



Podcast Planet Normal



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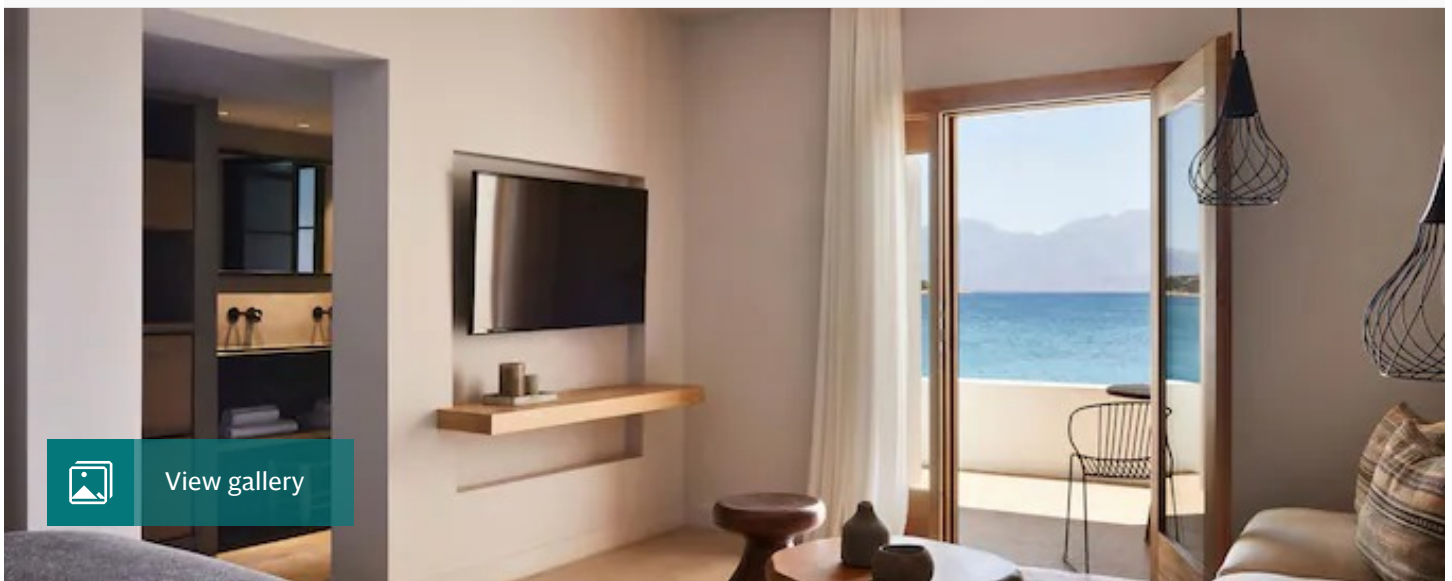
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All hotels have been independently reviewed by our expert writers, who are usually hosted on a complimentary basis. We will earn a commission if you book via the links below, but this never affects our rating.

Minos Beach Art Hotel

Crete, Greece

[View on a map](#)



8/10

Telegraph expert rating

" This hip haven fronting the wide-mirrored curve of Mirabello Bay offers a big slice of Greek culture, with work from some of Greece's best contemporary artists peppering the grounds. There's a laidback vibe, gym and large pool – although beachfront areas could do with more upkeep. "

Check availability

Rooms from
£304 per night

CHECK-IN

Tue 29 Apr

CHECK-OUT

Wed 30 Apr

OCCUPANCY

1 room, 2 adults, 0 children

Check availability

Rates provided by **Booking.com**

Telegraph Review



Heidi Fuller-Love TRAVEL WRITER

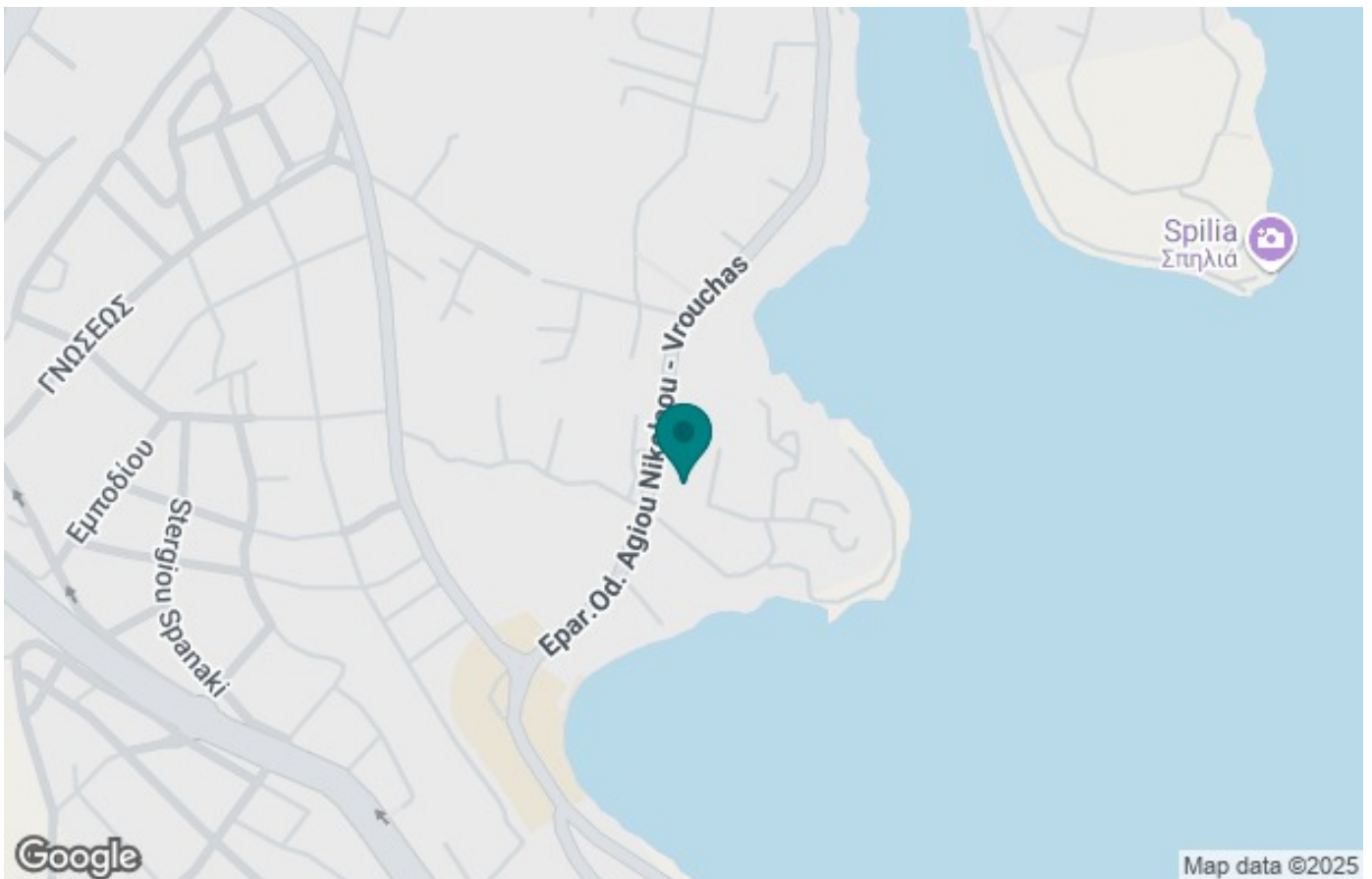
15 November 2024 7:00am GMT

9/10

Location

The hotel is on the outskirts of Agios Nikolaos in the quieter eastern half of Crete. The tavern-surrounded lake and labyrinth of shopping lanes are an easy (seafront) stroll away. The jetsetter-loved resort of Elounda, where boats leave for Spinalonga (the location of Victoria Hislop's best selling novel, The Island) is six

miles from the property. It's also well situated for visiting the island's other sights including the Minoan Palace of Knossos, 36 miles away, and Crete's only 18-hole golf course, 25 miles. There isn't much public transport so you'll need a car if you want to explore.



8/10

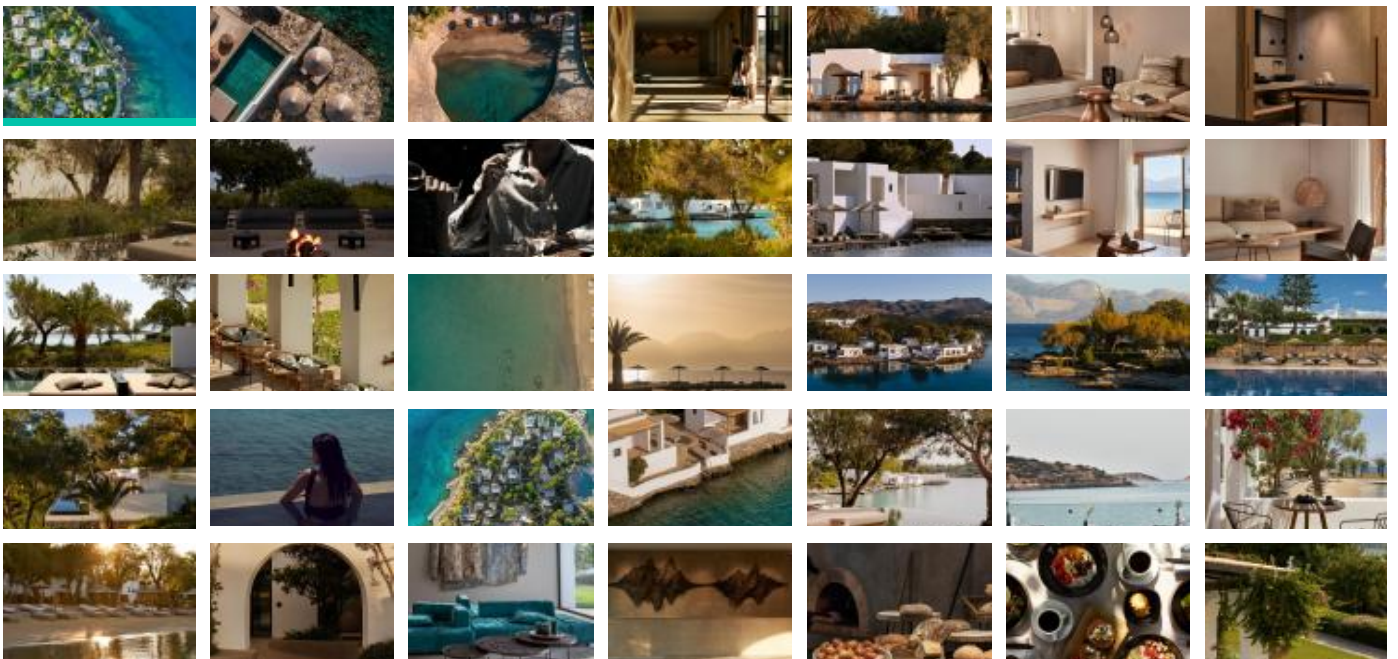
Style and Character

Style, inspired by the local fishing villages, is pared down minimalism, with low-lying white villas and bungalows surrounded by lush gardens. The vibe is laidback boho with lots of wood and glass and mineral colours: there are bean bags and low chairs scattered along the seafront walkway and the works of well-known Greek artists – from the G&A Mamidakis Foundation which also organises annual residencies for foreign artists on the property – studding paths throughout the property. The stone-paved walkway looping along the extensive seafront gives a wonderful sense of space. It's punctuated by private stone jetties (each with two or three sunbeds), with ladders descending into glass-clear turquoise waters – watch out for sea urchins and rocks.





1 of 35



[See more images at Booking.com](#)

Service and Facilities

Service in reception and elsewhere is sometimes a bit slapdash and not always friendly: when I enquired if the pillows were hypoallergenic I received a flat “no idea” from the guest relations manager. Restaurant staff in the main buffet restaurant are chatty and efficient, but service in Kafenion is slow. Two beaches are lined with gritty sand with shallow waters ideal for tots, however sunbeds are badly maintained (on several evenings the beach boy just gave them a cursory flick with a towel). Bridges link the beaches with the seafront walkway and the jetties dotted with sunbeds. There is a well-equipped gym, a large pool with plenty of sunbeds and a token spa (with a treatment room and sauna) run by the locally renowned Aegeo Spa company.

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| ✓ Bar | ✓ Beach |
| ✓ Fitness centre | ✓ Laundry |
| ✓ Parking | ✓ Pool |
| ✓ Restaurant | ✓ Room service |
| ✓ Sauna | ✓ Spa |
| ✓ Steam room/hammam | ✓ Wi-Fi |

Rooms

Exteriors of 126 rooms, bungalows, suites and villas haven't changed much since they were built in the 1960s. Inside however, you'll find clean, modern lines with lots of blond wood, wicker baskets and earthy prints thrown into relief by powder-white walls. Bathrooms have trough sinks and spacious rain showers (some older rooms have tubs).

All rooms have terraces and – since the seafront is vast – most have a glimpse or more of the sea (except for the Nature Superior Bungalow With Private Garden). Sea View, Seafront and Waterfront bungalows are ideal if you want to leap from your bed into the Med; for privacy choose a One- Two- or Three-Bedroom Seafront Villa With Private Pool or one of the Annex Waterfront Bungalows with direct beach access.

Food and Drink

Traditional music nights at Kafenion “Adeste” on a small tree-shaded square in the centre of the property are fun, but service is nail bitingly slow. Meat lovers will enjoy the traditional Cretan dish *antikristo*, salted lamb that’s spit-roasted around an open fire so it’s crispy on the outside and meltingly tender on the inside. There’s also a good choice of tasty meze sharing plates.

Bacchus Restaurant, overlooking the pool and with distant sea views, is the buffet breakfast restaurant. The choice here is large and varied: two hot stations serve the usual eggs, bacon and omelettes, but there are plenty of healthy options, ranging from fresh fruit, nuts and seeds to yoghurts, local jams and honey. There’s also an impressive array of local treats, including fresh-baked custard pie *bougatsa*, tomato-drizzled rusks and succulent lemon-marinated *vlita* (amaranth greens). In the evening, there’s a set menu which changes every day. Choice is limited, but salads and appetisers are superb and mains include decent portions of seafood, pizza and pasta.

Terpsis, standing above the bay, is the Cretan restaurant. Plan some time to linger over sharing plates of crispy fried saganaki cheese; succulent herb and meat patties; and smoky, garlicky melitzanosalata-roasted eggplant from the chef’s redefined meze menu. Service comes with a smile at La Bouillabaise, the resort’s fine-dining restaurant on a deck overlooking the sparkling waters of Mirabello Bay. Six entrées include feather-tender beef carpaccio served with a delicious dollop of fresh pesto and chunky wild mushrooms dished up in a creamy garlic sauce, while other dishes range from brine-fresh seabass paired with a lemony cream-doused potato salad to lobster served on a (slightly sticky) bed of risotto.

Value for Money

Double rooms from €390 (£333) in low season; and from €530 (£453) in high. Breakfast included.

Access for guests with disabilities?

There is one adapted room. Villas on one level would also be suitable for guests with mild mobility problems.

Family-Friendly?

The property is more suitable for older families and teenagers.

About our reviews

Who we are: All our reviewers are either resident destination experts or roving travel writers that specialise in hotels. Often they will have stayed at the hotel in question many times and so can see how it has changed for better or worse over the years. They know what makes a great hotel in that particular destination and will compare it contextually against local competition.

What we do: When our reviewers first visit a hotel, they stay for at least one night, eat one meal in addition to breakfast and will experience all of the facilities on offer. Whichever category of room they stay in, they will see the entry-level rooms in order to assess them.

How we score: After their stay, our reviewers then give the hotel six scores out of 10, rating its location, style and character, service and facilities, rooms, food and drink, and value for money. The average of these scores then determines the overall score.

📍 Akti Ilia Sotirchou, Agios Nikolaos Lasithi, Crete 72100, Greece.

00 30 28410 22345

minosbeach.com

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£ **305** per night

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Abaton Island Resort & Spa

Kapsaliana Village Hotel

Hotel | Crete, Greece

The Island Concept

Hotel | Crete, Greece

9/10 Telegraph expert rating

Expect service with a smile, stylish surroundings and superb food at this sleek beachfront spa re... [Read expert review](#)

FROM
£230 per night

Check availability

Rates provided by [Booking.com](#)

9/10 Telegraph expert rating

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Check availability

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9/10 Telegraph expert rating

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