



Laser peel: The caryatids sparkle in Athens's Acropolis Museum.

Marbled Maidens Strike a Pose

THE CARYATIDS, A CLIQUE OF STATUESQUE LADIES that once supported the roof of the Acropolis's Erechtheion, stand more beautiful than ever after a three-year makeover. The ancient treasures were restored using technology developed by the Acropolis Museum in Athens. Working on-site, scientists applied infrared and ultraviolet lasers to peel off layers of grime without damaging the caryatids' intricate hairstyles and elegantly draped attire. **RADIANT RELICS** Through digital reconstructions based on 3-D scanning, scientists also revealed how the Parthenon frieze originally looked: decorated with copper attachments and pigmented with lapis and cinnabar. The multicolored relief—found in the Acropolis compound—depicts a procession honoring Athena, the patron goddess of the Greek capital. **EARLY BIRDS** The museum restaurant serves breakfast with a Greek flair: iced tea with saffron, lemon, and spearmint and pancakes topped with grape molasses and tahini. From the terrace, you can almost reach out and touch the Parthenon. —RACHEL HOWARD

ATLAS

Athens, Greece



Legend holds that after British ambassador Lord Elgin carted off a caryatid, the other five could be heard lamenting their lost sister.