

# SPHERE

PRICE £6/US\$12

## LOOKING GOOD

THE SPECTACULAR  
SUCCESS OF  
HIGH-END EYEWEAR

## TIME FOR CHANGE

HOW NEW MATERIALS  
ARE TRANSFORMING  
WATCHES

# East is Eden

A COLOURFUL CELEBRATION OF LONDON'S NEW LUXE





### ANCIENT AND MODERN: TWO SIDES OF CYPRUS

This year, Paphos is joint European Capital of Culture (along with Denmark's Aarhus) and we are here to discover its pleasures. After a weekend trudging the pine-coated Troodos Mountains, we arrive in the ancient port, steeped in Greek mythology, where our home is Almyra, a white boutique hideaway that's a favourite with the UK market and very family friendly. The villa suites are self-contained, each with a private roof terrace and a garden area with views of the port towards the castle.

The spa is exactly what you want from a hotel for a long weekend break. There is waxing, an excellent gym and a deft-handed masseuse called Artemis, who did wonders for a painful back. Tennis is on the menu every day, while a run to the unmissable archaeological park is recommended, although it is worth getting there before 9am when the crowds descend.

The food at Almyra is excellent — even the usually dreaded buffet is first-rate with piles of sesame-studded tuna and prawn and chilli salads. What stands out here is the warm, attentive service from the multinational staff. From here, it is a 50-minute drive to Anassa, another in the Thanos chain of hotels, on the north coast via the stunning Agios Neophytos Monastery. Anassa, close to the small town of Latchi, prides itself on its chicness. Honeysuckle and rosemary-lined banks give a hypnotic scent while the front-facing rooms look out over the Mediterranean.

While many come here for R&R, we came for adventure. One day we hire a boat to explore hidden coves. On another, we borrow thick-wheeled mountain bikes and take a terrifying ride along the coastal path. The Japanese restaurant also packs a punch with €40 dishes, but the simple modernist design makes it a pretty place to spend the evening.

The two hotels are very different. For an easy-going long weekend, Almyra won our vote, but if designer togs and soigné sushi float your boat, Anassa is the ticket. Rooms from €88 at Almyra ([almyra.com](http://almyra.com)) and from €210 at Anassa ([anassa.com](http://anassa.com)). JS



#### Clockwise from top:

Almyra's pool is designed for relaxation; Anassa lies in unspoilt surroundings on the Akamas peninsula; one of Almyra's light and airy rooms; the Anassa resort's charming square includes a Byzantine chapel; an Anassa terrace view overlooking the sea

