

## PORTRAIT OF SIKELIA, PANTELLERIA'S SMALL LUXURY HOTEL

20 suites born from an ancient dammuso on the Black Pearl of the Mediterranean



In a timeless atmosphere - between the intense blue of the Mediterranean Sea and suggestive African sunsets in the wild and rugged island of Pantelleria – stands Sikelia. A unique structure - consisting of 20 suites, each with its own identity - that enhances the cultural heritage of the Sicilian island and that offers the first true luxury experience in Pantelleria. An island that is still undiscovered and true, for Italians and tourists alike, perfect for curious travellers who seek to experience all the less known and still authentic facets of *la bella vita*.

Rough, wild and untamed yet very accessible. This is the island of Pantelleria: "hidden gem" but easily reachable during the high season with direct flights from many Italian cities such as Rome, Milan, Venice and Turin, just to give some examples. Daily flights also connect Pantelleria with both East and West Sicily airports - Palermo, Trapani and Catania.

From the passion of one woman for this authentic and primordial place - where man bends to the will of nature dominated by the wind – came the idea to turn a large private residence into a luxury boutique hotel. A completely new concept for Pantelleria which led her to take - or rather pave - the path less travelled step by step and stone by stone.

*"The idea for Sikelia came to me some time ago – Pantelleria has so much to offer and it needs to be shared with people who care about fine things. For the last ten years, I have worked to create an artistic and emotional residence that reflects the wild beauty of Pantelleria using metal, glass and the highest quality fabrics. Each of the 20 suites has its own unique design and identity, which links the property's original monastic architecture with refined contemporary elegance."*

The experience that Sikelia offers is a sort of communion between the beauty of Pantelleria's natural wonders and the best of the most modern and exclusive comfort. Each of the suites - each with its own identity and embellished with works of art, lights and shadow effects and a meticulous attention towards choice and juxtaposition of fine fabrics and colors - can become the perfect retreat for both physical and mental wellbeing.



Sikelia is born from the reconversion of an ancient dammuso structure – executed with the utmost respect for both the island's nature and the peculiar spatiality and typical architectural style (of Arab origins) that make Pantellerias' dammusi unique worldwide. A winding white fortress characterized by the intertwining of complex vaulted structures set on thick masonry walls, which juxtaposed with the latest and most sophisticated latest technological solutions ensures maximum comfort without sacrificing the ancient atmosphere of spaces that have distant origins in time and a rich baggage of cultural heritage.



High quality fabrics, metals, concrete and glass become a source of enrichment of these striking suggestive spaces alongside stucco and ceramic pieces tailor made for Sikelia by renowned artist Gennaro Avallone - studied and created individually for each suite and for all the common areas of the hotel.



A stay at Sikelia is ideal for a romantic getaway, for lovers of active sports (from trekking to mountain biking) and the sea (excellent destination for diving and boat trips), and is most of all for those interested in wine tourism. Pantelleria is one of the most unique destinations for wine tourism around the globe since the island's agricultural practices are the only ones worldwide that have now become UNESCO heritage - with a unanimous vote of 161 countries during the general assembly held in Paris in 2014.



For the good connoisseur who already knows the island – which has been for years a source of inspiration and refuge for artists like Giorgio Armani and Fabrizio Ferri - Pantelleria is above all an open-air spa. From the warm spring waters of Gadir or the natural sauna of the cave of Benikulà to the mud of the volcanic lake Lago di Venere - “Mirror of Venus”.



Tailor-made sea excursions on board a traditional Tunisian fishing boat converted and decked up by Sikelia to make every trip special and exclusive, in the company of a chef ready to satisfy every whim of the palate. Massages and beauty treatments in the hotel's Arabic garden with therapeutic muds taken directly from *Lago di Venere*. Cooking lessons and *Passito* tastings ("nectar of the gods") in the vineyards at Coste Ghirlanda, Sikelia's wine Estate. These are just some of the ideas of this Small Luxury Hotel to pamper its guests - who are always extremely involved in first person in all the organizational and decisional aspects regarding their stay and experience on the island. A very personal and unique approach to experiential luxury travel.

Sikelia is also the perfect setting for an intimate wedding or a private event. Even a business meeting that requires "a breath of fresh air" every so often can find refuge at Sikelia.





It is hard not to then also fall under the spell of the simple but bold flavours proposed by Themà Restaurant and Lounge – Sikelia's gourmet restaurant. Executive Chef Diego Battaglia skilfully combines Sicilian traditional recipes with an Arab and African twist. Fresh ingredients and innovative ideas combined create new tastes that make every single encounter with Pantelleria's flavours truly unique, served in Sikelia's palm grove - immersed in silence and under African starry skies.



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