling. Cots, stairgates, pushchairs, highchairs are already there. Down on the beach are buckets, spades, diggers and wheelbarrows, with pedalos, paddle boards and sea canoes on

THE RESTAURANT CAN COME TO YOU, COURSE AFTER COURSE SET UP AT A WHITE-LINEN TABLE UNDER A PERGOLA

standby for the energetic. The kids' club is filled with craft materials and table-football games, and offers treasure hunts, mini zumba classes and smoothie-and-dance parties. In the evening, the lovely Vasiliki Bekiote can babysit while you slip down paths lined with bougainvillea and giant geranium to Maya, the new-last-summer Asian restaurant with a terrace that juts out over the Ionian. But a restaurant that comes to you is much easier. Course after course can be set up at a white-linen-covered table under the pergola, the baby monitor still in range as you sip buttery Greek Chardonnay. Everything is seamless; in part because the owner is a perfectionist. Are the tempura oysters at Maya just-so crisp? Is the Roots Rakomelo, a honeyed digestif that tastes of Christmas, served at the ideal temperature? Is the sand on the beach swept in perpendicular lines? The answer here appears always to be yes.

INSIDER TIP Being a parent is often backbreaking work, so book and have it tended to by masseuse Artemis Karavata in the open-sided spa room.

BOOK IT From about £1,220 per night for a one-bedroom villa with pool, including breakfast and transfers. +44 20 8882 6767; portoizante.com

SCARP RIDGE LODGE, COLORADO

TOP-CLASS POWDER FOR OFF-PISTE ADVENTURERS

Nicknamed America's last great ski town, Crested Butte could easily double as the set for an old Western and its mountains as the backdrop for a film by Warren Miller. Colourful Victorian-era buildings and old mining shacks – remnants of the town's silver-mining past – line the streets. And the high elevation and cold temperatures result in some of the lightest snow in the whole of the USA. That is why you would make the pilgrimage here, rather than taking an hour's flight to the Alps. Another draw is the bar-setting flagship lodge of the adventure collective Eleven Experience. Scarp Ridge sits unassumingly behind a saloon-like exterior a few blocks away from the main drag. The former brothel and dance hall has been reimagined as the most thoughtfully appointed chalet in the Rocky Mountains, right down to an oxygen system that helps guests acclimate to the altitude (9,115ft). The six bedrooms are alpine modern chic; a seven-bunk dorm is a snakes-and-ladders children's fantasy (without the snakes). You can ski incredibly well on-piste at Crested Butte Mountain itself, which is known for its serious double-diamond terrain and fantastic ski school. But little-known Irwin Mountain is the real attraction here. Forty-five minutes from town, Irwin gets double the amount of snow as Crested Butte, averaging nearly 450 inches per year. Turbo-smart snowcats (leather seats, flatscreen TVs) whisk you to 1,000 acres of exclusive-use terrain, and the in-house guides are some of the best in the business, seeking out powder stashes and secret tree runs. When littler legs start to wobble, refuel with a lunch prepared by a chef at one of two on-mountain cabins. Back at the lodge, there's a sauna, steam room and rooftop hot tub with stary views of Crested Butte Mountain.

INSIDER TIP Eleven's guides can take the children out for the day and capture their turns with GoPro cameras. Watch the edited footage later on the drop-down projector screen in the media room.

BOOK IT Scott Dunn offers a seven-night trip to Colorado from £4,500 per person, based on a family of four, including three nights at Scarp Ridge Lodge, flights, private transfers, car hire and breakfast. +44 20 8682 5030; scottdunn.com

