

# Kastelorizo: Greece in the late season

MARIE LE FORT - LES ECHOS | THE 05/09/2014



South of Rhodes, a tiny island of Dodecanese houses a small pension feet in the water.

It's a small Mediterranean island that even the Greeks have forgotten. In the margin of the map of the Dodecanese archipelago, 1 mile from the Turkish coast, it was for a long time the most eastern territory of Europe. However, this small rock had even a blazing past of the time when, important commercial stop between Beirut and Piraeus at the beginning of the 20th century. Kastelorizo saw its inhabitants dress richly, become merchants, clerks of notaries and erect noble Ottoman facades ...

## With ease

The port of Kastelorizo still counts among the most beautiful in Greece with its colorful houses, restored one by one. At the entrance, the bay is guarded by the fortress of the knights of St. John built on red rocks, the origin of the Italian name Castel Rosso, which was adapted by the Greeks in Kastelorizo. Residents, today, there are more than 200, hidden in the shelter of the modern world. A small piece of Mediterranean paradise in view of the white houses of Kas, the Turkish, yet it is there that Marie Rivalant, Parisian architect, laid a first nest at eighteen years before returning regularly every summer. A few years later, in 2001, the Parisian architect, unconditional island and adopted by the islanders, is offered an old house on the port. Over time, she decorates her with personal belongings and puts down her suitcases: she now takes Mediterraneo, a luxury guesthouse where stone arches, colorful walls of bright colors, icons of the past and antiques mingle with taste. Gradually becoming a haven for enlightened Turks, tired Greeks of Mykonos or French in search of authenticity, the small rocky island remains a well-kept secret.

It is undoubtedly the open landscape of the archipelago and this simplicity of life peculiar to Kastelorizo that will seduce David Gilmour of Pink Floyd, at the time when he composed the album "On an Island" whose "Castellorizon", his flagship title.

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