

## Rebecca Recommends Welcomes Curated Greece, Your Expert In Greece



As the world continues to reopen - slowly, but surely - Greece can now be added to the list of countries your clients may visit either with a negative PCR test or once fully vaccinated against COVID-19. It's perfect timing as we welcome [Curated Greece](#) to the Rebecca Recommends client portfolio. Here, in the words of the boutique agency's passionate and well-traveled owners, we share what makes Curated Greece stand out (well-nurtured relationships with local experts), how much they value authentic experiences (hint: a lot!), and the most incredible opportunities they can offer in Greece (like an entire private island for your clients).

Co-founders and travel designers Vasilis Sarmantas and Seetha Ramanathan are passionate about sharing their beloved Greece with world travelers. Vasilis, a true Greek by birth and at heart, envisioned Curated Greece as a way to share his love for his country with those eager to explore new places through authentic experiences. He loves to meet his guests and share the warmth of Greek culture. California-born, with Indian heritage, Seetha has travel in her blood, having visited more than 50 countries. Backpacking solo, staying at five-star properties, and everything in between before settling into her adopted home of Greece has left her with an insatiable desire to explore and share everything the country has to offer.

Read on to learn more about what Vasilis and Seetha have to offer your upscale clients ... then allow us to put you in touch with Curated Greece to start crafting the trip of a lifetime.



### What inspired you to start Curated Greece?

The idea for Curated Greece blossomed during the several years we were living in the south of France. Friends and family started asking us where to go and what to see and do in Greece. They wanted the best hotels and recommendations for our favorite restaurants and little taverns by the sea. We both loved sharing Greece with others so much that we decided to move to Athens and start Curated Greece in 2016. We wanted our friends to experience Greece with its great food, genuine hospitality, and how that blends with the country's history and nature. At the time, we found that a boutique travel agency that prioritized luxury with a more personal approach - focused on Greece - was hard to come by.



### What sets you apart from other Greece DMCs?

Curated Greece is boutique and we choose to remain that way. Each one of our team members brings a unique perspective on Greece from their personal and professional experience, adding to the dynamic of the company. We are Greek and American and together Curated Greece represents the best of both worlds culturally and in our professionalism. We are also privately owned and managed, which gives us the flexibility to adapt quickly to the world around us, which was especially important over the last year. As avid travelers ourselves being based in Athens, we're dedicated to constantly researching Greece and crafting the best and most unique experiences while cultivating meaningful relationships all over the country for the benefit of our travelers.



### What will clients encounter on a trip with Curated Greece?

Clients coming to Greece with Curated Greece will feel a more personable approach even before they arrive. We try to dig a little deeper at the start of planning their trip. They won't be just a number or another vacation we plan. Their trip isn't a cookie-cutter itinerary that's been done before. We'll start with an empty canvas and paint their trip based on each traveler's inspiration. Clients should expect timely and exceptional service all the way through, starting with us, to the tour guides right down to the transfer drivers. We strive to surpass expectations. Should advisors/guests wish, we can meet them upon arrival in Athens. During a first-time visit to Greece, the highlights like Athens, Mykonos, and Santorini can be experienced with a more personal perspective like a food tour in Athens, a cultural bike tour in Mykonos, or an exploration of the less-visited villages of Santorini with a local guide.



**Please give us a couple of examples of exclusive experiences you could provide clients.**

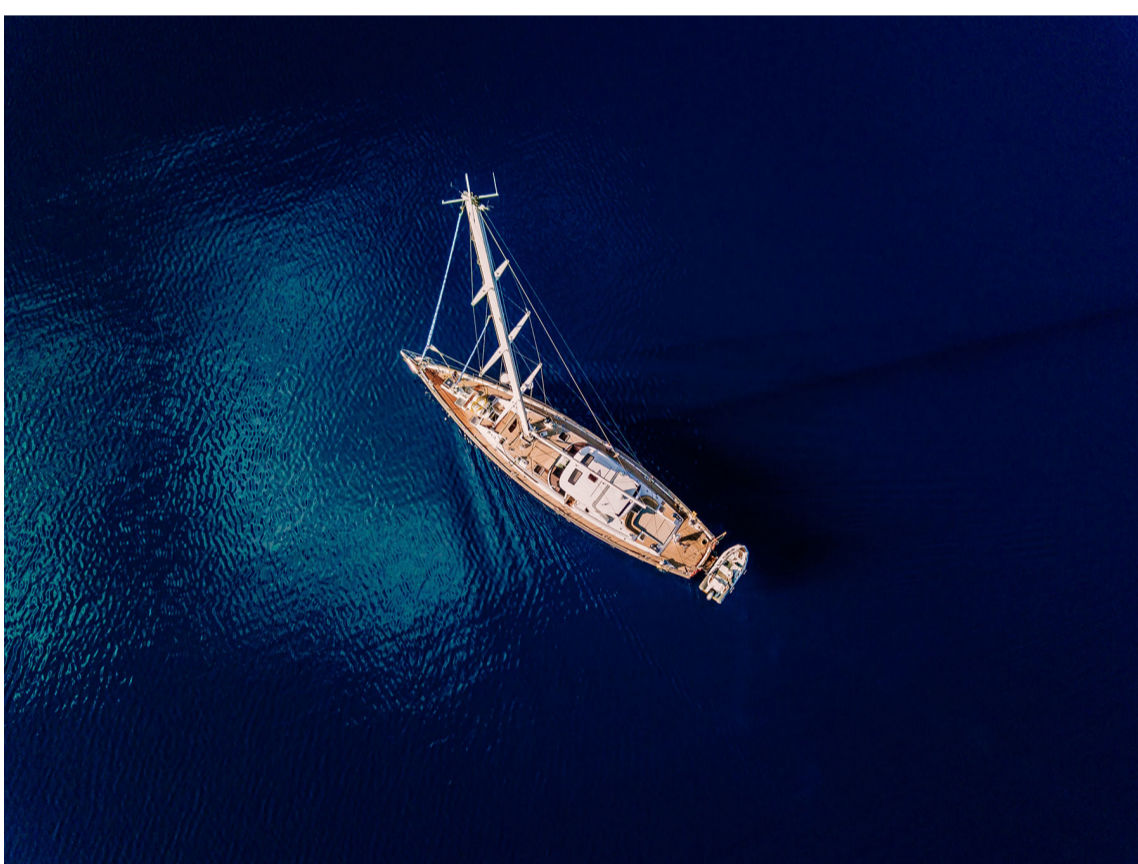
One of our favorite, more romantic, and exclusive experiences entails a short boat trip to a private beach where we have a candlelit picnic set up for the couple to enjoy the secluded location, a beautiful sunset, and a menu of homemade local specialties with champagne. Being foodies ourselves, we really enjoy gastronomy experiences and have expanded the offerings of northern Greece with a half-day truffle-hunt led by specially trained dogs of the region followed by a rustic cooking session right in the heart of the forest using the freshly collected truffles. The meal is nothing short of incredible, as is the scenery.

A large part of travel is, of course, where travelers stay. One of our most exclusive stays includes a private villa on a private island, the entire island for the guests. The feeling of being on your own island is magical!



**What sets your guides and local experts apart?**

Our guides and local experts are hand-selected, and we know them by first name. We regularly meet with them and brainstorm ways in which our experiences can be improved and stand out. As Curated Greece has influences from Greek and American culture, we're able to share with our guides and experts the cultural convergences and differences that contribute to a better and well-cared-for experience. Our guides are more than just well-versed in history or wine; they share a love for Greece that shines and that keeps tours and activities entertaining. Many of our guides are multilingual and speak more than just English and Greek.



**Tell us a bit about your chartered yacht tours.**

Yacht charters are a wonderful way to experience the Greek islands in style and in a way where the journey is just as important as the destination. Although Athens is the starting point for a majority of charters, travelers also have options to start on some of the island hubs like Corfu in the Ionian Sea or Mykonos, Paros, and Kos in the Aegean Sea.

Generally, charters are available for week-long segments. However, we've developed with our partners the possibility to do a shorter-term charter between three and five days, which enables guests to experience both the on-land side of the islands as well as sailing through the islands. The option to do a bareboat charter is possible on select vessels, but we highly recommend and will almost always charter with the best skippers in Greece.

Guests will also have the option to include a hostess and chef on board as well as additional staff and service members. The skipper and team are fantastic sources of exclusive information about where to go and what to do. We have a wide range of yachts available for charter, including luxurious monohulls, spacious catamarans, and one-of-a-kind superyachts, as well as exceptional megayachts. One of our favorite parts of yacht charters is the stops at secluded coves, small sand beaches, and sea caves. The waters are such a fascinating hue of turquoise. Depending on the time of year, dolphins and sea turtles make guest appearances and it's always so much fun watching them swim alongside the boat.



**How do you select the accommodations for a client's itinerary?**

A significant part of our job is traveling around Greece, visiting and staying at the best hotels, learning about the finer details like rooms with the best view, suites that offer more privacy, or the best family options. With these details in mind, we can channel this knowledge into making the correct decision on accommodation for the client. In addition to the top five-star hotels, we take the time to discover those luxury boutique or family-owned properties that may not have multiple dining outlets or the largest infinity pool, but that have character, charm, and outstanding service and are true gems. That's where we can make a difference and add to the clients' accommodation experience.

In addition to our hotel portfolio, we also have a collection of private villas to which our clients have access. It's important for us to first determine how important of a role accommodation plays in the client's travel experience. From there we take a closer look at their expectations for accommodation and the facilities and amenities they seek, the must-haves versus the would-be-nice-to-haves. The more information we have on the travelers, the better-targeted suggestions we can make. After all, every traveler is different, and we can never assume in this job, especially when it comes to accommodations.



**Have your terms and conditions changed since the pandemic?**

Yes! As a privately owned and managed company, we had the flexibility to adapt our terms and conditions as a result of the pandemic. We now offer clients a cancellation period for any reason of 30 days prior to arrival. Any non-refundable deposit is held as credit for a future trip with no fees or penalties. As a boutique agency, we have lower overheads and conservative accounting with no external forces acting on our business. This gives us a cushion and safety net to maintain our high business standards that allow us to not only survive but thrive.



**What new initiatives are you launching in 2021?**

Of course, 2020 was tough, but it did give us the gift of time. We've partnered with two fabulous yoga instructors and together we've created the Roots to Rise Yoga Retreat happening September 23-28, 2021 on the island of Paros.

Over the last 12 months, we developed further our Curated Villa Collection, adding amazing private villas all over Greece. During the summer, we were able to travel to many of the Greek islands and mainland for more innovative interactions with our local partners and friends, creating new or improved experiences and learning about the developments at hotels. Also, our team has started working already on small-group, set departures that will take place in 2022.



**What about Greece are you most looking forward to sharing with clients in a post-COVID world?**

We so look forward to evoking clients' senses in Greece. From the feel of the fresh Aegean breeze to the flavors of the land and visual wonders. We love sharing with clients our favorite seaside taverns where they can enjoy a delicious meal with fresh local products and beautiful scenery al fresco. We would love for guests to explore the mainland of Greece, the authenticity and beauty, the people, and delicious cuisine. And of course, for the islands, there's no denying the stunning scenery of Santorini. For many, it's a bucket list destination that we look forward to not just checking off the list, but getting an in-depth experience that will create lasting memories. Last but not least, we would love to share more off-the-beaten-path islands and hidden gems of the Aegean. We want travelers to experience the lesser-known and less-crowded islands for their individual character, laid-back feeling, and charm as well as beautiful scenery and local culture.

**Where is the first trip you want to take (outside Greece) after COVID?**

We are very much looking forward to our next international trip. The hope is to make it out to Vietnam and Cambodia to discover the ancient history, cuisine, and natural beauty.

Allow us to connect you today with Curated Greece, the finest, most knowledgeable Greek destination management company in the business.

With fondest wishes,

*Rebecca*

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