



A magical environment of water, stone, glass, wood and breathtaking murals receive every guest to an unforgettable spa experience at the Six Senses Spa, Porto Elounda De Luxe Resort, Greece.

*Sensually
Sublime!*

Photos: Six Senses Spa, Porto Elounda De Luxe Resort

Established in 2006, no architectural details have been overlooked. From the enchanting reception area, the adjoining Six Senses Shop, where guests walk around a beautiful glass pebble pond and admire the glass droplets of the Greek sculptor, Costas Varotsos, are all art in its utmost intricacies!

The Tepidarium is a marvellous space that excites all the senses. Water is the main motive force: flowing through a cascading river, bubbling in the hydrotherapy swimming pool, glistening in the overhead glass pond, and dominating the view out of the enormous glass façade! Covered wall to wall in natural stone and marble, while discreetly lit from the most ingenious of angles, the Tepidarium is simply a pleasure to be in, and yet one has a plethora of reasons to leave it for more pleasures beyond. The spa's pool is filled with a host of water toys like hydro-jets, aqua-canons, bubble-beds and air-massage. Having both an indoor and an outdoor section, it is a unique experience to swim around its hot seawater while admiring the distant seascapes and mountain ranges and as the skin's pores open to admit the beneficial ions that pure seawater contains in abundance.

The Balnea cabins are simply the best one can find and are readily available to all guests of the spa. The exquisite Ottoman Hammam experience is directly accessible through the Tepidarium, and takes advantage of natural lighting just like the traditional hammams did with glass bricks set into the ceilings and large windows overlooking the spa's hydropool. The ritual starts with footbaths in the Ayaklik room and continues with a cleansing whole-body shower onto the main hot room, the Sicaclik: covered throughout in beautiful white and pink marble, this hot and humid space is covered by a magnificent dome and has space for up to ten people. Four springs produce hot and cold water for guests to throw over themselves while their skin softens in anticipation of a thorough body scrub in the adjacent two Halvet rooms with large marble tables. After the skin has been exfoliated, guests are admitted into the two Sogugluk treatment rooms next door for a gentle massage with natural oils and thence to the hammam's own relaxation area, the Aralik.

One of the unique features is the Therapy Suite, a small private spa within the spa with all the treatments to be enjoyed by a group of friends in the utmost privacy. The suite is available for hire for a few hours or for the whole day, and offers a private steam room, sauna, small hydropool, outdoor bubble-tub, and two treatment rooms with indoor and outdoor relaxation areas. The suite can also be joined to the hammam in order to create an enormous private space for larger parties who wish to enjoy the best of Six Senses without any interference from the outside world.

All private treatment rooms in the spa are located on an independent level accessible through the Tepidarium by a circular staircase that revolves around a magnificent helical glass sculpture by Costas Varotsos.



The waiting area is around an oval glass pond, naturally lit from above and at the same time allowing views to the swimming pool underneath and lovely seascapes out the large windows.

Then there is the equivalent of the large Therapy Suite found on the level below - a private space with two massage rooms, a private steam room and a private sauna, as well as an outdoor bubble-tub. This is a space for a party of two or more guests who want to enjoy their privacy while not sacrificing

Spa Manager: Elli Soumaki

Architectural Inspirations: The Mediterranean Sea and the rich history of the Island of Crete.

Number of treatment rooms: 21

Size: 2200 sq.meters

Number of therapists: 16

Budget: 6.5m = \$ 8.73m

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any of the diversity offered throughout the spa. Even meals can be taken in the suites, in order not to spoil at all the feeling of security and privacy.

On the opposite side to the suite is a set of four treatment rooms that are joined to create a junior suite: The Dry Float room contains a bed with heated water mattress and heated blanket for all kinds of wraps, while next door is the room of the Cleopatra Bath for immersion in therapeutic concoctions of milk and honey. The set is completed by two wonderful massage rooms, large enough for couples taking their treatments together, as well as an outdoor bubble-tub for soaking in the sunshine while drenched in therapeutic warm seawater.

This floor also offers two Oriental Treatment Rooms with floor mattresses for a superb Balinese or Thai massage or perhaps a Shiatsu treatment, two Couple Treatment Rooms with an outdoor bubble-tub, and two Thalassotherapy Suites each with a fantastic seawater air- and jet-tub and the facilities for all sorts of seaweed wraps, mud-wraps, and therapeutic massage treatments.

All lighting in the spa revolves around the concept of concealing the light source and only allowing for the lighting effect to manifest itself. There are hundreds of meters of linear Xenon and LED strip lights concealed in the coves where the walls meet the ceilings, while all down-lighters are concealed in these coves so that only the beautiful effect of a lighting cone can be seen washing the stone-covered walls. All lighting is controlled by an electronic dimming system that perceives the time of day and the lighting conditions and adjusts the lighting levels to pre-programmed settings. There are no lighting switches to be seen by the guests, as all controls are concealed in staff-only areas and within special control cabinets within the treatment rooms, together with the climate and music controls.

The traditional Ottoman Hamam is a part of the island's historical inclusion in the Ottoman Empire, while many local ingredients - olive oil, lavender oil, spices and herbs are to be found throughout the treatment menus, as the spa comes with its own specialised pharmaceutical facility for the production of oils, creams, ointments and soaps from raw materials. **SS**

