



November 2018

SIMPSON TRAVEL LAUNCHES 2019 PROGRAMME: FIVE NEW HOTELS, NEW CHILDCARE PROGRAMME AND AQUITAINE COAST REGION BEING FEATURED FOR THE FIRST TIME

Simpson Travel, the independent, luxury specialist villa and boutique hotel operator, has launched its 2019 programme with five new hotels in Greece, Corsica and Italy and the introduction of the Aquitaine Coast region of France for the first time. Across the portfolio, a host of new handpicked properties have been added, ranging from expansive houses which are perfect for multi-generational holidays, to romantic retreats, sought after beach houses and seriously stylish villas. Also new to the programme is a brand new childcare concept, 'Tots to Teens', with a choice of childcare catering from babies up to teenagers now available at three properties across Greece, including at Simpson's Corfiot hotel, the Bella Mare Hotel. This property will now be offered exclusively by Simpson Travel in the UK market and feature ten new exclusive suites. The company is also reporting a resurgence of interest in Turkey and has added in some xxx new villas in the Kalkan, Sogut and Islamlar regions to meet demand.

Commenting, Graham Simpson, chairman, says " We're delighted to launch our 2019 programme with a handpicked range of some of the most beautiful villas and boutique hotels across the Mediterranean. From exclusive new Simpson Hotels, to cosy suites by the sea; luxury beachfront villas, to tucked away Simpson Secrets: this year we have searched high and low for the most unique and beautiful properties in the very best locations. I'm particularly excited to be introducing a new region of France to our clients – the beautiful Aquitaine Coast, as it offers the perfect combination of beach, culture, countryside and delicious food – as well as some fabulous properties - all key ingredients for a successful holiday. I'm also thrilled that Simpson will be the exclusive operator for Bella Mare Hotel in North East Corfu. It's an area I've known and loved for many years, and with its magical setting on gentle Avlaki Bay, it really is a unique proposition on this coastline, particularly with the addition of the ten new suites.'

Five new hotels: In Corsica, Simpson is introducing its first Simpson hotel, Alto di Pinarello. Just a ten-minute stroll from one of Europe's most spectacular beaches, this Corsican gem offers nine stylish suites, each with its own kitchen, spacious living and dining area, and a private balcony or terrace. Daily breakfast on the patio is included and there is an honesty bar for those who are too busy relaxing by the infinity pool to venture far afield. With three lovely bays nearby, where fine white sands shelve gently into the azure waters, it makes a wonderful choice for couples and families alike. In Greece, there are two superb new adult only hotels, both of which are new and exclusive to Simpson Travel. The super-stylish contemporary Katouna Suites in Lefkada are cut cleverly into the hillside, each with a terrace or balcony overlooking the dazzling waters below. For the ultimate in style, the two magnificent penthouse suites offer unbeatable panoramic views and are extremely spacious. In Paxos, The Bay View, a beautiful new adult only property, has been introduced. Whilst Paxos has plenty of villas, hotels are somewhat harder to come by and this lovely hotel, set in 1 ½ acres, features just six, light, bright suites, each with its own large balcony or terrace with fine views of Gaios and the Ionian Sea beyond.

Puglia also sees the introduction of two hotels which are both new to the Simpson portfolio. The elegant Tenuta Mosè, an Italianate property created on the site of an old estate, takes Italian

romance and style to another level, with opulence and old-school glamour in abundance; featuring sumptuous beds, enormous sunken baths, frescoes on the walls and terraces lined with rosemary, sage and verbena. Further north, in and around the fashionable Val d'Itria, the enchanting [Leonardo Trulli](#) has been added to the hotel collection. This charming, peaceful and lovingly-restored hotel has been created from a Masseria and its Trulli houses. In the very heart of Puglia's fashionable Val d'Itria region, it combines authenticity with modern comforts, with beautifully tended gardens in which produce for the kitchen is grown.

Aquitaine Coast introduced for the first time:

For 2019, Simpson are introducing a new region to their portfolio – the Aquitaine Coast in South West France. Offering a fantastic destination for couples and families alike, it combines superb beaches, lively towns and the beauty of the western Pyrenees. Teenagers will love the easy-going surfer town atmosphere of Hossegor – described as the point where France meets California, whilst the Pyrenees are perfect for those looking for options for cycling, hiking and climbing. Glamorous Biarritz has a perennial appeal, whilst charming Cap Ferret is a more traditional seaside town. Areas being featured are Hossegor, Cap Ferret, Biarritz and the Basque Country and properties range from stylish villas to 1930s beach houses, and from countryside retreats to luxurious Basque manor houses.

New to Greece: Bella Mare to be featured exclusively and expansion in Eastern Crete.

In Simpson's heartland of Greece, the Bella Mare Hotel in on Avlaki beach, in a sought-after corner of north east Corfu, is due to be exclusively featured by Simpson in 2019. Ten luxurious new suites, which will be adult only outside school holidays, are being added to the property complete with their own pool and tennis courts. In the school holidays, families will benefit from the brand new 'Tots to Teens' childcare concept, with fun, stimulating weekly activity programmes for older children, with 8-12 year olds being catered for by the 'Dolphins' club, and 13 years plus by 'Tribe'. For those looking to try their hand at SUP, sailing or windsurfing, Simpson Travel has also introduced a superb watersports programme for guests in partnership with the Corfu Sailing Club.

Elsewhere in Greece, there is continued growth in off-the-beaten track Eastern Crete. Along with a handful of villas, new for 2019 are the boutique Myrtos Mare Suites. In two adjacent buildings, at the quieter end of a palm-lined promenade, the three studios and two maisonettes are a stone's throw from the sea. Local to the properties are walking trails around Myrtos itself, but also over to Tertsia beach with its beach taverna and drop-in yoga classes, or the traditional villages of Mithi and Mournies for breathtaking views. Also in Crete are two delightful new properties, [Villa Almyra](#) and [Villa Kambos](#), overlooking Xerokambos beach – widely regarded as the best on the island.

New for Turkey as demand for the region increases.

Turkey has seen a great resurgence in popularity over the past year, and in line with this, some exceptional new villas are being introduced for 2019. The majority of properties are in and around Kalkan including the extraordinary Simpson Exclusive property, [Villa Canim](#); arguably the best house in town, with fabulous views, contemporary interiors and steps and a path leading down to the beach below. In addition, there are some charming new cottages in Söğüt, romantic villas near Islamlar and a unique 1-bedroom villa – Sazak Ev - with both an indoor and outdoor pool and spa facilities to rival a hotel.

New for Corsica: From Beach Houses to Penthouses.

Along with the new Simpson Hotel, there are also several new villas in Corsica, which continues to grow in popularity as a destination. Highlights include [The Beach House](#), a wonderful 5-bedroom property right by the water on the Valinco Gulf, and magical [Villa Supranu](#) nearby, with elevated

views of this spectacular coastline. For something completely different, right in the heart of the historic citadel in Calvi, a fabulous penthouse studio has been introduced, ideally situated to explore this fascinating city.

Italy

In Puglia, alongside the two new hotels, a number of new villas have been added to the portfolio. These include the beautiful Trullo Raffaella, an enchanting converted trulli house sleeping up to five people, located in the magical Val d'Itria, between the Unesco World Heritage Site in Alberobello and the fashionable town of Martina Franca. On the Adriatic coast, Il Rifugio dello Scoglio, a magnificently situated two bedroom suite has been introduced which is right on the beach, while stunning Villa Aia is the most contemporary addition to the Italy programme: with striking panoramic views and its own cinema room.

For bookings call 020 8003 6557 or visit www.simpsontravel.com.

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Notes to Editors

The award winning, independently owned **Simpson Travel** was established in 2002, and offers a range of exclusive villas, apartments and boutique Simpson Hotels across the Mediterranean, with destinations including Greece, Turkey, Mallorca, Corsica, France and Italy.

Founder Graham Simpson, brings over 40 years of travel industry heritage to Simpson, having built up the highly successful Simply Travel in the 1970s with his Greek wife Yianna. From humble beginnings in a flat in Chiswick, it was built up to be one of the best respected independent travel companies of its time, renowned for offering authentic rather than 'packaged' holiday experiences, with carefully researched programmes, exceptional product knowledge and service.

In Simpson, he recreated the original ethos of Simply Travel, offering a very personal service, with individually selected properties, expertise of each destination, a highly knowledgeable team of staff and excellent representatives in resort. Clients booking with Simpson can be safe in the knowledge that their holiday will have been created with their needs in mind, with each property matched to their individual tastes and requirements. They can also rest assured that they will be really well looked after by the excellent representatives on hand in each resort.