

# ĀMAN

SVETI STEFAN



**IN A COUNTRY FAMED FOR ITS BEAUTY,** the most iconic images associated with Montenegro are of the tiny islet named Sveti Stefan. Attached to the coast by a narrow isthmus, the island was once a fortified village dating back to the 15th century. Today, Sveti Stefan is opening in phases after a painstaking renovation. This exciting transition has retained the island's historic air and the sturdy stone buildings with red-tiled roofs are as cheerful amongst the island's hardy evergreen trees as they were in centuries past. Across the bay on a 32-hectare seaside estate lies Villa Miločer, opened as phase one of Aman Sveti Stefan in December 2008. The stately villa – once the summer residence of Queen Marija Karadorđević – is surrounded by more than 800 olive trees and embraced on three sides by ancient cedar and pine forests.

## GEOGRAPHY

Montenegro could well be called the hidden gem of the Mediterranean. It has endured a tempestuous past, but today enjoys peace and burgeoning prosperity. Montenegro lies on the coast of the Adriatic Sea in Southeastern Europe between Croatia to the west, Bosnia and Herzegovina to the northwest, Serbia to the northeast and Albania to the southeast. It is a land of rugged snow-capped mountains,



Aman Sveti Stefan Deluxe Cottage



Villa Miločer Suite

ancient forests and pristine beaches lapped by emerald green seas, where ancient monasteries cling to rocky cliffs and imposing stone churches speak of centuries past. Its capital and largest city is Podgorica, while Cetinje is designated as the old royal capital and the former seat of the throne.

## LOCATION

Aman Sveti Stefan is located in the centre of Montenegro's Adriatic coastline, south of Budva and between the villages of Pržno and Sveti Stefan. The site incorporates two kilometres of coastline including the pink sandy beaches of Sveti Stefan, Miločer Beach and the famous Queen's Beach. Aman Sveti Stefan enjoys breathtaking views out to

sea, across the bay and along Montenegro's most renowned stretch of coastline. The island itself measures 12,400 square metres, and while its historic exterior remains largely unchanged, the resort's interiors have been restored and updated to meet contemporary expectations.

## HISTORY

Sveti Stefan was first documented in 1442. In the following decades, 12 families of the Pastrovic clan developed the island as their fortified base in the area. Different families created their own refuge ports, but the well-protected village named after Saint Stefan slowly became the commercial, judicial and administrative centre of the region. Today, the region is still named for the Pastrovic clan.

By the early 1700s, the island was inhabited by 400 members of the Pastrovic family, but in the latter part of the century, inhabitants moved back to the mainland or migrated to other parts of the world, leaving behind just a few fishermen's families. The island however, kept its high profile in the public eye well into the 20th century, and it became a hotel in the 1950s when the last villagers moved away. It soon became a high-profile destination amongst celebrities from the fashion and entertainment worlds, graced by the likes of Sophia Loren amongst

many others from the elite ranks of royals and politicians. The breakup of Yugoslavia in the early 1990s brought this period to an end.

Fifty years after its first renaissance as a luxury retreat, Sveti Stefan is again one of the Adriatic's most alluring destinations. In 2005, the government decided to revitalise Sveti Stefan and bring it back to its former pre-eminence. After an international tender, Amanresorts was selected to take on the project in 2007.

The story behind Villa Miločer is more recent but no less distinguished. Built between 1934 and January 1936, the manse was the former summer residence of Queen Marija Karadorđević (1900-1961).



## ACCOMMODATION

Aman Sveti Stefan offers a total of 58 guest accommodations with 50 rooms, cottages and suites on the island and 8 suites at Villa Miločer.

The island's accommodations are divided into Village Rooms, Cottages, Deluxe Cottages, Grand Suites and the Sveti Stefan Suite which has its own private swimming pool. Views from the different accommodations are of the sea, rooftops or quaint courtyards and piazzas, depending on their location. Every room, cottage and suite on the island is completely unique, just as one would expect from a place which evolved from a 15th-century fortress.

All accommodations are decorated in a subtly elegant fashion, providing every modern comfort whilst retaining the historic air and ambience of the island. Priority in designing the interiors was given to preserving the original walls and to reminding one of the village's origins. Furniture was designed especially for the island and much of the detailing, from the latches to the doors and windows, is based on what would have been on the island originally.

The six spacious Suites in Villa Miločer harmoniously blend a subtle palette of creams and browns with luxurious touches. Parquet floors are warmed by woollen rugs and a fireplace takes centre stage. Leather chairs and silk accents bring a contemporary brightness to

the living quarters, while bathrooms feature parquet and antico stone floors, free-standing bathtubs and timber wardrobes. Each of the suites has a Juliet balcony with views either over the sea towards the island of Sveti Stefan, or of the gardens. The two Queen Marija Suites are housed in a separate structure. Each is 125 square metres in size and features four separate rooms: a bedroom, bathroom, living room and dining room, decorated in a similar style to the Suites. A fireplace is located in both the living room and bedroom of each Suite, one of which is situated on the ground floor with a small terrace while the other is upstairs with ocean views.

All accommodations feature wireless internet access.

## DINING

The island of Sveti Stefan itself offers diverse dining options in a uniquely atmospheric setting, reminiscent of its fabled past – The Piazza. This open-air square is the heart and soul of the island's village setting featuring a number of dining venues including a Taverna, an Enoteca, a Pasticceria, an Antipasti Bar and a Cigar Room. Ideal for al fresco tapas and drinks, the Enoteca offers a sea-facing terrace and cellar-like interiors. The Taverna is the nerve centre of the Piazza serving simple European and American breakfasts as well as fresh and pastoral Mediterranean dishes for lunch and dinner. The Pasticceria (bakery) recalls the simplicity and craftsmanship of Europe's rich



baking and pastry traditions serving breakfast and lunch. Adjacent lies the Antipasti Bar, a convivial space open in the early evenings. The Cigar Room, a masculine haven of wood and leather, offers a selection of fine Cuban cigars as well as rare cognac, vintage Armagnac and single-malt whiskeys.

On the mainland are three other Aman Sveti Stefan dining venues: Queen's Chair, Olive Restaurant and the Beach Café. Perched atop a rocky precipice, Queen's Chair offers breathtaking views of the Bay of Budva. Open for dinner, the restaurant serves Pan-Adriatic fare with a distinctive Italian flavour. The Olive Tree is a casual venue invoking the ambience of a beachside brasserie. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, the restaurant offers indoor and outdoor seating overlooking the beach. The menu features a large selection of cut-to-order meats and seafood prepared on two signature wood-fired grills and an olive-wood-fired rotisserie. Tucked into a cove near Villa Miločer, the Beach Café provides informal dining throughout the day. It enjoys an alfresco setting shaded by cypress trees and century-old olive groves, and offers a simple café menu.

At Villa Miločer, the Dining Room, Loggia and the Living Room offer simple, elegant menus driven by fresh produce and locally-caught seafood. Situated on

the ground floor, the Dining Room is an intimate seven-table dining space with a large open fireplace. The tables are set with Italian linen and contemporary furniture is complemented by hand-loomed woollen rugs. The Dining Room is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner and features views over Miločer Beach. Loggia is also located on the ground floor and is accessed via the spacious Living Room, as are the Miločer gardens and beach. Loggia features a wisteria-covered colonnade providing a shady retreat during the summer. Large day beds placed beneath the colonnade offer a relaxed vantage point for taking in the breathtaking views of Sveti Stefan Island. Loggia is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The Living Room includes a comfortable lounge with views over Miločer Beach. Here guests may enjoy afternoon tea and evening cocktails.

### **SPA COTTAGES & GYMNASIUM**

Guests can enjoy a range of massage and body treatments in one of the six spa cottages scattered over the island or in the privacy of their own accommodations.

### **SWIMMING POOL**

The island's Cliff Pool offers dramatic views of the Adriatic and is open for light meals and drinks. Another swimming pool and terrace will be located on the south side of the island.



Loggia at Villa Miločer



Queen's Chair



Kotor Old Town



Skadar Lake



Ostrog Monastery

## ACTIVITIES AND CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

Aman Sveti Stefan offers personalised guided excursions to scenic and cultural attractions along the Montenegrin coast and into the spectacular interior of the country. These include boating on the Adriatic, visiting the old towns of Budva and Cetinje and the beautifully-preserved baroque city of Perast, discovering the peaceful Skadar Lake and exploring the Bay of Kotor, a World Heritage Site. On offer with prior arrangement are activities which include cycling and bird watching, and an array of water sports such as sailing, diving and big game fishing. Learning more about regional wines through private wine tastings is another option.

## GETTING THERE

Three main airports act as gateways to Aman Sveti Stefan: In Montenegro, Tivat Airport is 34 kilometres and a 30-minute drive from the resort and Podgorica Airport (also known locally as Golubovci Airport) is 54 kilometres and just over an hour's drive away. Dubrovnik Airport in Cilipi, Croatia is approximately a 2.5-hour drive away. Travel times may vary from season to season. Airport transfers are complimentary to and from Tivat and the resort can arrange transfers from Podgorica and Dubrovnik Airports.

## IMMIGRATION

Visas are required to enter, exit or transit through Montenegro for all except citizens of the following countries who can enter and stay up to 90 days without visas: Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Latvia, Lichtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the USA and the Vatican. Citizens of Albania, the Russian Federation and the Ukraine are permitted to stay for 30 days. For further information, please contact your nearest consulate.

## CLIMATE

The coastal regions of Montenegro enjoy a Mediterranean climate with hot, dry summers and mild, sunny winters. The coldest months of the year are December and January when temperatures can drop to around 7°C at night. The hottest months of the year are July and August when temperatures peak between 30-35°C. Sea temperatures range from 25-28°C in summer and November is generally the wettest month.

## LANGUAGE

The official language of Montenegro is Montenegrin. Other languages, including English, Italian and Russian, are commonly spoken around commercial centres.

## CURRENCY

The currency of Montenegro is the Euro. Aman Sveti Stefan will accept Visa, Mastercard and American Express. Outside the resort many establishments and restaurants only accept cash.

## HEALTH

A doctor can be arranged 24 hours a day in case of emergencies. There are no particular immunisations required for entry into Montenegro unless the traveller is coming from a yellow fever-infected area. No vaccinations are required, but it is advisable to check with your doctor for current information.

## TRAVEL TIPS

Electricity is 220 volts/50 cycles. Montenegro is one hour ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). During the colder months of December and January, guests should pack warm clothes for early mornings and evenings, with lighter clothing and a warm jacket for the rest of the day. During the summer months it is recommended that guests wear light attire and a wide-brimmed hat.

