

“THE WORLDS MOST DIVERSE ISLAND.”

THE CULINARY ISSUE:

Seafood art highlights inspired creativity of Chefs at your Villa

FOOD & DRINK

Top culinary experiences

5 WONDERFUL CRETAN THINGS

Get to know what is best in our island and explore it!

SEA YOU THERE

Crete on Sand. Spot the best beaches

BEST OF CRETE

What to see



3. BEST OF CRETE

We have highlighted for you the best things to see in Crete. What to see, what to buy and what is locally produced to take away home or enjoy at your Villa. Everything you might choose, will create a long lasting memory.

8. FOOD & DRINK

We have tasted and visited them all and are locals favourites ! They are by far the best choices to explore the culinary Cretan world. We have saved your valuable holiday time to visit 100s of sites to figure out where to dine ... your list is ready you just need to book a table!

17. SEA YOU THERE

Crete is a wonder island with thousands of amazing beaches. Well we have shortlisted the top ones to visit and have an unforgettable swim ! We might even "sea you there"!

22. GREAT CRETE

We know how challenging it can be to choose the best excursion to do in your holiday destination. Well we are recommending you the "One & Only" a unique culinary off - road experience and an opportunity to live and dine like a local!



23. EXPERIENCES

For the ones who wish to pamper themselves of want to indulge into local sport activities we have listed you the top ones to do.

24. CHILDREN ONLY

For our little friends we have highlighted the best adventures. It is all about togetherness spending quality family time !

25. 5 WONDERFUL CRETAN THINGS TO DO

Local Products produced only in Crete, Artists who create unique items, visit unique locations and many more ...worth knowing!

THINKVILLA TEAM RECOMMENDS!

Our team thanks you for choosing to stay with us. Team members share their ideal day in Crete offering you some well hidden tips ... For any additional support we are always here for you. Your satisfaction is our priority!
Travel Regards,
ThinkVilla Team

WHAT TO SEE

The Venetian Fortezza (1573-1580) is a vast fortress inside which you can see the traces of the rector's residence, cisterns and gunpowder batteries, as well as the St Nicholas Cathedral and the churches of Agia Ekaterini and Agios Theodoros Trichinas. Erofylis Theater, at the Bastion of Agios Ilias, hosts all sorts of cultural events in the summer, including the excellent Rethymno Renaissance Festival. The Neratzes Mosque on Mikrasiaton Square started out as a Catholic church serving the island's Augustinian monks, became a mosque in 1657 and was endowed with its 27-metre minaret in 1890. The building is now home to the local conservatory, which also holds concerts. The History and Folklore Museum (30 Emmanouil Vernardou), which is located in a listed 17th-century Venetian mansion; the Museum of Contemporary Art of Crete (32 Mesolonghiou), with a fascinating roster of temporary shows by distinguished Greek artists; and the Paleontology Museum (Konstantinou Satha & Markellou), in the stunning mid-17th-century Veli Pasha



Kokkinos mizythra, another local cheese. For wine, try Bottle Shop (5 Ethnarchou Makariou) or Siganos Wines (Arkadiou 248) which carries a good selection of Cretan & Greek wine selections

WHAT TO BUY

Giorgos and Natasha Vardaxis produce beautiful ceramics employing the sgraffito technique and motifs inspired by Byzantine art at their workshop, Ceramics Vardaxis (31 Panou Koroneou), while Vangelis Patseas also presents interesting ceramic pieces at Artifacts by Omodamos (6 Heimaras). Greek-designed clothing and objects are available at the elegant concept store Art In Veneto (2-4 Epimenidou). You can get hand-made leather bags and purses at Spantis (9 Panou Koroneou), run by Yiannis Spantidakis; jewellery by 25 Greek designer stars at Kitamekialo (184 Arkadiou); and fascinating decorative items made by Nikos Siragas out of local lumber at Wood Art (38 Vardas Kalergis). You can find all sorts of pretty old things and antiques on Agias Varvaras Street, while you can see how traditional



MADE IN RETHYMNO

An excellent selection of local wines, olive oils and wild herbs are available at Avli Raw Materials (38-40 Arbatzoglou), Koutalas (98 Ethnikis Antistaseos) and at the Agreco Farm grocery store (24 Sofokli Venizelou), where you can also sit down to enjoy coffee, ouzo and snacks. An absolute must, though, is a visit to the shop of Giorgos Hatziparaschos (30 Emmanouil Vernardou), one of the last craftsmen of his kind in Greece. Ask him when he plans to roll out the next batch of filo dough and come watch him as he works – it's amazing. A walk around the open-air market on Thursdays at Tessaron Martyron Square is fascinating for the variety of goods displayed by local farmers and producers. Keep an eye out for the Kokkinos brand of graviera cheese and for

instruments are made (and even buy one) at Stagakis (45 Hatzimichali Yiannari), a third-generation family-run shop that also serves as a mini-museum on Crete's musical heritage in general and the lyra in particular. Try Laiki, a local bazaar with street sellers offering food, cloths and old items three times a week in Rethymno specified streets.

“THE HIDDEN GEM OF CRETE.”

In the footpaths of history with a beautifully preserved old quarter and impressive Byzantine, Venetian and Ottoman monuments, this Cretan city is one of the loveliest in Greece and remains vibrant during the winter.

WHAT TO SEE

The Archeological Museum of Chania (28 Halidon), located in the church of the city's Venetian Franciscan Monastery, showcases important discoveries from Neolithic time through the Minoan period and all the way up to the Roman era. The Maritime Museum of Crete (Akti Kountourioti) is located in the entrance of Firka Fortresses. The Municipal Art Gallery (98-102 Halidon), whose permanent collection consists of more than 700 painting by Greek artists. Another must see is the Museum-Residence of Eleftherios Venizelos in the suburb of Halepa, where the great Greek statesman spent more than 30 years of his life. Also the fascinating Museum of Typography (Chania Industrial Park) is worth a visit for its old presses, tools, lithographs and rare books.



WHAT TO BUY

A stop at Carmela (7 Angelos) is a great idea, this is a showroom of a talented potter. They design and produce also original jewellery, as well as pottery using the terra sigillata method so as to resemble classic ancient Greek red and black vessels. The shop of Alexandra Manousakis (9 Potie) is a new arrival. Here the artist presents playful hand-painted ceramic wares inspired by Joan Miro & Yiannis Moralis, as well as Minoan motifs which are also used in a line of t-shirts. Giorgos Kokovlis, who hand crafts stone-ware pottery, is doing amazing work as well (12 Ethnikis Antistaseos, Vamvakopoulo) also operates as an open studio where guests can shape and fire their own ceramics under the guidance of the artist.



MADE IN CHANIA

At Pamako (16 Anagnosti Giannakaki tel. 0030 281051421), Androulakis holds olive oil tastings and tutorials at the packaging plant of his ward winning premium, organic extra virgin olive oil. Avoel (63 Deloyiannaki), today run by Lerakis, is a family business that cultivated the first avocados in Greece back in 1970s and now makes dips and dressings from the wonderful fruit. The Lafkas microbrewery (102 Kazantzaki tel. 0030 6945430402) is also fun to visit. This boutique brewery offers tours of the facilities and beer tastings. Manousakis Winery www.manousakiswinery.com is also a must see if you are a wine lover and wish to taste one of Crete's best wines.

"THE JEWEL OF CRETE."

One of Greece's most beautiful cities is also and attractive destination with a long and illustrious history, stunning architecture and a wonderful culinary heritage.

WHAT TO SEE

Knossos: The city at the heart of the Minoan civilisation. In the vast area of the palace complex, visitors can see the Little Palace, the House of Frescoes and the Throne Room. (Tel. 2810-231.940). The Heraklion Archaeological Museum comprises priceless treasures from the Minoan civilisation. Major exhibits include the Snake Goddess figurines, the Phaistos Disc, the frescoes “Bull-Leaping” and “La Parisienne”, and the ring of King Minos. (1 Xanthoudidou St, tel. 2810-279.000). The Historical Museum of Crete, whose exhibits date back to the Byzantine and medieval periods. Also on display are relics from the Cretan revolutions and a collection of Cretan folklore items. (27 Sofokli Venizelou Ave, tel. 2810-283.219, www.historical-museum.gr). **Koules :** The Venetian fortress was constructed between 1523 and 1540. The Venetian Wall, designed examples of fortification in the entire Mediterranean basin.



BEYOND THE CITY

Elia & Diosmos in Skalani (tel. 2810-731.283) takes modern Cretan cuisine to a whole new dimension. Chef Argyro Varda, whose creations have made her famous around the country, prepares a sensational “Minoan Lamb” dish using honey, onions, garlic, rosemary and ginger, while her veal with sweet pumpkin and fresh coriander is also fabulous. **Saradari** (Hersonisos, tel.28970.25375) has great grilled fish but also more creative dishes such as anchovy fillet marinated in tomato marmalade or handmade sioufichta pasta with octopus. **Onisimos** in Peza (tel. 2810-741.754) serves tender homemade smoked pork, a pie filled with 15 different types of greens from the restaurant’s own vegetable garden, as well as pork roasted in a wood-fired oven. This place prides itself for staying true to traditional recipes. In the lovely garden dining area at **Kritamon** in Archanes (tel. 2810- 753.092), consider the

fillet steak with tomato, sea fennel, capers, olives and feta cheese. Meat dishes, especially the perfectly grilled and juicy rib eye steak, are the specialties at **Dichalo** in Agriana (tel. 28970-24.000).

WHAT TO BUY & DRINK

Head off to the centre of Heraklion city, The lions square and you will be in the heart of Crete's shopping centre, with many international brands but also with a variety of local shops. **Fix** (Meramvellou & 2 Aretousas St) is a classic urban hangout which draws an eclectic crowd. The stylish **Trito bar** (3 Meramvellou St) hosts artistic events. Think tank espresso and wine bar (7 Ideou Antrou St) features three long monastery-style tables and while the bar is staffed with wine specialists. The coffee blends at **Miniatoura** (Archontopoulou & 11 Monis Odigitrias St) are exquisite. Refreshing cocktails and a large range of pizzas are served at **Hub** (21



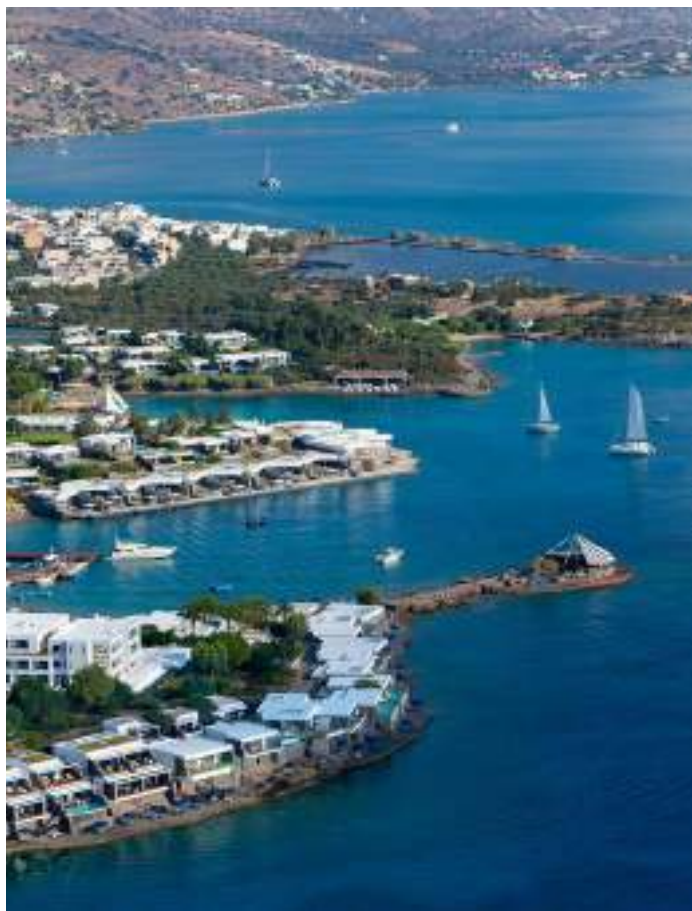
Kantanoleonotos St). **Opus wine bar** (3 Kapetan Haralambi St) also offers an impressive wine list. **Bitters Bar** (in the arcade at Lions Square) serves the best cocktails in town.

“THE COSMOPOLITAN CITY OF CRETE.”

a contemporary city on the awe-inspiring island of Crete. the sea, as well as the area's antiquities, excellent food and friendly, welcoming people make this part of Greece a delightful place to visit.

WHAT TO SEE

Heavenly chrissi (Gaidouronisi), an uninhabited island filled with cedar trees and sand, may be reached by boat from Ierapetra. A boat ride away from Makry Gialos, Koufonisi – not to be confused with the two small Cycladic islands of Koufonisia – features golden beaches with turquoise water, as well as significant ancient finds. One of these is an ancient theatre, but it is not yet open to the public. Spinalonga is known for having served as a leper colony until 1957. The remains of houses, the hospital, the school and a Venetian-era fort may be seen.



energy bars, pasteli (sesame and honey bars) and loukoumi.

SOCIAL SITIA

Built amphitheatrically around a broad seafront, Sitia features an important archaeological museum exhibiting artefacts from the wider region, including the renowned Palaikastro Kouros statuette. It is also worth exploring the Venetian-era kazarma fortress. oinodion (tel. 2843026166), a rakadiko bar (serving raki and meze dishes) and the Black Hole cocktail bar **are both**



MADE IN AGIOS NIKOLAOS

Stefanos Karachalios and his wife Yiota Fergadaki cultivate medicinal plants and herbs at their farm (tel. 2842041725), located just outside the village of Anatoli. It is open to visitors. The couple also produce wonderful herbal cosmetics under the Althaea brand and maintain ceramic beehives, inspired by ancient Minoan beekeeping methods. At Kritika Edesmata in the village of Kavousi, Markella Kourk-ouraki makes traditional sweets using local olive oil. Her xerotigana (fried pastries) and patouda (small pies filled with walnuts and honey) are superb. The Lagos grocery store on the central square in the village of Neapoli sells exceptional cheeses of the Agnotis brand produced by the Sylligardos family. At Evotry, a shop in Kavousi, owners Stefanos and Maria Kassotakis use grape must and petimezi (grape molasses) from sundried grapes to make wonderful, naturally sweet products, including preserves,

standout choices among the sea-front spots. The 15th-century toplou monastery, featuring a very interesting ecclesiastical museum, is located roughly 15km from the town.

“THE HOME OF ELOUNDA & SPINALONGA.”

Crete's eastern side. From the secluded, exotic beaches of the Xerokampos area, to the spectacular gorges, the luxurious resorts of Elounda and the countless tavernas serving authentic Cretan dishes, Lasithi, Crete's easternmost region, offers a complete travel experience.



Valia Kokkinou
*Founder & Chief Executive
 Officer of ThinkVilla*

“ My idea of bliss, is escaping the rat race and heading deep into the wild for a day with my family and friends, at the South coast of Crete for relaxation. For a unique morning we will stop at Imbros Gorge entrance for sfakiani pie and coffee. We will then walk it through with my family for around 2.5 hrs, ensuring I have all the essentials with me (water & snacks) and get a taxi back to the car parking location. We will then go to Fragkokastelo beach to swim away as it has shallow sandy beach ideal for my little ones. For lunch with fresh fish if available, or whatever they have that day (everything there tastes amazing) we will go at Peristeres beach Rodakino - Manolis Kantina/Taverna - a coastal hideaway and will sit under the shade of almirikia trees. Will then enjoy one of the most memorable evening swims and get a nap at the beach. It is a promising and immersive break that’s so much more than just a holiday.”



“My ideal day in Crete would be to voyage with my loved ones in Elounda. It revives memories safely stowed away and create a long lasting magical experience after it ends. I would start my day with a morning swim at the secluded Kolokitha Beach, a well hidden gem. Then will have lunch with seafood delicacies at Kanali Restaurant next to the sea. End up to Plaka Village for shisha and a negroni at the Isla-Bistrot cocktail bar, overlooking Spinalonga island. Will end my perfect day with “a cherry on top” dinner at Tavena Giovannis in Plaka with fresh fish and a bottle or more... of Gerovasiliou White Wine chilled (and I would book a sea side table a day or two in advance, cause I deserve it!)”



Maria Gkonta
*Development & Property
 Acquisition, Managing
 Director*





Alexandros Dordokidis
Property Specialist &
Customer Care Advisor

Crete is an exceptional vacation destination for wine enthusiasts due to its rich history, diverse terroir, and unique indigenous grape varieties. The island boasts a Mediterranean climate, which is perfect for cultivating grapes, and its rocky soils provide ideal conditions for producing high-quality wines with distinctive flavors and aromas. Furthermore, as the tradition says, a "remedy" to all the Rakomelo, which is traditional raki infused with honey. It can be served hot or cold up to your preferences and the period of the year you are visiting. By experience, hot or cold it is best enjoyed with "meze" (local, small portions of delicacies) and with good company.





Nikos Agaliotis
Property Specialist &
Customer Care Advisor

Crete is an ideal destination for those with a passion for gastronomy, as its culinary landscape offers a plethora of delectable options. Renowned for its Mediterranean diet, the island boasts an abundance of locally sourced, organic produce, including succulent olives, plump tomatoes, and aromatic herbs. Its cuisine showcases an eclectic blend of flavors influenced by its history and culture, with Ottoman, Venetian, and Greek influences evident in its dishes. From hearty stews and aromatic soups to fresh seafood and tender meats, Cretan cuisine is a mouthwatering journey through the island's history and culture. Additionally, the island is home to a vibrant food scene, with traditional tavernas and modern restaurants serving up innovative twists on classic Cretan dishes. Overall, Crete is a gastronomic paradise that is sure to satisfy the most discerning foodie.



Crete is an ideal family vacation destination due to its diverse and picturesque landscape, rich history and culture, and abundant recreational activities. This Greek island boasts pristine beaches, towering mountains, and charming villages, providing ample opportunities for outdoor exploration and adventure. The island is also home to numerous historical sites, such as the ancient Palace of Knossos, which can captivate both children and adults. Additionally, Crete offers a variety of family-friendly activities, including water sports, hiking, and horseback riding, as well as numerous child-friendly resorts and restaurants. Overall, Crete is a magnificent destination that can satisfy the interests of all members of a family, making it a perfect choice for a memorable and enjoyable vacation.



Olga Charchanti
Property Specialist &
Customer Care Advisor





Despina Magiafa
Property Curator &
Owner Consultant

“Escaping from the electric pace of every day world around us is something that we all crave. Spending a day in Triopetra Beach always allows me to take a step back and rejuvenate. It is by far one of the most incredible beaches on the south coast of Crete. Way off the beaten track but it's well worth the drive, as you will be impressed by it's clean & clear blue waters. Venture at Taverna Apothiki for a memorable local culinary experience.”



“My perfect day is a free-spirited rhythm through Chania unbeaten tracks. Gazing out to the sea “To kafeneio tis Kaitis” is the ideal spot to start the day with a coffee and local desserts. There is a street food station within walking distance for drinks and snacks at Kalami Kantina to grab&go for the way. Explore Apteras Castle overlooking the deep sea blue and head towards the incredible historical Gouverneto Monastery and hike your way also to the hidden Katholiko Monasteri in Akrotiri, Chania. For never - ending views an evening coffee to Kalathas beach is ideal for seeing away the day-sundown. Being greek, I cherish dinner, and there is no better refuge than Drosostalia Taverna in Armenoi - get ready for large portions, and order cautiously...!”



Giorgos Mainolas
Property Specialist &
Customer Care Advisor





Stelios Papadakis
Property Specialist &
Customer Care Advisor

Crete, the largest of the Greek islands, is an alluring destination that offers a wealth of opportunities for the intrepid exploration lover. Its rugged terrain, pristine beaches, and crystal-clear waters make it an ideal location for outdoor adventures such as hiking, snorkelling, diving and night life. Moreover, the island's rich history and culture provide ample opportunities to discover ancient ruins, archaeological sites, and museums that showcase the island's fascinating past. The island's unique flora and fauna also provide a rich tapestry for nature lovers to explore. With its rich heritage, stunning landscapes, and exciting activities, Crete is an exceptional vacation destination for anyone seeking to explore and experience the wonders of this captivating island.



Crete, the largest of the Greek islands, is a veritable paradise for those seeking an agricultural vacation experience. Known for its rich soil and ideal Mediterranean climate, Crete is a land of abundant crops and agricultural traditions that date back to ancient times.

Visitors can immerse themselves in the island's agricultural heritage by exploring its lush vineyards, olive groves, and fruit orchards, and sampling the delicious produce that is harvested here. The island's traditional farming practices, such as the use of donkeys and mules for transportation, provide a rare opportunity for visitors to witness the time-honored techniques that have sustained Cretan agriculture for centuries. Moreover, visitors can participate in activities such as wine tastings, olive oil production, and cheese making, to gain a deeper understanding of the island's culinary and agricultural traditions. With its rich agricultural history, picturesque landscapes, and delicious locally grown produce, Crete is an exceptional vacation destination for anyone seeking to experience authentic agricultural traditions.



Elia Klapsinou
Property Specialist &
Customer Care Advisor





Marianna Vasiliadi
Property Curator &
Owner Consultant

"Holidays matter. They are our lifeline to sanity, a chance to relax, to be the real us and reconnect with our loved ones. My ideal day will start with a drive to Agios Antonios Gorge (Patsos) for a morning memorable hike. I will then drive to Kournas Lake for sea bike and cherish a well deserved lunch at Kali Kardia Taverna. For the perfect sundown I will then end up to Bali Village, and allow the bartender at Sailors Cocktail Bar - to create for me a bespoke cocktail based on my favourite flavours. For the ideal day finale I will go to Psaropoula Taverna for a seafood treat."



"I crave variety, often fuelling the need to travel and discover life beyond the everyday. I am from Holland and decided to live in Crete as a lifestyle choice. Rethymno is a fascinating city and cherish my free days wondering around it. I would start my day cycling along Rethymno beach main road and stop at one of the beach bars and enjoy my morning Frappe coffee with ice cream, will then dive into the calm morning sea to rejuvenate. Will then rent a small motor boat (without captain) at the old venetian port to discover the coastline from the sea and sunbathe. Will fuel myself with a Brunch "meze style" at "Orfanotrofeio". Strolling around Rethymno old town, awakens memories and leave me usually with an empty wallet as I adore shopping. Just before sunset I will head towards fortezza for an evening walk and get ready for an early night drink at Ali Vafi's mystic garden."



Nikki Bekking
Property Specialist &
Customer Care Advisor



PRIMA FLORA RESTAURANT

Location: Rethymno, Address: Akrotiriou 4

Tel: +30 28310 56990, Operation hours: Daily from 13:00, Open: All Year

Website: www.primaploragr, Facebook: www.facebook.com/primaploragr

Cuisine: Creative Cretan, Mediterranean, Fish/Seafood,

Best for: Stunning Views, Seaside, Romance, Creative Cuisine

Price range: 20-30 €

Features: Outdoor Dining, Seaside Dining, Non-Smoking, Parking

This quirky restaurant, which means Bow and Stern, gives you that boathouse feeling with a (thankfully) not overdone nautical theme. Dining outside you can taste the salt air a breath away from the water's edge. Lots of first-class seafood like in a pilaff with saffron or fresh mussels in so many ways.



ALANA RESTAURANT

Location: Rethymno, Address: Salaminos 15, Old Town Rethymno

Tel: +30 2831027737, Operation hours: Daily from noon., Open: May to October

Website: www.alana-restaurant.gr, Facebook: www.facebook.com/alanarestaurant

Cuisine: Traditional Cretan, Mediterranean,

Best for: Ambiance, Special Occasions, Creative Cuisine

Price range: 15-25 €

Features: Outdoor Dining, Non-Smoking, Credit Cards accepted

Enjoy lovely courtyard dining in the historic old town with plenty of cool, soothing vegetation. The menu is harmonious mix of Creative Greek and Mediterranean cuisines. Try the "Taste Nest" salad with rucola, red cabbage, currants and walnuts with a honey-balsamic dressing all in a phyllo pastry nest.



THALASSOGRAFIA RESTAURANT

Location: Rethymno, Address: Kefalogiannidon 33

Tel: +30 28310 52569, Operation hours: Daily from 12:00, Open: May to October

Cuisine: Mediterranean, Greek,

Best for: Stunning Views

Price range: 10-20 €

Features: Outdoor Dining, Non-Smoking

Superb position with cascading terraces nestling high on the hillside between the old harbour and the Fortezza. The name means "seascapes", which is apropos since the owner is a well-known local artist. Menu offerings are primarily Cretan with some twists, as well as fresh fish, seafood and refreshing salads. Come for the view and the overall fresh feeling.



AVLI RESTAURANT

Location: Rethymno, Address: XANTHOUDIDOU 22

Tel: +30 28310 58250, Operation hours: Daily from 12:00., Open: April to October

Website: www.avli.gr, Facebook: www.facebook.com/AVLI.Rethymno

Cuisine: Traditional Cretan, Creative Cretan, Mediterranean

Best for: Ambiance, Special Occasions, Organic/Sustainable, Creative Cuisine

Price range: 20-35 €

Features: Outdoor Dining, Non-Smoking, Catering

Set in a magnificent 1530's Venetian villa with an impressive, romantic multi-tiered courtyard, Avli may well be one of the finest restaurants on the island of Crete. The eclectic interior décor, art collection and table settings all add to the unique ambiance. The cuisine is innovative Cretan,



HASIKA RESTAURANT

Location: Rethymno, Address: Agias Varvaras 11-13 Old town
Tel: +30 28310 56990, Operation hours: Daily from 13:00, Open: All Year
Cuisine: Creative Cretan, Upscale Meze Style
Best for: Experiencing local flavours, Old town exploration
Price range: 15-25 €
Features: Outdoor Dining

Hasika (in Greek “Χάσικα”) is a Cretan gourmet restaurant that raises the culinary standards of the city of Rethymno. It offers small meze-style dishes that are easily shared, based on local ingredients. The place has a warm and cozy ambience and combines traditional with modern elements in its decor.



TO SPITI TOU POLIOU RESTAURANT

Location: Rethymno, Address: Asteri
Tel: +30 28310 71771, Operation hours: Daily from 13:00,
Website: www.poliouhouse.com
Open: All Year Cuisine: Creative Cretan, Upscale Meze Style
Best for: Experiencing local flavours, Eat like a local
Price range: 11-20 €
Features: Outdoor Dining, Village sceneries

A tavern dedicated to the tradition and the Mediterranean spirit, a folklore museum that travels you to the Crete of yesterday, a family that embraces you as if you are an integral part of it! Wonderful recipes, cooked with love and pure ingredients! Dishes unique for the lovers of good food!



ALEKOS TAVERNA

Location: Rethymno, Address: Village of Armeni
Tel: +30 28310 41185, Operation hours: Daily from 12:00, Open: All Year
Cuisine: Traditional Cretan, Greek/Cretan, Best for: Value for Money, Families
Price range: 11-20 €
Features: Outdoor Dining, Non-Smoking

This former Kafeneion in the village of Armeni, 10km south of Rethymno on the way to the south coast has quite a reputation, despite its humble demeanour. Authentic, slow-cooked foods of yesteryear is what you'll find here. Most of the time you don't even order- they will simply bring you what they have. Trust them. If you are extra lucky that day, they will have their famous rabbit stifado.



SAMARIA TAVERN

Location: Rethymno, Address: Venizelou
Operation hours: 24h, Open: All Year
Cuisine: Cretan, Best for: Value for Money, Families
Price range: 5-10 €
Features: outside

Samaria Taverna is on Venizelou, the main road running along the sea front from the harbour to the marina. There are loads of restaurants and bars along here but Samaria is worth a stop if you are looking for straight forward Greek food, friendly service, and reasonable prices. As an added bonus they don't seem to bother people as they go past - unlike most of the other places! A lot of locals have their lunch here.



HARRI'S CREPPERIE

Location: Old Town Rethymno, Address: 10 Messologiou street
Tel : 0030 2831022900, Operation hours: after 12:00, Open: All Year
Cuisine: Crepes, Pizza
Best for: Couples, Families
Price range: 5-10

If you are down town and you would like to have a crepe you could taste Harri's. It is one of the best ones in town and has a variety of sweet and savoury options. If you have dreamed it you should have it!



NOBLE LOUNGE CAFE

Location: Rethymno, Address: Aggelou Sikelianou 1
Tel: 0030 2831058383, Operation hours: All day! Open: All Year
Cuisine: Crepes & Drinks, Sweets, Snacks
Best for: Couples, Families
Price range: 5-10

This is a wonderful recommended spot to enjoy. Overlooking the sandy beach of Rethymno supplemented with sun-beds. Either for a short coffee break, sweet treats, breakfast, lunch & dinner, or a drink.



CAVO BAR & RESTAURANT

Location: Rethymno, Address: Akrotiriou 13, Rethymno
Tel : 0030 2831036700, Web Site : www.cavorethymno.gr
Operation hours: All day! Open: All Year
Cuisine: Drinks & Food
Best for: Couples , Families
Price range: 10-20

Rethymnon restaurant CAVO in Crete, located at the edge of the town overlooking Fortezza castle and the Mediterranean sea, offers Lunch and Evening meals with exciting Gastronomic food suggestions. Eat, Drink, Lounge from noon (13:00) till late night at the most ideal Summer destination in Rethymnon!



LIVING ROOM LOUNGE CAFE

Location: Rethymno, Address: Elefteriou Venizelou 5
Tel : 0030 2831021386
Web Site: Operation hours: All day! Open: All Year
Cuisine: Crepes & Drinks, Sweets, Snacks
Best for: Couples , Families
Price range: 5-15

Amazing ambience in one of the hottest spots in Rethymno! ... Living Room Lounge Cafe is situated directly on the promenade of the Old Venetian Harbour. You may find a variety of coffees, drinks as well as snacks, finger food , salads and cold dishes while admiring one of the best views in town.



QUEENS ROOM BAR - RESTAURANT

Location: Rethymno, Address: Eleftheriou Venizelou 11

Telephone : 0030 697 2822122

Operation hours: after 10:00

Open: All Year

Cuisine: Drinks, Sweets, Snacks

Best for: Couples, Families

Price range: 10-20

If you are down town and you would like to have a drink you could explore Queens Room Bar. It is one of the best ones in town.



MELI - PASTRY SHOP

Location: Rethymno, Address: Sofokli Venizelou ave & Panagiotaki str

Telephone : 0030 28310 35630, Operation hours: after 09:00, Open: All Year

Cuisine: Ice Cream, Desserts and Coffee/Tea

Best for: Coupleas, Families

Price range: 3-7

The best, fresh, home-made ice cream in town. A wide selection of tastes, produced with goat milk. Sorbets, traditional sweets, cakes, waffles and coffee are also available. You can either sit in or take away.



ANDROULAKIS TAVERNA

Location: Gonia - Rethymno, Address: Gonia Village

Telephone : 0030 2831 031282, Operation hours: after 12:00, Open: All Year

Cuisine: Local Cuisine

Best for: Couples , Families

Price range: 12-15

A warm family taverna with exquisite regional cuisine. 100 years now the history of traditional Cretan cuisine is written with passion, taste, flavour, love and care from the Androulidaki family in their restaurant in Gonia village. In a warm and hospitable environment the smells of Cretan nature are mixed with the fragrance of genuine homemade dishes and waiting for you to enjoy.



PEPERONCINO

Location: Rethymno, Address: 45 Eleftheriou Venizelou str.

Telephone : 0030 2831 024776, Operation hours: after 12:00, Open: All Year

Cuisine: Italian Cuisine

Best for: Couples , Families

Price range: 12-15

Located in a central location, on the main street along the beach of Rethymno stop by at the end of your evening walk to the new beach of Rethymno. Simple and lovely place, with tasty pasta and pizza dishes.



FERRYMAN RESTAURANT

Location: Elounda, Address: Akti Olountos, Schisma Elountas
 Tel: +30 2841 041230, Operation hours: Daily from 12:00, Open: All Year
 Cuisine: Seafood, Mediterranean, Greek
 Best for: Experiencing local flavours
 Price range: 18-25 € Features: Outdoor Dining

Cooking techniques of the past are revived at Ferryman, located at the port of Elounda and run by chef Yiannis Baxevanis. Regional products are used to prepare items such as bread made with barley and carob, and ice cream made with sheep's milk. The goat casserole with tomato, slow-cooked for four to five hours; the chicken stuffed with sweet onions; and the hortopita (a pie made with wild greens cooked on hot coals) are the menu highlights.

**PELAGOS SEA SIDE RESTAURANT**

Location: Ierapetra, Lasithi, Address: Koutsounari, Ierapetra
 Tel: +30 2842 061263, Operation hours: Daily from 12:00, Open: All Year
 Cuisine: Cretan & Greek
 Best for: Experimented local flavours
 Price range: 15-20 €
 Features: Outdoor Dining

With breathtaking views to the Libyan sea, this award winning restaurant is a must visit whilst you are in the area of Ierapetra. It is a culinary diamond, bright and ethereally tasteful. Try out the crispy local shrimps, stifado with kaneloni and rabbit, lamb onto and soft feta. The desserts are perfect also, so keep some space for them as well.

**PIPERIA RESTAURANT**

Location: Pefki, Address: Epar.Od. Ierapetras - Sitias 402, Pefki
 Tel: +30 693 677 5069, Operation hours: Daily from 12:00, Open: All Year
 Cuisine: Creative Cretan
 Best for: Experiencing local flavours
 Price range: 15-20 €
 Features: Outdoor Dining

A taverna run by Fanis Ikosipentakis in picturesque Pefki, located above the bay of Makry Gialos, is legendary. Cretan culinary delights include the spot's top-selling paraxeni ("strange") salad, made with greens, pomegranate, cherry tomatoes and house balsamic vinegar; delicious stuffed courgette flowers; as well as small pies filled with eight types of sautéed wild greens.

**AGIA PARASKEVI TAVERNA**

Location: Selakano, Address: Agia Paraskevi, Ierapetra
 Tel: +30 2842 091316, Operation hours: Daily from 12:00, Open: All Year
 Cuisine: Authentic Cretan cuisine
 Best for: Experiencing local flavours
 Price range: 15-20 €
 Features: Outdoor Dining

A unique taverna (tel. 28420-91.316), run by Yiannis Karalakis in Christos in the Selakano area, ranks as one of the best culinary experiences on the island. Tables are set under plane trees at the square, while full-blooded Cretan recipes such as goat with beans, boiled mutton pilaf and snails with wild mustard greens and potatoes are cooked in fireplaces and in a wood-fired oven.



PORTO PARASSIRIS

Location: Rethymno, Address: Panormo Village
 Telephone : 0030 694 243 7976, Operation hours : after 12:00, Open: All Year
 Cuisine : Fresh Fish and Sea food
 Best for: Couples , Families
 Price range: 15- 20

If you are in Panormo village it is worth to taste Porto Parasiris Restaurant for fresh fish or meat in reasonable prices.



KALI KARDIA RESTAURANT

Location: Rethymno, Address: Kournas Lake - Village
 Telephone : 0030 28250 96278, Operation hours : after 12:00, Open: All Year
 Cuisine : Delicious Meat Selection, Local Cuisine
 Best for: Couples , Families
 Price range: 15- 20

Traditional taverna, very close to Kournas Lake with wonderful salads, a variety of meze and delicious meat. Make a day out of it and combine your visit to the beautiful landscape of the Lake and on your way back enjoy your meal at Kali Kardia!



TA SOUVLAKIA TOU GAGANI

Location: Rethymno, Address: Atsipopoulo Village
 Telephone : 0030 2831031305, Operation hours: after 19:00, Open: All Year
 Cuisine : BEST Souvlaki in Crete
 Best for: Couples, Families
 Price range: 10- 15

If you want to enjoy the favourite street food of the greeks, there is no better place than this one. Located next to a Church at a square, this is the favourite of all locals. Ensure to call and book and table as it gets fully booked after 20:30 with local late dinners. Try out the eggs speciality and the lamp or pork souvlaki and for sure try the French fries homemade by the grandmother of the owner. You are in for a real treat !



KAMPOS TAVERNA

Location: Achlades - Rethymno, Address: Achlades Village - Mylopotamos
 Telephone : 0030 6979778516, Operation hours : after 12:00, Open: All Year
 Cuisine: Cretan Local
 Best for: Couples , Families
 Price range: 10-15

A warm family taverna with great regional cuisine.



SALIS RESTAURANT

Location: Chania, Address: Akti Enoseos 3, Old Harbor
 Tel: +30 28210 44345, Website: www.salischania.com,
 Operation hours: Daily from 12:00, Open: All Year
 Cuisine: Creative Cretan, Upscale Style, Experimental
 Best for: Experiencing local flavours
 Price range: 15-20€ Features: Outdoor Dining

They take pride of being the best restaurant in Chania and working only with local products and products, this restaurant is a must go to. With an extensive wine list of 900 plus wines you can rest assured to have one of the best meals ever. Their menus are seasonal. Make a reservation as usually if just turn up to dine you might not get an available table.

**KARNAGIO RESTAURANT**

Location: Chania, Address: Pl. Katechaki 8
 Tel: +30 2821 044345, Operation hours: Daily from 12:00, Open: All Year
 Cuisine: Creative Greek, Upscale Meze Style
 Best for: Experiencing local flavours, Dine by the sea
 Price range: 15-20€
 Features: Outdoor Dining

Creative Greek, best describes Karnagio, whose outdoor dining area, under the shade of a huge plane, is truly wonderful. It looks out into the imposing Grand Arsenal and the marina of the old harbour. They produce dishes that are ingenious blends of modern greek food with fusion notes and injections of classic cretan cuisine.

**GLOSSITSES RESTAURANT**

Location: Chania, Address: Akti Enoseos
 Tel: +30 2821 059074, Operation hours: Daily from 12:00, Open: All Year
 Cuisine: Fish and Seafood
 Best for: Experiencing local flavours, Dine by the sea
 Price range: 15-20 €
 Features: Outdoor Dining

For fish and seafood with a creative twist, a must visit is Glossitses. Great service and wonderful views. Just by the old harbour of Chania, enjoy seafood at its best with a raki or a glass of wine. Vegan risotto is also offered.

**DON ROSARIO RESTAURANT**

Location: Chania, Address: Platani, Souda
 Tel: +30 2821 023663, Operation hours: Daily from 12:00, Open: All Year
 Cuisine: Sicilian Italian Cuisine
 Best for: Lobster Pasta and overall pasta at its best!
 Price range: 15-20€, Features: Outdoor Dining

For the best Italian flavours in Crete just visit Don Rosario, after all it is Anetokoumpo favourite ! Love this authentic Italian restaurant located next to the highway close to Souda, hidden behind trees and nature, Don Rosario is a delightful surprise. All pasta are home made, and the taste is leaving no doubt that this was prepared by a true Italian chef. Also recommendable is their wines, which at an affordable rate, is very high quality. Worth a visit!



TO STACHI

Tel: +30 2821042589 Operation hours: Daily from 12:00, Open: All Year

Cuisine: Creative Cretan, Authentic style

Best for: Experiencing local flavours

Price range: 15-20€ Features:Outdoor Dining

**SERENISSIMA RESTAURANT**

Tel: +30 2821086386, Operation hours: Daily from 12:00, Open: All Year

Website: <http://serenissima.gr/restaurant/>

Cuisine: Creative Greek, Fine Dining

Best for: Rossini burger with foie gras

Price range: 18-35€

Features:Outdoor Dining

**PALLAS**

Location: Chania, Address: Akti Enoseos

Tel: +30 2821045688, Operation hours: Daily from 12:00, Open: All Year

Website: <http://www.pallaschania.gr/>

Cuisine: Mediterranean, Greek, European

Best for: Beef fillet, accompanied by baby potatoes, mushrooms, smoked pancetta, and grilled asparagus

Price range: 18-30 €

Features:Outdoor Dining

**OINOA WINE RESTAURANT**

Tel: +30 2821094330, Operation hours: Daily from 12:00, Open: All Year

Cuisine: Mediterranean, Delicatessen, European

Best for: Mussels with Kozani yolk sauce

Price range: 15-20€, Features:Outdoor Dining



7 THALASSES RESTAURANT

Location: Heraklion

Address: Irakleitou & 1 Irodotou St, in the Municipal Park, N. Alikarnassos

Tel: +30 2810-342.945, Operation hours: Daily from 12:00, Open: All Year

Cuisine: Seafood & Mediterranean Cuisine

Best for: Experiencing local flavours

Price range: 18-25€

Features: Outdoor Dining

Excellent Mediterranean cuisine. The squid with pistachio pesto is a must. It is considered the best seafood restaurant in town. It also has exceptional sushi !

**PESKESI RESTAURANT**

Location: Heraklion, Address: Kapetan Charalambi 6-8, Tel: +30 281 028 8887,

Website : <https://peskesicrete.gr/en>, Operation hours: Daily from 12:00, Open: All Year

Cuisine: Authentic Cretan Cuisine, Best for: Experiencing local flavours

Price range: 15-20 € Features: Outdoor Dining

Peskesi Restaurant is an effort to discover the secrets and enjoy the benefits of the Cretan Diet. Our cuisine is based on pure and natural products of the Cretan land and our aim is to highlight the traditional Cretan aromas and flavours that have been forgotten. Their cuisine is based solely on traditional recipes, fresh ingredients from the Cretan soil and the principles of the Authentic Cretan Cuisine, a cuisine full of traditional tastes, aromas and ingredients, which dates back to prehistoric times and still continues to exist.

**LOUKOULOS RESTAURANT**

Location: Heraklion, Address: 5 Korai St.

Tel: +30 2810-224.435, Operation hours: Daily from 12:00, Open: All Year

Cuisine: Cretan Cuisine

Best for: Experiencing local flavours

Price range: 15-20 €

Features: Outdoor Dining

When it opened in 1991, this restaurant brought gourmet gastronomy to the city for the first time and it remains a magnet for those seeking fine dining today. Its menu is a mixture of Mediterranean and Cretan cuisine and all the ingredients are locally sourced.

**LADOKOLLA RESTAURANT**

Location: Heraklion, Address: 18 Agiou Ti- tou St.

Tel: +30 2810-256.391, Operation hours: Daily from 12:00, Open: All Year

Cuisine: Creative Cretan Cuisine

Best for: Experiencing local flavours

Price range: 15-20 €

Features: Outdoor Dining

Customers here dine at tables on a beautiful, quiet square. Mediterranean creative cuisine.



ΛΙΓΟ ΚΡΑΣΙ ΛΙΓΟ ΘΑΛΑΣΣΑ

Tel: +30 281030050, Operation hours: Daily from 12:00, Open: All Year

Website: <https://www.ligokrasiligothalassa.gr/>

Cuisine: Seafood & Mediterranean Cuisine

Best for: Experiencing local flavours

Price range: 18-25€

Features: Outdoor Dining

**MERASTRI**

Tel: +30 2810221910, Operation hours: Daily from 12:00, Open: All Year

Cuisine: Authentic Cretan Cuisine,

Best for: Experiencing local flavours

Price range: 15-20 € Features: Outdoor Dining

**SARADARI RESTAURANT**

Tel: +30 2897025375, Operation hours: Daily from 12:00, Open: All Year

Website: <http://www.saradari.com/>

Cuisine: Cretan Cuisine

Best for: Experiencing local flavours

Price range: 15-25 €

Features: Outdoor Dining

**ERGANOS**

Tel: +30 2810285629, Operation hours: Daily from 12:00, Open: All Year

Cuisine: Creative Cretan Cuisine

Best for: Experiencing local flavours

Price range: 15-20 €

Features: Outdoor Dining





Adelianos Kampos Beach
Rethymno



Rethymno Beach
Rethymno



Episkopi Beach
Rethymno



Panormo Beach
Rethymno



Bali Beach
Rethymno



Geropotamos Beach
Rethymno



Plakias Beach
Rethymno



Kalivaki Beach
Rethymno



Damnoni Beach, Plakias Area
Rethymno



Preveli Beach
Rethymno



Rodakino Beach
Rethymno



Sxinaria Beach
Rethymno



Triopetra Beach
Rethymno



Agia Galini Beach
Rethymno



Georgioupoli Beach
Chania



Pachia Ammos Beach
Chania



Kalyves Beach
Chania



Loutraki Beach
Chania



Seitan Limania Beach
Chania



Balos Beach, Gramvousa
Chania



Livadi Beach
Chania



Fragkokastelo Beach
Chania



Falassarna Beach
Chania



Elafonisi Beach
Chania



Gouves Beach
Heraklion



Malia Beach
Heraklion



Matala Beach
Heraklion



Agiofarago Beach
Heraklion



Kolokitha Beach
Lasithi



Vai Beach
Lasithi



Plaka Beach
Lasithi



Elounda Beach
Lasithi



Koufonissi Island
Lasithi



Xerokambos Beach
Lasithi



Voulisma Beach
Lasithi



Chrissi Island
Lasithi



BAJA BEACH CLUB

Location: Rethymno
 Address: Chiou Str. Platanias - Rethymno
 Tel: +30 6972822111, Open: All Day
 Cuisine: Unique Sea front dinning experience and Vegan Specialities
 (Cocktails & Drinks)
 Price range: 10-15 €
 Web Site: www.bajabeach.gr



AIOLOS BEACH BAR RESTAURANT

Location: Rethymno
 Address: Skaleta - Rethymno
 Tel: +30 690 700 6681
 Open: All Day
 Cuisine: Regional Cuisine with Mediterranean flavours (Cocktails & Drinks)
 Price range: 10-15 €



KYMA BEACH BAR RESTAURANT

Location: Rethymno
 Address: Episkopi - Rethymno
 Tel: +30 2831 061121
 Open: All Day
 Cuisine: Regional Cuisine with Mediterranean flavours (Cocktails & Drinks)
 Price range: 10-12 €



BLUE LAGOON BEACH BAR

Location: Rethymno
 Address: Adelianos Kampos - Rethymno
 Tel: +30 693 700 3481
 Open: All Day
 Cuisine: Regional Cuisine with Mediterranean flavours (Cocktails & Drinks)
 Price range: 10-12 €



THE SAILORS ALL DAY BAR

Location: Rethymno
 Address: Bali Port
 Tel: +30 6948462444
 Open: All Day
 Cuisine: Breakfast, Juices, Snacks and best cocktails in the area!
 Price range: 10-12 €
 Web Site : www.thesailorsbar.gr



BANANA BEACH BAR

Location: Rethymno
 Address: Adelianos Kampos - Rethymno
 Tel: +30 694 695 9230
 Open: All Day
 Cuisine: Regional Cuisine with Mediterranean flavours (Cocktails & Drinks)
 Price range: 10-12 €



HEAVEN BEACH

Tel: +30 2810823125, Open: All Day

Cuisine: Unique Sea front dinning experience and Vegan Specialities
(Cocktails & Drinks)

Price range: 10-15 €

Web Site: <https://www.heavenbeach.gr/en/catalog/>



CICADA SEASCAPE EXPERIENCE

Tel: +30 2817001222

Open: All Day

Cuisine: Breakfast, Juices, Snacks and best cocktails in the area!

Price range: 10-15 €

Website: <https://cicada-seascape.gr/>



KAHLUA PREMIUM BEACH BAR

Tel: +30 2897022000

Open: All Day

Cuisine: Regional Cuisine with Mediterranean flavours

Price range: 10-12 €

Website : <https://www.kahluahotel.com/beach-bar-hersonissos>



NEMO BEACHBAR

Tel: +30 2897031865

Open: All Day

Cuisine: Regional Cuisine

Price range: 10-12 €

Website: <https://nemobeachbar.weebly.com/>



AMMOS & ILIOS

Tel: +30 2821060045

Open: All Day

Cuisine: Breakfast, Juices, Snacks and best cocktails in the area!

Price range: 10-12 €

Web Site : <https://goo.gl/maps/S116smkvwgQJLQmP9>



ALMIRA BEACH BAR

Tel: +30 2821084960

Open: All Day

Cuisine: Breakfast, Juices, Snacks and best cocktails in the area!

Price range: 10-12 €

Website: <https://almirachania.gr/>

MITATO HOME

There is a very big mythology around the notion of the shepherd on the island of crete. They are considered people that have their own perception on life, authority, honor, social life and so on. What is more important though in the notion of the shepherd, that is undoubtedly outside the realms of mythology, is their perception of hospitality and dedication to traditions that last for generations. One of these traditions is the Mitato. The Mitato is the house of the shepherd on the mountain between the months of April and October. In order to understand Crete and its food you have to understand the people and their habits. In Crete the spirit is born in the mountains and is poured in the blue Cretan sea. The



Mitato was made with love and respect to tradition from Giorgos Kokkinos and has prepared for you an authentic lunch like you have never tasted before. It is a must do experience whilst in Crete. For reservations contact us directly contact@thinkvilla.gr or contact@greatcrete.com

HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoy home-grown and roasted coffee with regional delights.
- Watch and learn how to prepare a “mystic recipe”.
- Purchase souvenirs deli produce to take home.
- Savour a memorable lunch on the mountains within more than 10 courses and experience the true Cretan cuisine.
- Discover off beaten tracks and exceptional sites, enjoy panoramic views.

- Take a tour with only six guests on board, as we want to keep it small like a family.

INCLUDES:

Pick up / Drop off service
Transportation / Taxes / Passengers Insurance

- Museum Entrance Fee
- Local Multilingual Guide / Food Specialist
- Snack (coffee, tea, pancakes, local delicacies)
- Lunch : 10 course meal (vegetarian options)
- Semi-Private Tour (maximum 12 people on board)



“GREAT CRETE, AUTHENTIC
CULINARY EXPERIENCE.”





CYCLING AND HIKING

One of the best activities to do in crete is hiking or cycling among the beautiful mountains of Crete.

For the best tours visit: www.bikemap.net and we can support you with hiring a bike as well!

For the best Hiking location visit: <http://www.hiking-crete.com>



DIVING & SNORKELLING

Beautiful diving sites, such as bottom with huge rocks, steep reefs for multilevel diving, vertical reefs with deep bottom, a maze of rocks, small caves, can be found in various locations. There you can see the different inhabitants of the Mediterranean underwater world like: sea grass, colourful sponges, various fish, lobsters, sea stars and many more. Snorkelling in Bali Village is a wonderful experience also!



TENNIS & OTHER SPORTS

Crete offers a wide variety of tennis courts, mini golf, basketball, mini soccer and many many beach volley locations. Let us know which sport activities you are interested and we would be delighted to recommend you the best locations.



HORSE RIDING

Crete offers splendid opportunities for horse-back riding and Zoraïda's Horse-Riding lets you taste the finest! From hourly rides to full equestrian holidays, always an experience and for many the highlight of their holidays. Crete welcomes YOU!



WATER SPORTS

Ikarus Water Sports is located next to Rethymno Marina. We have been offering high quality water sport activities since 1989. Our service provides professional equipment with high safety standards.

Jet ski and jet ski safari, flyboard, parasailing, water skiing, kite surfing are just a few of our water activities. We care about our customers that's why safety for us comes first. Our facilities also include a lifeguard watch all day long and our equipment is checked daily by our qualified staff.



BOAT TRIPS & DAILY EXCURSIONS

Private boat trips: to various destinations are available and is a recommended way of exploring the magnificent beaches and coastline.

Excursions : Visit the well known destinations like Elafonisi, Arkadi, Eleftherna, Samaria Gorge and many more. Organised excursions, with an experienced guide. Customised excursions can also be held.

WATER PARKS:

Limnoupolis Water Park in Chania (www.limnoupolis.gr) is ideal for a fun day with your children and friends.

Additionally, two more water parks, Acqua Plus (www.acquaplus.gr) and Water City (www.watercity.gr), can be found near Hersonissos area, outside Heraklion, equally good and fun!



AQUARIUM:

Cretaquarium, one of the largest and most modern aquariums in Europe, located in the northwest corner of the former American base at Gournes, in Heraklion is worth visiting. The aquarium was founded as part of the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research and it's totally worth a visit. The Mediterranean sea world, its species and habitats come to life along a spectacular route that takes approximately 2 hours to view in full.

Cretaquarium also offers an individual audioguide system (a small hand-held device) in 9 languages (Greek, English, French, German, Italian, Dutch, Russian, Czech and Polish). Website: <http://www.cretaquarium.gr/>

CHILDREN TOURISM:

Enargon Eco Tourism Village in Rethymno. (www.enargon.gr) is ideal for a fun day with your children to explore the Cretan diet and nutrition. Also a visit to the Medieval Monastery of Halepa or an excursion to the

Village of Axos will be a day to remember. Meet the local animals.

Another fun thing to do in Crete with a toddler is Dinosauria Park, an outdoor sculpture park that offers kids the chance to experience a unique, prehistoric family adventure! www.dinosauriapark.com

Agreco Farm : Shaped by hand, every stone at Agreco preserves the delicate balance between man and nature. The farm and its buildings stand in perfect harmony with the landscape. In the farm you will find an Olive Press, a Watermill, a Wood-burning Oven, a General Store, a Wine Cellar, Workshops, a Church and Guesthouses. <https://www.agreco.gr> Another great location to explore for our little friends is <https://www.rethimnokart.gr> with great playground area and activities for kids. It is the ultimate entertainment place for them.



"CHILDREN'S TOP CHOICES."

There are so many things to do in Crete with families and it is often voted one of the most popular and safe destinations for family holidays. Crete is known for its rich culture and amazing scenery. You will discover stunning sunny beaches with crystal clear waters, rocky coves in idyllic landscapes, endless groves, delicious food and of course, the unsurpassed Cretan hospitality.

OLIVE OIL & HERBS:

Today it is believed that olive oil is the secret of the cretan diet and the locals longevity. Instead of butter try in your meals... wholemeal bread or dried bread soaked in Cretan virgin olive oil! You can fragrance it by adding a cretan herb or a combination of your favourite herbs. It will be the best, the healthiest and the most delicious meal ever. Herbs grow everywhere, in the mountains, in farming areas and in coastal areas. Some of them are



endemic and have been known since the ancient times for their remedial properties. Nowadays, their use is somehow limited, but everybody drinks a herb tea in winter (sage, malotira tea or dittany). Don't forget that the exquisite taste of the Cretan dishes is owing to the use of aromatic herbs. Local herbs also include : Oregano, Myrtle, Ladania, Mint and many more.

MORE:

Raki or Tsikoudia is a local cretan distilled alcoholic drink which visitors are offered as a welcoming gesture or at the end of the meal as a digestive. The cretan raki is not just a local product. It is an intrinsic part of the identity of the local culture and expresses cretan hospitality. Cretans eat more sheep and goat meat than beef or pork. Andikristo is a quite remarkable tradition of roasting lamb and goat meat, mostly followed in mainland Crete and rooted in the shepherds' roasting methods while they resided at the mitata - Try Great Crete Excursion to explore the authenticity of the

dish. Snails "Chochlioi" (i.e. snails in the Cretan dialect) are a very particular trademark Cretan delicacy. Honey along with olive oil are probably the flagship of cretan argo products. Ensure to get one at the beginning of your stay and enjoy it daily during breakfast. Remember to take a couple of vases more back home ! Crete is also very rich in fruits and vegetables and you can find shops in every corner. Also during summer time local producers have kiosks on the main road. Stop over and buy - they come directly from the source.



CHEESE & CURED MEAT & WINE:

The consumption of cheese in crete is the highest in the world. Maybe the Cretans are right. They don't regard food as a medicine, they know how to enjoy its taste. And the taste of the Cretan cheese (gruyere, kefalograviera, kefalotiri, sweet or sour mizithra) and the rest of the dairy products is unsurpassed. Kokkinos cheese brand is one of the very best! Apaki and Siglina are speciality smoke - cured pork cuts and vinegar sausages make for excellent tidbits in the cretan menu. Crete has indigenous grape varieties, like Vilana, Liatiko, Mantilari and the most famous production areas are Archanes, Peza, Monofatsi, Sitia, Kydonia, Kisamos. Any wine from those regions you may choose will compete with any famous European wine region and it will cost you less ! Compliment them with the famous rusk from Crete "Paksimadi" topped with shaved tomato, feta, oregano and olive oil.

"PRODUCTS ONLY FROM CRETE."

The traditional Cretan cuisine is considered one of the healthiest in the world. The abundance and the variety of the products of the island through centuries has created a cuisine with unique taste, freshness and originality.

CRETAN MUSIC:

During feasts and celebrations, locals and visitors get involved with the special musical culture of Crete. Cretan music is considered the most vibrant in Greece, because it not only continues to evolve and incorporate creative contemporary musical features, but it also manages to express modern reality.

Improvisation is one of the characteristics of Cretan



artists. Musicians are not limited to repeating basic melodies, but enrich their playing with improvisations that accompany dancers, who in turn spontaneously contrive new moves. Mantinades, small poems, reflect the emotions of Cretans and express sorrow, love and any feeling that arises from the sensitive Cretan soul. One of the most impressive “scenes” during a typical Cretan feast, is when two or more improvisers exchange mantinades for hours.

CRETAN DANCES:

The development of dances and the development of music in the course of time were closely connected. The Cretan dances have their roots in the Minoan times. Contrary to the “syrtos”, which is danced in a large circle, the “sousta” is danced in couples. It is an erotic and vigorous dance, which is danced almost on the tip of the toes. Traditional dances, during which men and women wear the superb Cretan costumes, include slow and swift rhythms, always with dynamic and imposing postures.

The direct connection of Cretan dances with war dances is evident, particularly if they are danced in a circle by a group of men. Following the rhythm of the lyre, the dancers gradually improve their technique, while they perform the difficult steps of dances like ‘Pentozalis’, ‘Syrtos’ and ‘Pidichtos’. The dancer who leads the circle, usually a man, is supported by the right hand of the second dancer and is thus able to perform excellent leaps, the so-called “tsalimia”.

CRETAN LYRA:

The basic instrument of Cretan music, the Cretan lyre, first made its appearance in the 17th century, while playing the lyre became popular in the 18th century. Of course, the initial shape of the instrument was slightly different from that of the modern lyre, which was designed in 1940 by Manolis Stagakis from Rethymno. The lyre, which is in the shape of a pear, used to be accompanied by the “boulgari” and later by the “laouto”, the lute, which is still used today.

Both the sound and shape of the Cretan lyre and the traditional songs were improved after World War II; undoubtedly the lyre players of Rethymno played an



important role in this development. During that period Kostas Mountakis and Thanassis Skordalos, both from Rethymno, contributed to the international recognition of the traditional Cretan music in the following decades. Other skilled artists like Manolis Lagos, Andreas Rodinos and Stelios Foustalieris helped to establish the traditional Cretan music.

“MUSIC TRADITION & THE CRETAN DANCE.”

The Island has a long and rich musical tradition with deep roots in antiquity, strongly influenced by the Byzantine music and enriched by the musical culture of the wider eastern Mediterranean.

LADERA:

It's cooking at its simplest, everything goes into the pot or at the banking dish. Root plants and mushrooms, vegetables & herbs, even fruits can be used for unbeatable combinations. The flavour of quince helps the earthy exuberance of chest - nut, acquiring peppery mountain herb hints. Spinach, leek and cabbage are combined with rice and herbs to offer delicious full-flavoured meals. Neutral-tasting cauliflower when accompanied by celery and herbs takes on another dimension, while even potatoes project a different profile when slow-cooked with extra virgin cretan olive oil and tomato.



PULSES:

The combinations here are nearly endless. Every taste of pulse possesses an individual character, texture, taste and aroma. From the classic fasolada (bean soup) with tomato puree, carrot, celery to the humble revithada (chickpea stew), enriched simply with a touch of rosemary or savoury, the pulse-based recipe list is long and accommodates as many dishes as the household preparing them. Black-eyed peas cooked with wild greens, lentils in salad and herbs, rice or groats, with crispy vegetables, as a salad or main dish, this is the core of winter-season Greek cuisine.

PIES:

Everything can be turned into a pie, sweet or savoury, in Greek cuisine. Greens are mixed with herbs and, with the addition of grates, are folded into delicious creations. Wild mushrooms, possessing an almost meaty dimension, take on the sweetness of onions and intensity of thyme and are added to open, crispy pies. Sweet-and-spicy leek intermingles with rice and onion in the winter, when fresh fruit and vegetable produce diminishes. As for sweet proposals, pumpkin mixes well with raisins and walnuts, as they highlight pumpkins tender, earthy character. Topped with icing sugar and cinnamon, the finished product is delicious.



“VEGAN MADE IN CRETE.”

Long before it became a fashionable trend and part of a new philosophy, dishes without meat or animal products were a fundamental part of Greek Cuisine, and they remain so today.

MARGARITES POTTERY VILLAGE:

Ceramics is the basic occupation of many inhabitants, who make not only decorative pottery but also utensils. Ceramics is a traditional art, the history of which is as old as the Minoan times. In the past, the pottery workshops flourished in the prefecture of Lasithi, producing storage objects of every day use. Today, potters at Margarites mould clay just like the Minoans did thousands years ago. Hundreds of vessels, identical to those found in the Minoan palaces, are still used for storing olive oil, grains and other agricultural products.



CRETAN KNIFES:

Knife manufacturers in Rethymno convert steel into the famous cretan knife, the inseparable companion of each Cretan. Engraves depictions and poems Adam the blades. The villages in Mylopotamos Pigougianna Village have local craftsman. You can buy one from the ready variety in various shops all over Crete. Also in Aliakes Village in Mylopotamos there are craftsman's who still make the traditional cretan leather boots. A handy shoe to remind you of your holiday break and also protect you from heavy weathers back home.



ARGALIOS & WEAVING:

Women's cooperatives in all major villages still weave on the loom, just like women did in the Minoan times. Sariki, the Cretan head scarf with fringes resembling tears, symbolises lamentation for the hardships of Crete experiences in the past centuries. The black Sariki is worn as a sign of mourning, while the white Sariki is worn as a sign of joy during weddings, feasts, births and christenings. Argalios is the name of the Cretan wooden loom, commonly used in the 19th century to weave items such as blankets, rugs and bags. You can visit various shops in Mylopotamos area that still make exquisite design and retain that craftsmanship till today.

"MADE IN RETHYMNO."

Following the techniques and the tradition of their ancestors, the modern people of Crete, especially in the villages, express their creativity by making folk art objects of excellent quality. In Rethymno various forms of folk art remain alive and are exercised with care: Ceramics, knife production and of course, weaving. Some of these arts are traditionally exercised by entire villages, which largely base their economy of them.

ARKADI MONASTERY:

The beautiful monastery of Arkadi can be found in the foothills of the western Ida (Psiloritis) Mountain. The Cretans consider the monastery as a symbol of freedom from the turks. During the revolt in 1866, hundreds of refugees and Cretan freedom fighters sought sanctuary in the wine store rooms with the monks, where there was also a stash of gunpowder. When the Turks made their way towards their last refuge, the Abbot gave the order to fire the gunpowder. Hundreds of Cretans and Turks were killed; giving real meaning to the battle cry of Crete - "freedom or death"!

Address: Arkadi village, Rethymno prefecture

Tel.: 0030 28310 83135

Website: <http://www.arkadimonastery.gr>



KOURNAS LAKE, IMBROS & SAMARIA GORGE:

Kournas Lake is the only freshwater lake on the island can be found between Rethymnon and Chania. This is the perfect spot for people just looking to relax and take in the view from one of the many tavernas that exist in the area. The spectacular Imbros Gorge cuts through the western fingers of the White Mountains. Although much smaller than the popular Samaria Gorge, its peaceful atmosphere and lack of crowds makes it an enjoyable visit. Samaria Gorge one of the most beautiful and well known places on Crete, Samaria Gorge is the longest gorge in Europe (18 Kms) and is also a national park. There are ancient forests full of pine trees, cypress trees,

rare plants, soaring eagles and stunning views. It takes approximately up to 4 hours to cross the gorge, but it's a unique experience that you should definitely try.

MYLOPOTAMOS ROAD TRIP:

Amongst the significantly enjoyable, old and historic villages: You can start with a morning coffee in Margarites Village. Then you can make a detour to visit Melidoni and the impressive Melidoni Cave, also known as Gerontospilios. You take the way to the village Garazo, on the northern slope of the mountain. Your next stop can be in Axos village, in a valley north of Psiloritis. Then you ascend the south to visit the Cave of in Zoniana, one of the most impressive caves in Crete and throughout Greece. After Zoniana, return back to the



main road and continue for Anogia, a historic village and you can enjoy lunch. Due to the geographical isolation of their region, the Anogians maintained their traditional costumes, traditions, customs and dialect of their ancestors. Many workshops are open to the public and you can watch various traditional activities such as weaving on the loom, etc. If you follow the road leading from the village to the south, you will see Zominthos, where a Minoan settlement is excavated. Returning to Petradolakia and continuing southwest, a few hundred meters later, you will see Nida Plateau. Nida is a starting point of many hikes for nature lovers in Rethymno.

“FOR THE INDEPENDENTLY
MINDED.”

Highly recommended places to visit with Natural Beauty. A way to explore Crete, like the locals know how!

DJ SERVICES:

Event DJ's for holiday parties, weddings, celebrations, various international & local events and any other reason to celebrate.

FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS:

For special occasions or something more casual we would be pleased to arrange that for you. From an anniversary bouquet to the decoration of a party or an event please do not hesitate to contact us.

Massage & Spa Treatments : A variety of massage therapies and SPA treatments could be provided by trained professionals scheduled at the villa, with additional charge.

PERSONAL TRAINER:

For those who want to stay active and fit even while being on holiday.

YOGA:

Yoga classes can be arranged at your villa.

Online Supermarket : For your better service & convenience we are happy to share with you the following link of an excellent online super market: <https://villamarket.gr>

PRIVATE CHEF:

Our expert partners can offer great services provided at your villa. A private chef can come at your villa if you wish to celebrate a special occasion or just have a tasteful experience that will satisfy even the more demanding guests. Also a local cook can initiate you to the cretan cuisine by preparing you traditional meals. Regional breakfast including traditional delicacies can also be arranged.

COCKTAILS AT YOUR VILLA:

An experienced Mixologist can come to your villa and prepare cocktails for you!

SPECIAL EVENTS:

For anniversaries, birthdays or any other special events, or if you wish to hold any type of banquet, including cocktail, lunch, dinner, afternoon tea, outside catering parties.

WINE TASTING:

We can arrange a Sommelier at your villa and invite you into the world of Greek wines.



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