

AΤ SANTA MARINA MYKONOS

Easter is a symbolic period in Greece marking traditions and the greeting of the summer season. Spring seems to fade welcoming warmer days and dips in crystal clear beaches. The rituals of Greek Easter captivate the message of new beginnings and light, with family and friends coming together in the warmth of this special celebration.

This holiday is a blend of age-old customs and joyous festivities. From the mystical Midnight Resurrection Service to the clinking of red painted eggs called "Tsougrisma" where the strongest egg rests un-smashed in the proud hands of its owner. Greek Easter is an occasion that unites families, communities and generations, reinforcing the bonds of tradition. For visitors, it is an opportunity to witness the rich tapestry of Greek culture and its profound connection to the timeless message of hope and the bright coming of summer days.

Food, of course, is critical to Greek Easter celebrations; mouthwatering flavours of the traditional feasts are awaited every day. Spread across all homes, the "tsoureki" – a type of plaited bread which is usually made in the week before Easter – is unmissable. Spiced and slightly sweet, it's often served with coffee.

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In the evening of Greek Good Friday church service, "Epitaphios", (a wooden canopied bier, representing the tomb of Christ), is covered with flowers of various colours. People follow along the streets of cities, towns and villages listening to psalms being chanted while holding their candles.

A scheduled visit to Mykonos town during this procession is a unique experience to welcome in Greek Easter, followed by a meze-style dinner at Elais restaurant based on the national tradition of enjoying ouzo with pescatarian dishes.



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On Greek Holy Saturday, morning preparations start for the festive dinner that is served after the resurrection Midnight Mass. Before midnight, people gather in church holding their candles, which they light with the "Holy Light" offered by the priest. By Greek custom "Anastasi" is celebrated with drumbeats and fireworks lighting the skies as the church bells ring joyfully. Then people return home to gather round the festive table for the "Tsougrisma" tradition; each person holds a red-dyed egg and take turns tapping the ends against each other while saying "Christos Anesti" one time at a crack. The goal is to crack the other person's egg while keeping your own intact. The last person with an uncracked egg is believed to have the best of good luck for the coming year.

You can experience the authentic tradition of "Anastasi" at St. George Chapel in Santa Marina with lit candles and fireworks. Afterwards, the Holy Saturday dinner at Elais Restaurant follows with various dishes such as Mayiritsa, a traditional soup prepared in most Greek houses.



On Easter Sunday morning in many parts of the country, lamb is skewered and cooked over charcoal. Tables are prepared excitedly with various delicacies and more red eggs awaiting the "Tsougrisma". The bands play traditional Greek music. The atmosphere of Easter Sunday lunch feels like a big family table; from the younger to the older generations, people gather to prepare for the Easter feast, with the anticipation of this celebration reaching its most joyful day of all.

You are invited at such a table, with family and friends to celebrate with us this special Greek tradition.

During the Easter period, Rooms start from £400 and Suites start from £830.



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