

## WORD OF MOUTH

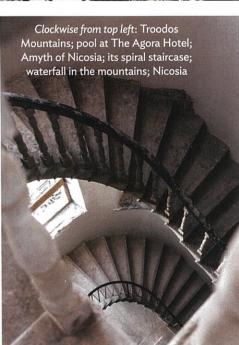












## Interior motives

## TWO BOUTIQUE HOTELS ARE TURBO-CHARGING CYPRUS'S INLAND RENAISSANCE

Those who saw Stelana Kliris's 2024 romcom Find Me Falling – Netflix's first Cypriot release, starring Harry Connick Jr as an ageing rock star – will know there's more to the island's modern identity than the sands of Limassol and DJ Spoony's garage sets at Back2Napa. And while Cyprus is mainly known for its coastal resorts, its inland boutique scene is taking travellers in a new direction. The Agora Hotel was recently opened by a young Danish couple in Lefkara, a cobblestoned village known for its lace and silversmiths. It's within easy reach of a few beaches, but more interesting is its proximity to the wild Troodos Mountains, where Emilie Green Novél – who designed the hotel with soft velvets, rattan furniture and poolside stripes – and Aleks Eng take guests on hiking and cycling expeditions. This season it's joined by Amyth of Nicosia, set around an olive-shaded courtyard in a former school, with the original staircase spiralling up to 10 bedrooms and suites with balcony views over the city's Venetian-era Old Town. Despite Nicosia being the world's only divided capital, its cultural cachet has been growing. "Recent arrivals, artists and young locals are bringing new life to Kaimakli, a quiet, somewhat forgotten part of the city near the buffer zone," says Amyth's Natasha Michaelides. She namechecks the Threading Stories artisan studio, To Erma bookshop-café, 7 Kleidia bar, which showcases Cypriot wines and an all-Greek playlist, and Kuzuba, which does the same for the island's ingredients. "To get an overview, head to one of the Old Town's new rooftop spaces, such as the one atop the new town hall and the Spel art gallery." RICK JORDAN theagorahotel.com; thanoshotels.com