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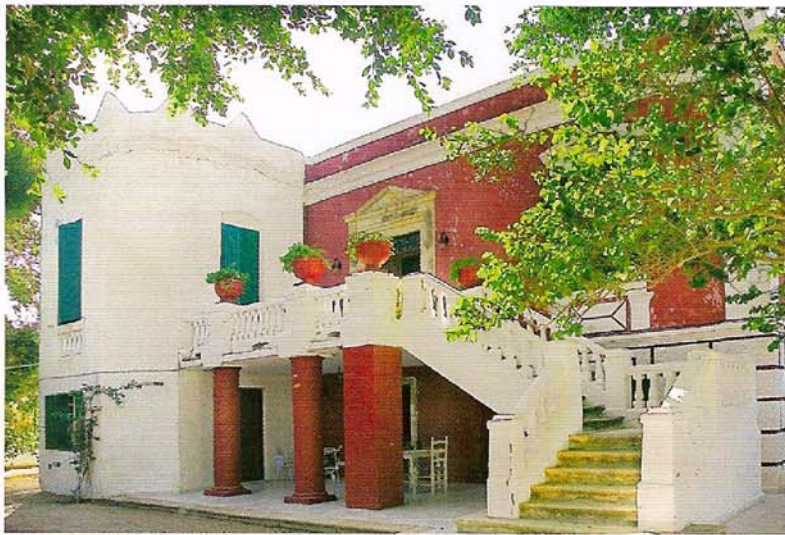
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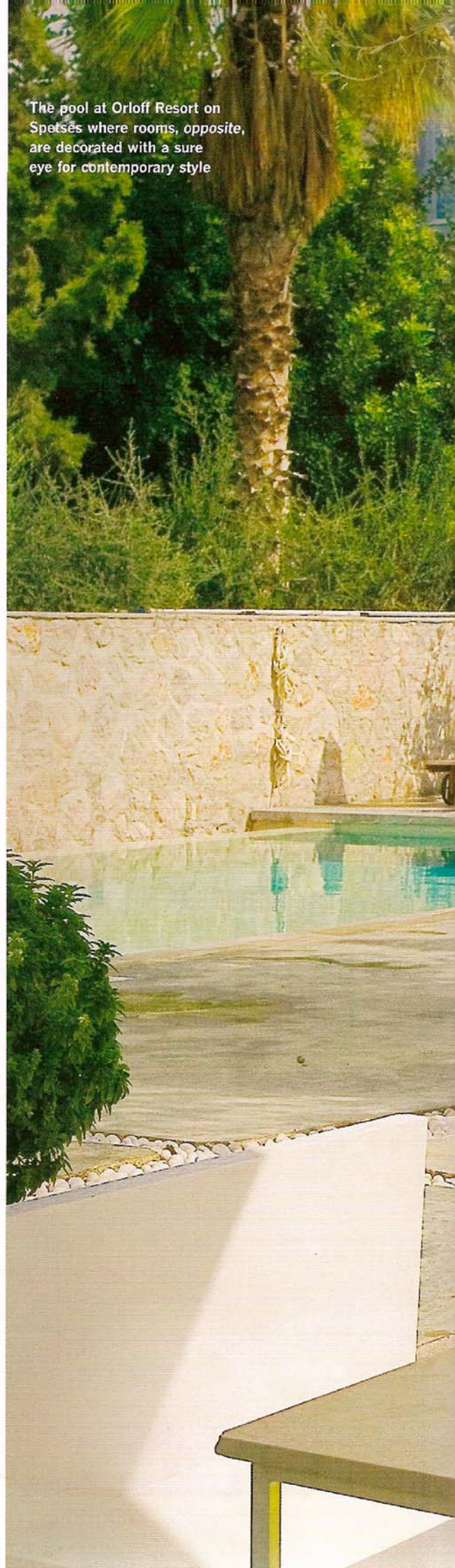
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Archontiko Angelou Alinda, Leros

The modest little Dodecanesian island of Leros has yet to attract many visitors; but Marianna Angelou's pretty seaside *pension* should change that. Angelou has done well to preserve the old-fashioned charm of her great-grandmother's summer house, with its stone tower and colonnaded porch, high wooden ceilings and patterned floor tiles. The eight breezy bedrooms are furnished with antiques, porcelain vases and lacy curtains. Some bedrooms have small balconies overlooking the flowering gardens and a Venetian fort on the horizon. To maintain the quietly nostalgic atmosphere, Angelou decided not to install televisions or radios, but there are other modern comforts such as top-quality mattresses and new, solar-powered showers. The 24-hour honesty bar contributes to the sense of staying in a private home and Angelou takes great care of her guests, especially at breakfast: home-made bread, preserves, and freshly pressed lemonade are served under the jacaranda tree. She will even prepare a picnic basket for excursions. With Alinda beach down the road, this gentle place is great for laid-back holidays. 00 30 22470 22749; www.hotel-angelou-leros.com. Doubles from €66; open May–October

The pool at Orloff Resort on Spetses where rooms, opposite, are decorated with a sure eye for contemporary style





Orloff Resort

Palio Limani, Spetses

Although popular with wealthy Athenians for weekend breaks, Spetses had a shortage of classy places to stay before this boutique hotel opened in 2004. Orloff Resort has 22 bedrooms and studios in five whitewashed houses with wooden shutters and tiled roofs, built around a courtyard with basil plants and olive trees. Poolside designer deckchairs and lime-green sails shading the pool-bar hint at the confidently contemporary interiors behind the traditional Greek façades: the sunny, all-white bedrooms feature scarlet or yellow lamps and bedside tables made from tree trunks. All have big bathrooms with grey marble showers; some have whirlpool baths. Broadband Internet access, satellite TV and air-conditioning are standard. Breakfast is served as late as you like and there's a massage therapist on hand. Owner Christos Orloff makes every guest feel like an old friend and he will arrange anything from a babysitter to room service from his restaurant, or even a boat trip if you tire of the nearby sandy bay of Agia Marina. Cars are banned on Spetses (though mopeds are annoyingly popular), but wandering the lemon-scented lanes and pine-fringed hills is blissful.

00 30 22980 75444; www.orloffresort.com; doubles from €90; open April–October



These photographs appear in *Around Greece in 80 Stays* by Jacoline Vinke and André Bakker, available from Road Editions, £25