

Banyan Tree Varko Bay

GREECE



EXPRESS CHECK-OUT

Owner / Developer: RND Investments

Operator: Banyan Tree Group

Architecture and Interior Design:

Elastic Architect & Interiors

www.banyantree.com

Banyan Tree has revealed plans to open its first European resort in Greece's Varko Bay. Financed by RND Investments and featuring architecture and interiors by Elastic, the development will comprise 121 villas and 43 private residences, multiple dining options and a subterranean spa.

"With our robust momentum in business development and pipeline of new openings, we are happy to plant our first Banyan Tree resort in Europe on the scenic Varko Bay in Greece," comments Ho Kwon Ping, founder and Executive Chairman of Banyan Tree Group. "Forming part of the Banyan Tree-Accor strategic partnership, Banyan Tree Varko Bay is set to be an exceptional luxury destination as global travel gradually returns."

Located on the east coast of Ionian Sea, the resort is hewn directly into the rock, with atriums that bring light to the spaces beneath. Concealed below ground, the spa will follow a high-touch, low-tech mantra that sees traditional

Asian healing therapies practiced across eight treatment rooms, which are accompanied by an outdoor pool, indoor hydrotherapy pool, gym and beauty area.

Sustainability is deeply ingrained in the project too, with initiatives including renewable energy sources, grey water recycling and eco-friendly building practices – such as planted roofs that correspond with the surrounding flora and low-slung elevations clad in extracted white stone – to reduce carbon emissions.

"Varko Bay will be defined as the ultra-luxury destination in the Ionic region," says Gregoir Chikaher, Director of Development at RND Investments. "Sustainability is at the forefront of the design philosophy, with the aim of being the first in Greece to achieve the LEED Gold certification. The bold encaving of many structural elements is indicative of the lengths to which the owners are prepared to go to minimise the environmental impact."



© RND Investments