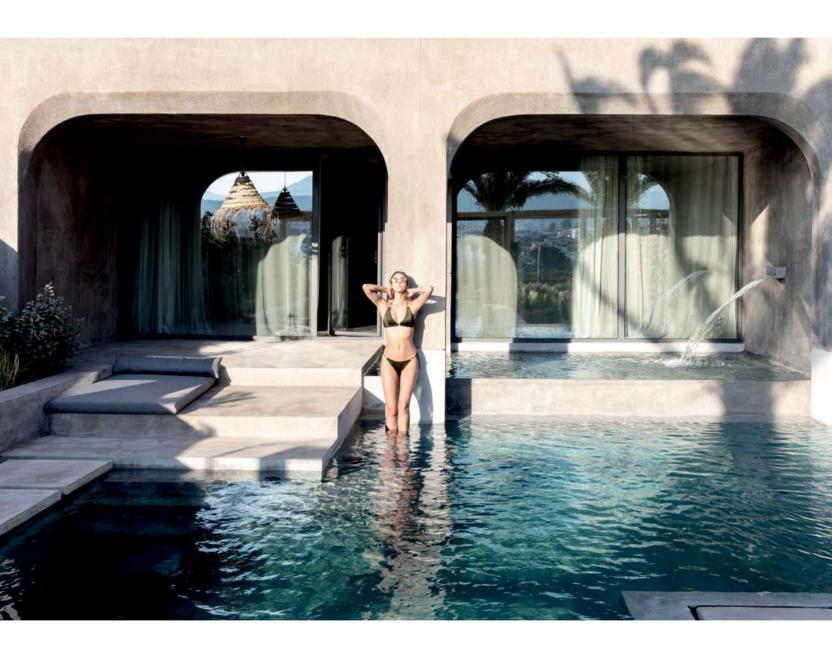
BLUEINK



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DESIGNERS: Jesus Gasca & Jon Gasca



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CONTENTS







Into the Future

Gina Mamidakis', Managing Director of bluegr Hotels & Resorts, editorial. 10

Our Roots

How George and Aristea Mamidakis laid the foundations for bluegr, still run by the family.

Art & Soul

G & A Foundation's vision for the arts, people and the environment. $14-30 \label{eq:4}$

The Destination Memo

The Private View

Minos Beach art hotel 46–51

Minos Palace hotel & suites 52–57

Candia Park village 58–63

Life Gallery athens 64–69

Miramare Park suites & villas 70–73

Highly Recommended by the People of bluegr

Six staff members share their most well-kept secrets for the island.

74–75

The New Taste

The Incredible Giannis Baxevanis 76–79

Cretan Cuisine at bluegr – A New Culinary Era 80–94

LoveGreece.com Presents the New Greek Fashion

> Indulge Your Desires





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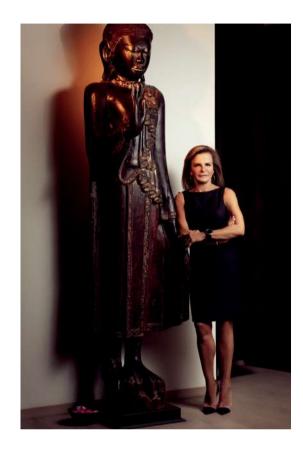
All bluegr Hotels & Resorts spas offer a spa welcome treatment to relax and relieve everyday tension.

INTO THE FUTURE

I would like to welcome you to our bluegr family and properties, where new aesthetics and pleasures for the senses await you.

- New public spaces at Minos Beach art hotel have been decorated with minimalist materials and contemporary Greek artwork, making guests feel that they are visiting a modern art museum. We continue the refurbishment of rooms in simple, elegant lines as a continuation of the outdoor surroundings.
- Nature and its aromas are prominent in the signature architecture. The sound of water relieves the tired mind and fills the soul.
- Minos Palace hotel & suites, almost suspended on the hillside, boasts panoramic views and an invigorating ocean breeze and we continue for a second year to renovate the rooms with a smart architectural elegance that leads you onto the terrace, offering vistas of the immense blue.
- Meanwhile, at Candia Park village, we have started working with Worldwide Kids, continuing to improve our rooms for a third year while for 2020 we are planning the complete reconstruction of the Sea View family suites.
- In the realm of gastronomy, a new collaboration with renowned chef Giannis Baxevanis brings Cretan flavors to center stage, using only the freshest, purest local ingredients while our wine list grows by embracing new producers and indigenous Greek grape varieties, reflecting the upward trend of Greek wine.
- Our love for art brings a joint mixed media installation by T. Zafeiropoulos and Y. Rimenidis, recipients of the G. & A. Mamidakis Foundation Art Prize, entitled "Come with the Wind," and "one sec" by G. Gyparakis.
- The former makes references to the Aerides of Plaka with eight sound columns representing the various winds. The sounds are processed recordings of traditional music from eight different regions of Greece.
- The G. & A. Foundation continues to contribute to the local community, with the completion of a library at the Aghios Nikolaos elementary school and drawing up plans for the creation of a psychiatric clinic at the local hospital.
- Knowing that the pursuit of excess turns the human heart cold, we seek to make a substantial contribution to society. At the same time, we feel very proud both of what we offer and of the love we feel for our employees, partners and guests.

Doing business without offering anything back to society has no place either in this, or any future generation.



Gina Mamidakis

Gina Mamidakis

Managing Director



OUR ROOTS CRETAN INGENUITY & DRIVE

GEORGE MAMIDAKIS was born in a small village called Anoskeli, near the town of Kissamos in western Crete. He trained as a surveyor and began his professional career in the Topographical Service. During the German occupation, he was a member of the Resistance. His first business venture involved the production of rose oil. A few years later, his intelligent and bold approach opened the door to communication and economic cooperation with Russia in the oil sector. Mamidakis & Co was founded in 1955 and was very active in the field of bunkering (refueling seagoing vessels). With the creation of 540 service stations, it distributed petroleum products throughout Greece. Until 1983, it supplied Greece's state refineries with crude oil, using its own tankers. In 1973, the Mamidakis Group imported Lada cars into Greece for the first time. Far-sighted and with a deep love for Crete, the island of his birth, George Mamidakis bought the Minos Beach Hotel at Mirabello Bay in 1974. He later bought two other hotel complexes. A multifaceted personality, George stood out for his values, decency, gallantry, acumen, honesty and inexhaustible humor. Aristea Mamidakis was born in Chania and was the fifth child of hoteliers Gregory and Maria Chalkiadakis. As a wife, Aristea Mamidakis was never in the shadow of her husband George, but always by his side. She worked with him closely and continued to work in their companies with the same passion after his death. Strong but at the same time gentle, sweet and demanding, generous and practical, she instilled the values of family, morality and dynamic creativity in her two daughters, who continued developing the Mamidakis businesses. In later life, she took great pleasure in helping to raise her six grandchildren.

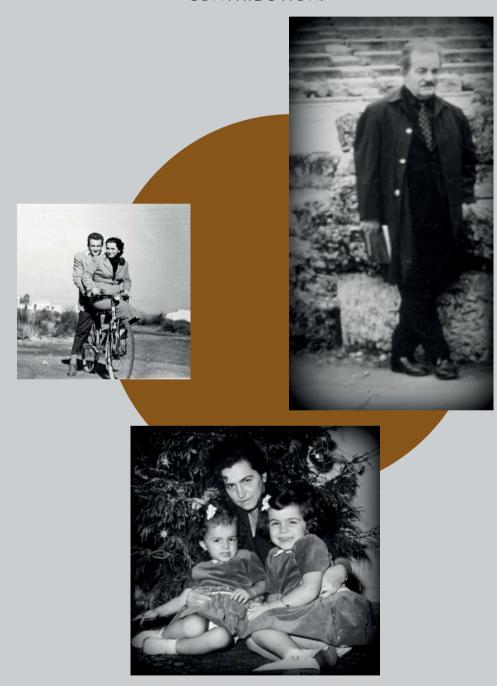
HOW THE VISIONARY GEORGE MAMIDAKIS

AND THE DYNAMIC ARISTEA MAMIDAKIS LAID

THE FOUNDATIONS FOR BLUEGR, STILL RUN BY

THE FAMILY - THEIR DAUGHTER, GINA MAMIDAKIS.

THE FAMILY STILL SHINES BRIGHT FOR ITS ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT, VISION FOR HOSPITALITY, LOVE FOR THE ARTS AND CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION.



Moments in time, from top left: Aristea and George Mamidakis as a young couple on their bicycle. George Mamidakis. Below, Aristea Mamidakis holding the couple's two daughters, Gina and Marilena.





The George and Aristea Mamidakis Foundation was founded by my sister Gina, and is the realisation of my parents' vision to give back to the local Cretan community. The Foundation is built on the pillars of the promotion of culture, the protection of the environment and helping ones fellow man. On a personal level, I decided to serve the philanthropic work of the Foundation with all my heart and especially the strengthening of social responsibility, which I fully support. Our goal is to provide social support throughout Crete with the creation of infrastructures that can provide relief, knowledge and meet the everyday needs of all social groups.

Looking into the needs of our parents' hometown and giving back on a long-term basis is not an easy task for us, since our desire is for the Foundation's work to last for many more years to come. New goals are set on a daily basis that we are committed to implementing. For this year, we have planned two major projects: one is the creation of a library at a primary school in Aghios Nikolaos and the second is to conduct a study in relation to the creation of a psychiatric clinic of Aghios Nikolaos; projects which are for us only the beginning.

Most important of all is the assumption of social responsibility, which is firstly fostered by assuming personal responsibility. Today, the modern man must take a clear and objective look at himself within his environment and assume responsibility. The onus is on him to make as many changes as necessary, above all internally, in order to become more sensitive about the issues and have greater awareness of their solutions, taking action towards that end. And it goes without saying that collective and coordinated actions always achieve better results. The essential prerequisites however, are empathy, understanding and acceptance, but above all, respect, on both a personal and social level.

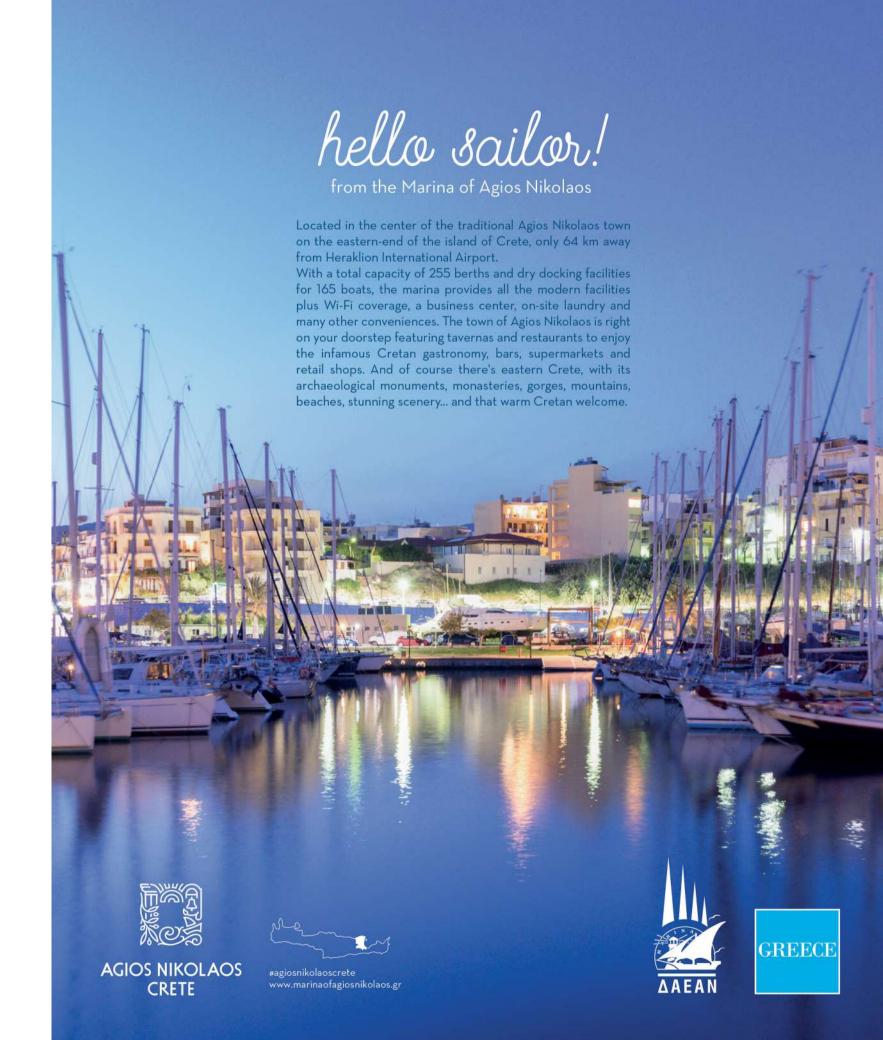
At this point, I cannot help but mention the staff of bluegr who tirelessly contribute to all the Foundation's activities and who are for us an invaluable help.

The vision of us all is to inspire the next generations to create a better and fairer society.

Marilena Mamidakis

Vice-President

George and Aristea Mamidakis Foundation







Above: **Carlo Ciarli, Italy.** "Light and Shadow," 1988 – Installation at the Minos Beach art hotel for the 1st Art Symposium.

Below: **Angelos Skourtis, Greece.** "East-West-North-South," 1993 – Installation at the Minos Beach art hotel for the 3rd Art Symposium, "ART IN POLITICS."





Above: Lucilla Catania, Italy. "Cerchio," 1990 – Installation at the Minos Beach art hotel for the 2nd Art Symposium, "A NEW MEDITERRANEAN CULTURAL IDENTITY." Below: Attila Tahtahta, Hungary/Peru. "No Escape," 1993 – Installation at the Minos Beach art hotel for the 3rd Art Symposium, "ART IN POLITICS."



18 Blue ink

IN ADDITION TO providing exceptional hospitality, bluegr Hotels & Resorts are dedicated to the arts and culture, working to help artists and enhance guests' experience through events, festivals and exhibitions.

blueFest Crete 19 was held in July at Minos Beach art hotel. Organized by the G. & A. Mamidakis Foundation, the two-day festival is testament to the Foundation and bluegr's commitment to culture, art and Crete. Created by visual artist Theodoros Zafeiropoulos and architect Yorgos Rimenidis, a sculpture and sound installation titled **"Come with the Wind"** was the winning entry in the inaugural G. & A Mamidakis Foundation Art Prize 2019 and residency program. Revealed at blueFest, the piece consists of interactive columns, each playing the sound of a wind – a digitally processed recording of world music. The tracks are available to download using an innovative website which amplifies the experience. The artwork is now part of the Foundation's permanent collection exhibited at Minos Beach art hotel's sculpture park.

Meanwhile, the **Blue Nights** exhibition, curated by art historian and Foundation art director, Sotirios Bahtsetzis, was also inaugurated, projecting video artwork by artists such as Alexandros Kaklamanos and Theodoros Zafeiropoulos outdoors, in the tradition of Greek summer cinema. A music concert titled **Radiotherapy** by composer Nikos Xinos also took place. The new original culinary concept created by acclaimed chef Giannis Baxevanis and bluegr Hotels & Resorts management was also presented, shining the spotlight on Cretan recipes and products.

What makes Minos Beach art hotel unique is its history and close relationship with art, as it hosts numerous pieces from the G. & A. Mamidakis Foundation collection. Its **Open Museum** is an exhibition of outstanding works of contemporary art collected by the Foundation through the years. Free to all art lovers, this sculpture park contains seminal works by leading artists, including Takis, Nikos Alexiou, Linda Benglis, Carlo Ciarli and Costas Varotsos. More pieces from the Foundation's collections can be found at Minos Palace hotel & resorts and at Life Gallery athens. Guided tours of this exclusive open-air art exhibit are available.

In the rich history of bluegr and the Foundation's art events, we have already seen the **Underwater Exhibition**, which brought sculpture, video and sound installations to the ocean bed. **Art symposia, exhibitions and publications** complete the puzzle, all showcasing contemporary art and enhancing guests' experience.

The Blue Nights exhibition is available to visit until late October, while "Come with the Wind" and the Open Museum are permanently installed at Minos Beach art hotel.

SERVING CULTURE IN DIFFERENT WAYS

- As part of their commitment to culture, bluegr Hotels & Resorts have also hosted three
 Art Symposia, where artists from Greece, Europe and the American continent created
 in situ sculptures on the hotel grounds, which soon formed the basis for the sculpture park:
 — 1st International Art Symposium, June 1988
- 2nd International Art Symposium, "A New Mediterranean Cultural Identity," 1990
 3rd International Art Symposium, "Art in Politics," 1993
- Lavishly illustrated catalogs were produced and handed out to art critics, visitors and hotel guests as part of the symposia and of several art exhibitions.
- Two travel books, "The Unknown Crete" and "The Unknown Rhodes" have been published, in addition to a series of educational publications on mythology and history, by the G. & A. Mamidakis Foundation.



THE ART PRIZE

CAPTURING THE MYTHOS OF THE WINDS

Inspired by Mediterranean culture, a contemporary art installation has received the inaugural G. &. A. Mamidakis Foundation Art Prize and found its way to Minos Beach art hotel for guests to enjoy.





Above: **"Superstory"** (2013) by one of the two joint winners of the Art Prize, Yorgos Rimenidis. 100x100 cm C-print. Left page: **"King Kong"** (2014) by Theodoros Zafeiropoulos. HD video – courtesy of Nitra Gallery.

ART & SOUL



A NEW INSTITUTION with the

clearly defined goal to highlight, support and promote creative expression in Greece, and a passion project for bluegr CEO Gina Mamidakis, the G. &. A. Mamidakis Foundation Art Prize was established to promote excellence in art and showcase leading creative talent in the country. Currently in its inaugural year, the award saw Greek artists submit their proposals by the end of April 2019. A committee of leading figures in art as well as the Foundation's Director, Gina Mamidakis, was put together, featuring experts such as art historian Sotiris Bahtsetzis, who serves as artistic director of the Foundation, and academics from the Higher School of Fine Arts, the University of Thessaly and the National Technical University of Athens. Presented to the public in July, as part of blueFest Crete 2019, the winning project has come to life at the open-air gallery of the Minos Beach art hotel, with its creators enjoying artists-in-residence status. An inspired, ambitious project titled "Come with the Wind" (2019) was selected for its "especially intelligent combination of sculpture and new media, implemented as a sculpture/

audio installation and digital app." Creative duo Theodoros Zafeiropoulos and Yorgos Rimenidis - a visual artist and an architect, respectively took inspiration from the natural, historical and mythological prominence of the eight winds through the ages to design a reimagined Tower of the Winds, after the marble structure found near the Athens Acropolis. Jointly created, the resulting sculptural installation, which has been installed at the Minos Beach art hotel. incorporates a sound simulation of each of the eight winds of the Mediterranean, which have powered the sails of ships, inspired the imagination of Greeks and sculpted the land through the ages. Fully interactive, the two artists' columns are activated when a visitor approaches, giving off the corresponding wind sound, which is also available to all guests to download as a ringtone. In further tribute to tradition, these soundscapes are digitally processed recordings of traditional music from eight different parts of the world. The work is presented as part of the Art on Blue series of exhibitions organized by the G. &. A. Mamidakis Foundation and curated by the art historian Sotirios Bahtsetzis.





Top: Minos Beach art hotel, the site of the winners' installation. Above: Yorgos Rimenidis and Theodoros Zafeiropoulos collaborated on "Come with the Wind," winning the Art Prize with their proposal.



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LOVEGREECE.COM

& AJMIG SHOWCASE GREEK CREATIVITY

Joining forces with A Jewel Made in Greece, LoveGreece.com shines the spotlight on talented Greek designers, helping them reach a wider audience.









Shining Bright – Above, all recipients of AJMIG awards and distinctions. Below, AJMIG Founder Mary Samoli with Liana Vouraki, and "Solid Metals" category winner, Pantelis Kontakis.

OF THE MYRIAD facets of Greek creativity, jewelry making is one of the most prominent, with designers taking inspiration from history, nature, mythology and modern life to bring to life pieces with distinct character, classic or contemporary. Embracing innovation and creativity as a whole, G. & A. Mamidakis Foundation's LoveGreece.com has collaborated closely with A Jewel Made in Greece (AJMIG) in order to help showcase the participants of the "Metamorphoses: Reshaping the Stars" makers' meeting and competition, which gives designers from across the country increased exposure, and helps them get in touch with buyers and new partners in Greece and abroad. A series of video interviews of the jewelers are set to be showcased on LoveGreece.com and its social media, while an exhibition of their work and event took place on May 10, to celebrate the rich history, illustrious present and bright future of Greek jewelry design, and help connect creatives to the domestic and international market.

At bluegr's Life Gallery athens in Ekali, the AJMIG Awards saw Mary Samoli, the woman behind AJMIG, present the winning entries. In the "Solid Metals" category, Pantelis Kontakis came first, also amassing the most votes of any category. The "Precious Eternities the Brand" category award went to Marianna Petridis. Christiana Kafa was the winner of the "Precious Eternities" category, and Olga Beligianni of "Material World." The Innovation Award went to Dimitra Tampaki, and the Promotion of Greek Culture distinction was given to Faye Papanikou. Recipients of honorary distinctions were Liana Vouraki, Ileana Makri, Manos Honor (Honor Omano), Katerina Kouloubourou (KK Jewelry Lab), Anastasia Koutsampela (Lefflow),

Andreas Vernardakis, Theodora D., Maro Kornilaki, and

Elena Konstantinopoulou and Konstantinos Athanasiou from



2Design. Foundation President Gina Mamidakis said, "For us at the G. & A. Mamidakis Foundation, the promotion, protection and development of our country's culture is a primary goal. We are guided by the idea that tourism should be a holistic and cultural experience. LoveGreece.com is an initiative we put together to promote gifted Greek artists and innovation. With AJMIG, we share a strong desire to showcase domestic talent both inside and outside the borders." A welcoming home for the exhibition and event, Life Gallery athens shone as the backdrop, leaving guests and participants impressed.

PIATO Homemade Creative Cuisine



HOMEMADE CREATIVE Cretan cuisine by the sea is the order of the day every day at Piato, a beautifully bright restaurant you can find at Agios Nikolaos. A small family business whose roots go all the way back to 1980, Piato is powered by a deep respect for tradition, a love for fresh, quality food and the creativity of experienced chefs who love their trade. Focused on the seasonal and local, the dishes on offer feature Cretan ingredients such as honey, cheese, snails, meat and fish, coming together in succulent combinations, paired with fantastic wine from a long list of labels with the help of the resident sommelier. In fact, the remarkable flavors at Piato have been exalted by German three-Michelin chef Sven Elverfield, who was so impressed by the meal he had here that he chose to feature it in a magazine article – one that satisfied diners from across the world would endorse.



PIATO Homemade Creative Cuisine 5 Minoos St, Agios Nikolaos, 721 00 Crete Tel: +30 28410 23173 | Mob: +30 6972 080682 Email: info@piato.gr



BLUEGR IS GREEN

A deep commitment to nature and society.

AT BLUEGR HOTELS & RESORTS, protecting the environment is a top priority and a deep commitment – a goal shared by management and staff, and an ideal communicated to all guests and partners. Going beyond merely complying with legislative regulations, the properties operate according to a comprehensive ISO-14001 certified environmental management system (EMS) and an in-depth Environmental Policy, which is continuously monitored and frequently updated. Saving energy, reducing water consumption and efficiently managing waste are just a few of the green practices followed across the hotels and resorts. Among the clearly defined targets of the Policy are reducing water consumption by 4% and power consumption by 3% every year, limiting the use of plastics and installing LED lights.

This green Corporate Social Responsibility culture permeates every bluegr hotel and resort – and it does not stop at eco-friendly practices, with bluegr determined to increase environmental awareness among partners, guests and local residents, as well as to help Cretan society and nature. Information that raises eco-awareness is distributed across the properties, and ecological activities are held at every hotel. These include volunteer cleaning

of local beaches, roads and other areas by bluegr staff – as well as that of the seabed in collaboration with professional divers. As part of the Blue Flag Mediterranean Week, even young children attending the Mini Club take part in the activities, having fun in the sun while learning about the environment. The bluegr CSR initiatives also extend to blood donation drives, fire safety training, evacuation drills and more.

In fact, the environment is one of the three main pillars of contribution of the G. & A. Mamidakis Foundation and its online initiative, LoveGreece.com. Organizing events and activities with the aim of promoting respect for the environment and awareness of the threats nature faces, the Foundation sees this green philosophy as an integral part of its mission to highlight Greece's cultural, entrepreneurial and natural wealth, with an emphasis on the region of Crete and the town of Agios Nikolaos. As CEO of bluegr hotels in addition to Foundation President, Gina Mamidakis is deeply devoted to Greek nature, leading the way for dozens of green projects that have been successfully organized in past years – as well as new ones planned for the future.

The Blue Flag at Minos Beach art hotel – awarded by the FEE only to the beaches meeting its stringent standards of quality. The Minos Palace hotel & suites and the Candia Park village also received Blue Flag distinctions in 2019.

crete in your plate





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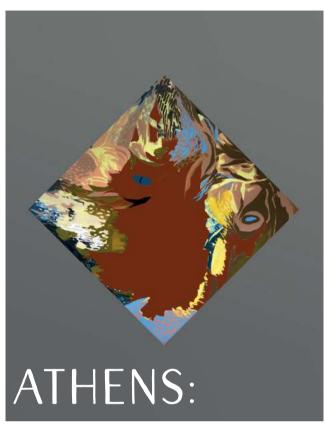








THE DESTINATION MEMO



NOT TO MISS

MUSEUM OF CYCLADIC ART

Picasso and Antiquity. Line and Clay

In addition to a remarkable permanent collection of artifacts from the Cyclades island group going back all the way to the 3rd millennium BC, the Athens Museum of Cycladic Art is organizing "Picasso and Antiquity. Line and Clay,"set to last from June 20 to October 20. This unique exhibition amalgamates 68 rare ceramics and drawings by the great master himself, featuring mythical creatures, birds, animals, sea life, humans as well as ancient drama. Part of the museum's "Divine Dialogues" series, Picasso's pieces will converse thematically with 67 ancient works of art to shed light on the recurrence of themes, questions and emotions captured by art across the ages.

DIO HORIAGALLERY

Hulda Guzmán

Opening a window to the strikingly colorful world of painter Hulda Guzmán, this exhibition is the Dominican artist's first solo show in Athens as well as the inaugural exhibition of the new Dio Horia space in Neo Psychiko, which builds on the success of Dio Horia in Mykonos – where they host and support young emerging artists with exhibitions, events and residences. Vivid and theatrical, Guzmán's work is informed by her life in the lush tropical jungle of her homeland, the Dominican Republic, and characterized by a very liberal approach to life. The series of paintings, which will go on display on September 5, form a celebration of nature in all its glory, and entice an experiential, personal interpretation from the viewer.





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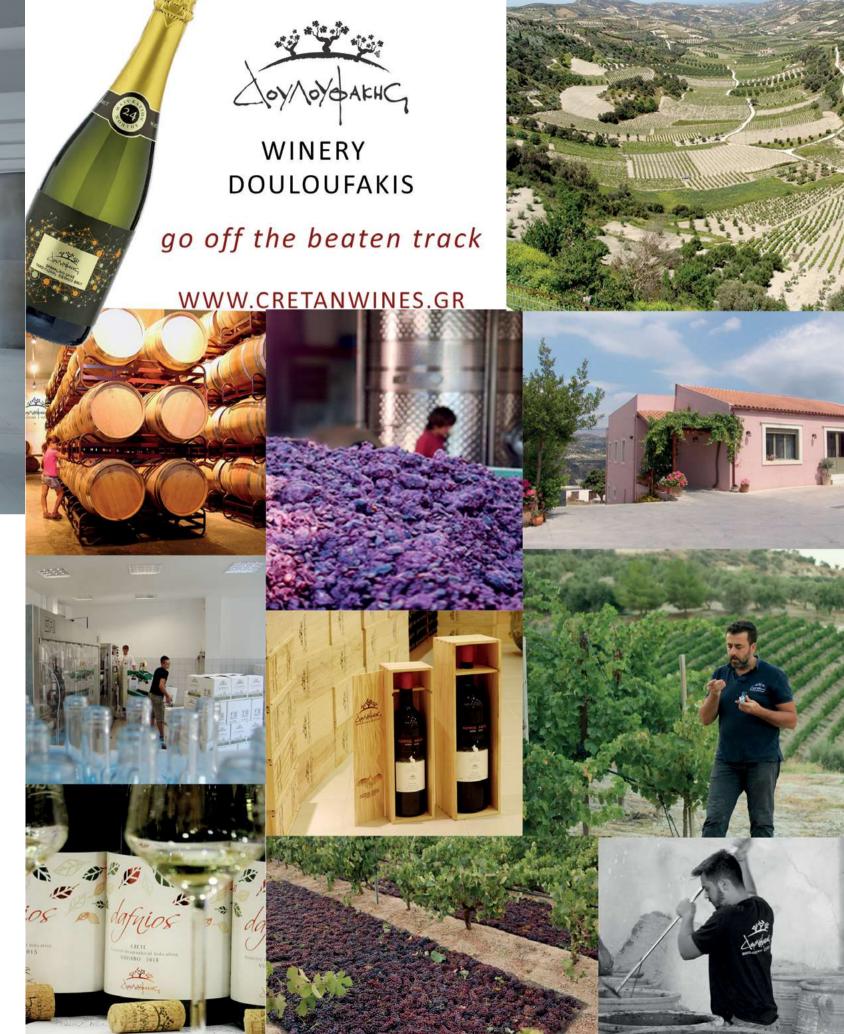


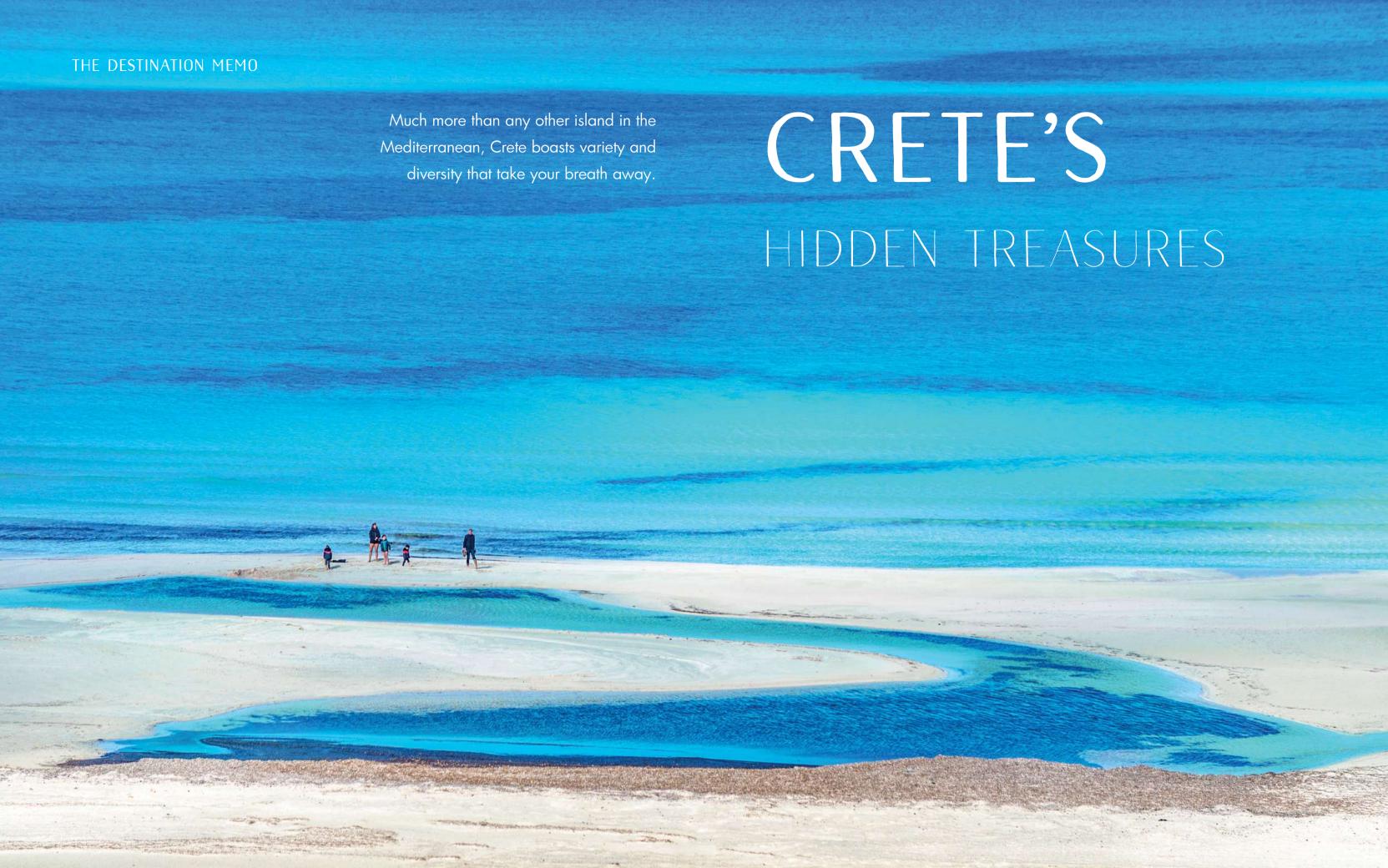


ACROPOLIS MUSEUM

The 10 Year Anniversary

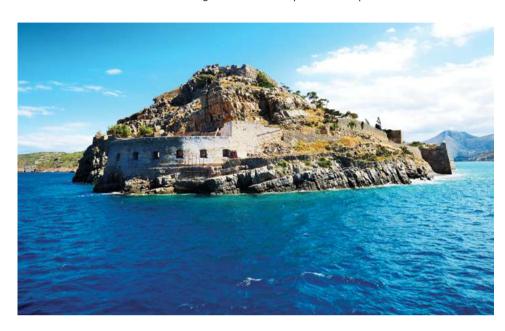
Undoubtedly one of the most celebrated newer museums on the planet, the Acropolis Museum is celebrating a decade since it first opened its doors to showcase the iconic legacy of the Acropolis and Greek antiquities in an interactive, innovative space that has amassed awards in itself. Over 14.5 million people have visited from Greece and abroad to marvel at the extensive collection of artifacts from Ancient Greece as well as the fascinating, exclusive views of the Acropolis and Athens the building offers. Part of the festivities for the 10th anniversary is a temporary exhibition titled "Chisel and Memory. The contribution of marble craftsmanship to the restoration of the Acropolis monuments," open until October 31. Entrance is free.





THE DESTINATION MEMO

Eerie Remnant – Spinalonga in Lasithi, a fortress islet which housed a leprosarium, was the setting of a 2005 novel by Victoria Hislop.



ANYONE WHO HAS traveled to Crete will attest to the magic of this island, seen in its wild, fragrant landscape, stunning waters and beaches – welcoming or hidden away. There are mountains and gorges, ancient ruins and contemporary landmarks, valleys and plains, olive groves and colorful gardens... Then, there's the unique charm of Cretan lifestyle, from the long hours of chatting over raki and delicious meze to spontaneous feasts with old and new friends at village squares and out in nature.

SEA, SAND AND SURF

It's said that Crete offers such a wide range of beaches with such distinctive features that you don't ever need to travel anywhere else. Have you been to Balos lagoon northwest of Chania yet? The Caribbean allure of the light blue waters surrounding the stripes of sand is unmistakable, while uninhabited Gramvousa island's turquoise seascapes lay claim to similar fame. You can get there by car, although you'll have to walk a bit, too. Alternatively, you can hop on a boat from Kissamos. To the southwest is a bucket-list entry for anyone in the know called **Elafonisi** island, with some of the most exotic, relaxing and enchanting beaches in Greece. Another relatively unknown but much-adored destination you can reach by boat is Gavdos – Europe's southernmost point. It's where Calypso is said to have kept Ulysses prisoner for seven years, but once you arrive, you start suspecting it might have been his choice instead. Here, the beaches of Sarakiniko and Agiannis (Agios Ioannis) beckon from sunrise to sunset, while the hinterland

and harder-to-reach beaches possess a wild, untainted beauty that speaks to the soul. Back on Crete, **Stefanos** beach northeast of Chania is also very popular. Three parallel, oblong bays form beaches sheltered from the waves – the northernmost one is perhaps the most special. You can get here by car, followed by a small hike. Nearby, **Agios Pavlos** beach has dunes towering over it – part of why it was voted as the best beach in Rethimno! The land caves and warm waters make it ideal almost throughout the year. Try to stay long enough to watch the sun set over Mt. Thronos.

There's also world-renowned **Matala** beach, once the seaside playground of nature-loving hippies. It has fine pebbles and deep, crystal-clear waters, but is also susceptible to westerly winds that raise enormous waves – a plus for many! From there towards Elounda, Crete's Riviera, a detour at Kolokytha islet for **Agios Loukas** beach is a must, for its olive trees that almost touch the surf, and its alluring waters. South of Ierapetra, **Chrysi** (Gaidouronisi) has plenty of seashells, teal waters and golden sand. Also near Ierapetra is **Myrtos**, favored by many for its dark sand, crystalline waters and for being sheltered from northerly winds. Nearby is equally mesmerizing **Agia Fotia** (Makrigialos)

THERE ARE 81 UNINHABITED ISLETS DOTTED AROUND THE ICONIC CRETE.



Pelagos Sea food restaurant

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THE DESTINATION MEMO

set in a wooded valley. Meanwhile, you can find the outright tropical **Vai** in the Lasithi area. Its two-millennia-old colony of palm trees is the largest natural palm forest in Europe. Records of the beach's ancient palms go back to Minoan times. They are fenced off for protection, but you'll still enjoy their sight, along with the fine white sand of the beach and the islets scattered across the bay.

TRADITIONAL VILLAGES BECKON

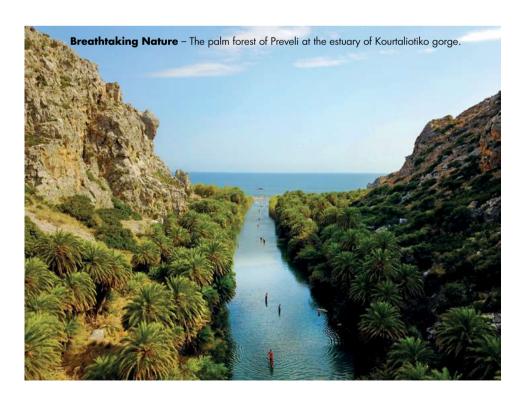
Archanes is a well-preserved village with a distinct ambiance said to be one of the loveliest in Europe, with vineyards, flower-filled gardens and restored houses – as well as interesting museums, from folk art to archaeology. For beautiful stately homes and grand traditional festivals, head to Houdetsi. At the foot of Mt. Psiloritis, Zaros village is equally stunning. The twin villages of Ano and Kato Asites will treat you to Agios Georgios monastery with its centenarian trees and an irresistible village square to quench your thirst and hunger. Perhaps Vamos' biggest claim to fame are its impressive houses, standing among olive groves and orange orchards. Head to Sfakia, surrounded

REMARKABLE NATURE, CHARMING VILLAGES AND KIND, PROUD PEOPLE: THIS IS CRETE.

by the White Mountains, for an authentic look into the Cretan soul. Nearby **Anogia** stands out for its colors and scents while **Margarites** is a treat for lovers of pottery and fantastic views. Laid-back **Axos** boasts impressive Byzantine churches. Last but not least, we should mention **Pefki** – named for its pine trees a truly peaceful and traditional village, echoing a purer time.

LANDMARKS BORN OF MAN & NATURE

There, are, of course, the famous Minoan palaces at **Knossos**, Phaestos, Malia and Zakros, but you won't want to miss these unique landmarks and monuments either: The Venetian fortress of **Fortezza** in Rethimno; ancient **Falasarna** and its port; the ancient city of Lissos in the southwest; Kazarma fortress in Sitia; the Minoan city of Kommos, a port at Phaestos; Zominthos, another Minoan city on the uplands; and the ancient ruins of **Gortyn**, Crete's capital during the Roman era. Nature too has sculpted Crete to create spots of impeccable beauty, including a series of verdant gorges: Arvi gorge, along with that of **Ha**, is a small miracle in itself. Located in the Heraklion area, it requires canyoneering equipment to cross. About mid-route is an 85-meter-high waterfall called Kapnistis. Your reward for reaching the end? The fertile valley of Arvi with its banana groves. "The Dead," to use its Greek name, gorge of Nekron/ Zakros includes a lovely route lined with caves and ending at Kato Zakros, a beach with magnificent waters. Another interesting canyon is that of **Trypiti** in Heraklion, named after the church of Panagia Trypiti in one of its caves. Part of the route goes through Asterousia Mountains, Crete's far west.





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CRETE TRANSFER

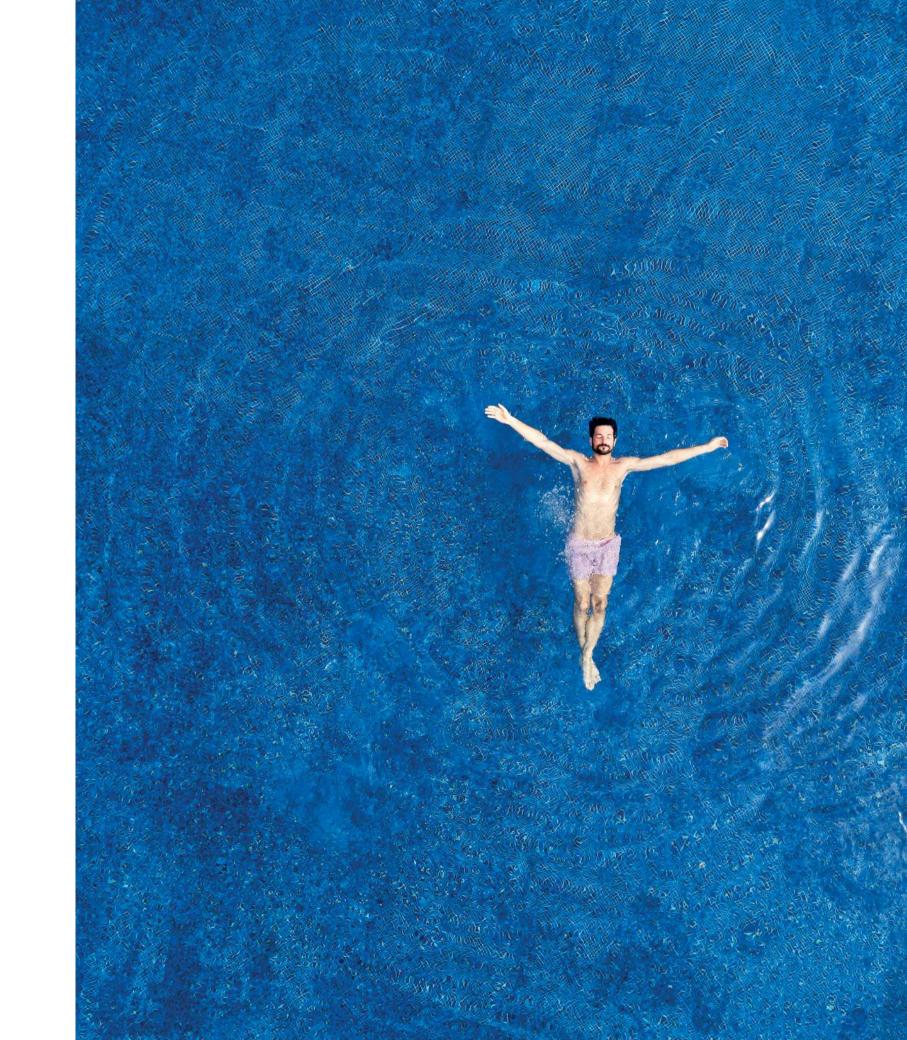
7 Gnoseos Str, Agios Nikolaos, Crete T.+30 6944226834 (St.Vasilakis) info@crete-transfer.gr www.crete-transfer.gr



MINOS BEACH ART HOTEL

A JEWEL BY THE SEA

Combining natural beauty with eclectic art and luxury accommodations, the Minos Beach art hotel provides global travelers with a perfect slice of heaven.



THE PRIVATE VIEW



Tactile, soothing and filled with ethereal light, the interiors have been designed with thought and imagination down to every detail.



ENDLESS SUMMER SKIES CROWN THIS EXQUISITE MEDITERRANEAN GEM.



A TRULY OUTSTANDING resort in its own right, the luxury Minos Beach art hotel – a member of the bluegr Hotels & Resorts and Small Luxury Hotels of the World – is an exemplary 5-star property in every sense. Combining exclusivity with a defining element of boho chic, Minos Beach art hotel provides the ultimate getaway for relaxing, luxury-filled Greek summer vacations. Boasting a mesmerizing location right on the edge of the crystal clear waters of the Mediterranean, this flawless Cretan resort seeks to give its guests an unforgettable hospitality experience built around a concept of unpretentious luxury.

With recent renovations completed in its public spaces as well as its accommodations, this exclusive property's extensive choice of rooms, suites, bungalows and villas all share an aesthetic of muted tones, tactile fabrics and mesmerizing artifacts along with all the modern conveniences and technological gadgetry that well-heeled travelers need. From sea view rooms to bungalows located right on the water's edge through to truly luxurious villas with private pools, these are accommodations designed to soothe and rejuvenate, allowing guests to take in breathtakingly beautiful views and peace and quiet while enjoying luxury beachfront living along with out-of-this-world facilities and services.

With its surrounding aromatic gardens, time-honored architecture, minimalist design, outdoor gallery exhibits, incredible restaurants and its very own waterfront "little Venice," Minos Beach art hotel delivers excellence throughout. Ample pleasures await, be they a stroll through gardens, relaxing at the hotel's lounge bar, enjoying the exhibits or the wide range of fantastic dining. Each and every detail has been conceived with one thing in mind: Making sure that every moment experienced is perfect. From an early morning dive into the cooling waters of the pool or the sea, exciting water sports and diving adventures to relaxing treatments at the Ananea Wellness by Aegeo Spas, everything is perfect, designed to surpass all expectations.

On an island known for its culinary traditions and exceptional natural ingredients, Minos Beach art hotel introduces a fascinating new gastronomy concept. Award-winning chef Giannis Baxevanis ushers in a new era for Mediterranean and local Cretan cuisine, elevating tradition to gourmet heights by fully incorporating the natural bounty that Crete has to offer. In fact, the chefs here only cook with Greek products for the ultimate in farm-to-table, sustainable approach. Expect inspired combinations and exceptional flavors throughout the day.

THIS IS ISLAND LIFE AT ITS BEST

DOs

- Be mesmerized by the crystal clear azure waters and sunkissed shores of Mirabello Bay.
- Indulge in a plethora of cutting edge spa therapies designed to soothe the mind, body and soul.
- Plan your dream beachfront wedding and honeymoon and leave each and every detail to our team of experts.
 - Feel the adrenaline pulse through your veins with water sports and diving adventures as you explore the wonders of the Mediterranean Sea.
 - Delight in adventures in flavor that will be proven unforgettable.



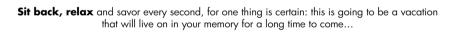


Elegance - Expertly designed, the hotel features soothing spaces throughout, from exquisite exteriors to interiors that ooze comfort and elegance.



THE PRIVATE VIEW



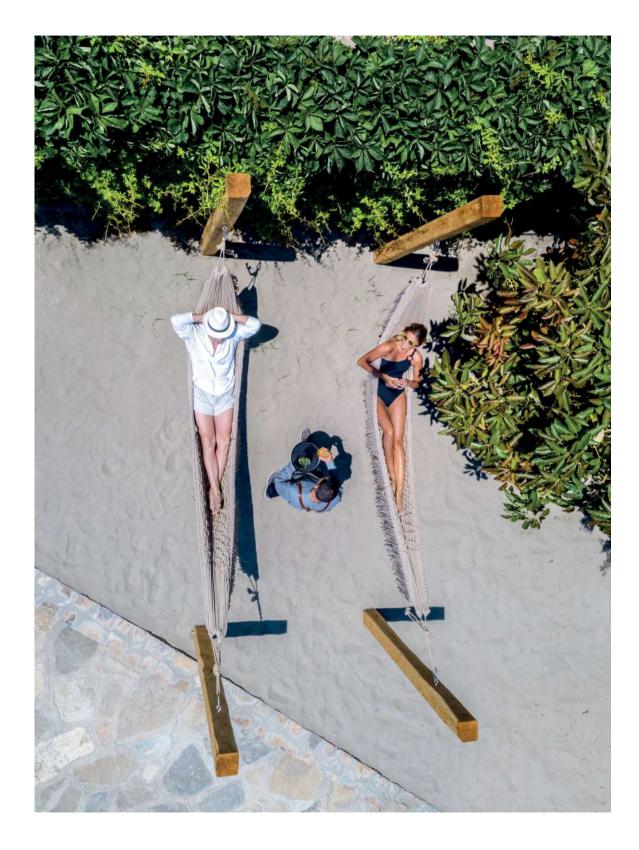




A UNIQUE LUXURY HOSPITALITY EXPERIENCE.



THE PRIVATE VIEW



Exalting simple pleasures into unsurpassed luxury, Minos Palace is a temple of indulgence.

WITH ITS SENSATIONAL hillside location near the renowned towns of Agios Nikolaos and Elounda on the island of Crete, the 5-star Minos Palace offers a very unique hospitality experience indeed. Offering 360° sea views throughout, this member of the bluegr Hotels & Resorts group offers guests the opportunity to relax, let loose and make new memories in elegant, luxurious surroundings that stay true to their island roots.

Despite having received many awards and accolades throughout the years, Minos Palace hotel & suites is not one to rest on its laurels. This fact, evident in its a la carte All Day Bar Restaurant, the Inblu, and in and the redesign of its accommodations, means that this remarkable property welcomes 2019 revitalized and ready to impress even the most discerning of guests once again. Its minimalist architectural aesthetic reflects a simple albeit utterly exclusive side of island life. Peace and serenity abound in its beautifully landscaped grounds, while the endless sea views will stay with you for years. Conceived with tranquility in mind, the property offers a haven of privacy, peace and wellbeing throughout its extensive range of rooms and suites. Decorated and fitted with the overriding purpose of soothing the senses, all of the accommodations feature calming color palettes, luxury amenities, sensational sea views and all of the modern conveniences one could ask for.

This focus on enjoying the pleasures of exceptional hospitality also extends to every detail, every service and amenity. Minos Palace will simply cater to every one of your desires, whatever they may be – from cutting edge treatments at the Ananea Wellness by Aegeo Spas to tennis, water sports and diving escapades. The sun, the sea and the wondrous Greek sky take center stage. You'll be diving into the turquoise waters of Mirabello Bay. You'll be watching the sun rise as it turns the sky into a riot of fiery pinks and orange. You'll be enjoying the good life poolside, with attentive staff taking care of your every need and whim.

Last but not least, Minos Palace hotel & suites boasts some of the finest restaurants on Crete, an island known for its strong culinary tradition and incomparable natural products. This summer sees renowned chef Giannis Baxevanis introduce a new concept focused on pure, top-quality Greek products combining into a parade of flavors, textures and colors more exciting and delicious than ever before. Expect to be enthralled with exquisitely prepared dishes throughout the day, all served up in a a chic luxury environment environment where design and the glorious Mediterranean scenery set the mood.

YOUR PRIVATE PARADISE TIPS

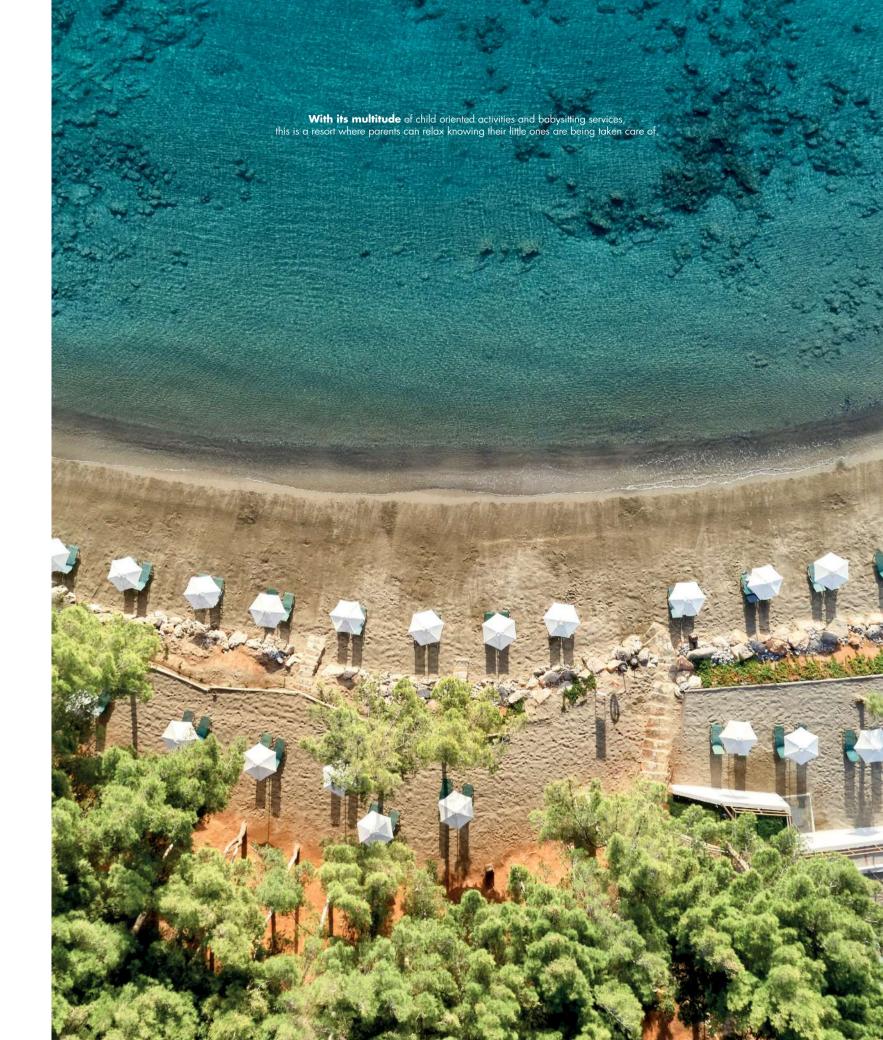
DOs

- Revel in the pure light of the endless Mediterranean sky in a location quite unlike any other.
- Feel the fine sand between your toes before diving into the cooling waters of stunning Mirabello Bay.
 - Soothing, traditional, exquisite, this adults-only resort exemplifies everything that a luxury Greek island vacation should be.
- Explore Crete's bountiful natural produce from both land and sea while savoring Greek and Mediterranean cuisine at its finest.
- Plan the wedding and honeymoon that you've always dreamed of with the help of our expert team.

CANDIA PARK VILLAGE

ESCAPE TO PURE FREEDOM

Based on the concept of a traditional Cretan village, Candia Park village on the island of Crete offers a truly unparalleled Greek summer vacation experience for all the family to enjoy.





CRETE IS BLESSED with astounding natural beauty known the world round. With all its beaches, gorges, rivers, mountains and plains, it is an almost mythical destination, where historical wonders, customs and traditions frame the experience for locals and travelers alike. Conceived and designed to emulate a picturesque Cretan village with its very own central square and traditional kafeneion, where villagers traditionally congregate to let loose and socialize, Candia Park village offers an incomparable summer vacation experience.

Boasting an enviable beachside location on beautiful Mirabello Bay, the property has crystal clear waters that soothe the soul and mind, inviting both families and couples to be revitalized while enjoying a myriad of stand-out amenities, fantastic service, incredible Greek cuisine, fun and recreation for all ages. Perfectly reflecting Crete's renowned hospitality, this is a resort that also pays reverence to the quieter side of life. Guests are invited to take contemplative walks across verdant gardens, bathe in any one of its refreshing pools or be utterly spoilt by calming spa treatments at the wonderful newly-opened Ananea Wellness by Aegeo Spas.

The 222 comfortable apartments and suites feel like your very special vacation home, featuring calming interiors, expansive outdoor spaces and fantastic in-room amenities, including kitchenette and everything a family could wish for. They're your ultimate summer base to sit back and enjoy memorable vacations, be that as a couple, family or group of friends. With a strong focus on child-friendly facilities and family activities, the peaceful neighborhood vibe invites you to relax and take advantage of the multitude of options on offer. These include basketball, tennis, volleyball and more, as well as water sports including windsurfing, scuba

diving and sailing. Meanwhile, the Mini Club for children ages 4-12 provides specially designed activities and childcare services, affording parents the opportunity to enjoy some alone time secure in the knowledge that their beloved children are receiving the utmost in care, attention and entertainment.

At this beautiful setting where the sun and sea take center stage, dining is also taken very seriously at Candia Park village. Serving traditional Greek and local Cretan delights, the hotel's main restaurant, Agapi, (Greek for "love") features a tempting buffet, while To Fili, the hotel's a la carte restaurant (Greek for "kiss") cooks with the finest ingredients that the island has to offer – and both provide special menus for the little ones, too. What's more, the inviting traditional Kafeneio is a slice of Cretan life, and an initiation to this beautiful island's laid-back lifestyle. Following bluegr's new collaboration with exceptional chef Giannis Baxevanis, epicureanism goes even further at this exceptional resort, with fresh new takes on succulent Cretan recipes that deliver flavor in spades.

DOs

- Discover the incredible island of Crete, where history, tradition and breathtaking natural beauty go hand in hand.
- Dive into the tempting waters of the sea or any of the pools and emerge refreshed and ready for anything!
- Enjoy a coffee in traditional Kafeneion to get a glimpse of time-honored Cretan lifestyle.
- Savor the finest natural ingredients that Crete has to offer and discover the island's treasure trove of healthy traditional cuisine.
- Watch your children embark on unforgettable adventures created especially for their age group under the watchful eye of our specialized staff.









Earthy, traditional, relaxing, the Candia Village has been conceived and designed to provide guests the ultimate in relaxation, recreation and fun.

LIFE GALLERY ATHENS

A STYLISH URBAN OASIS

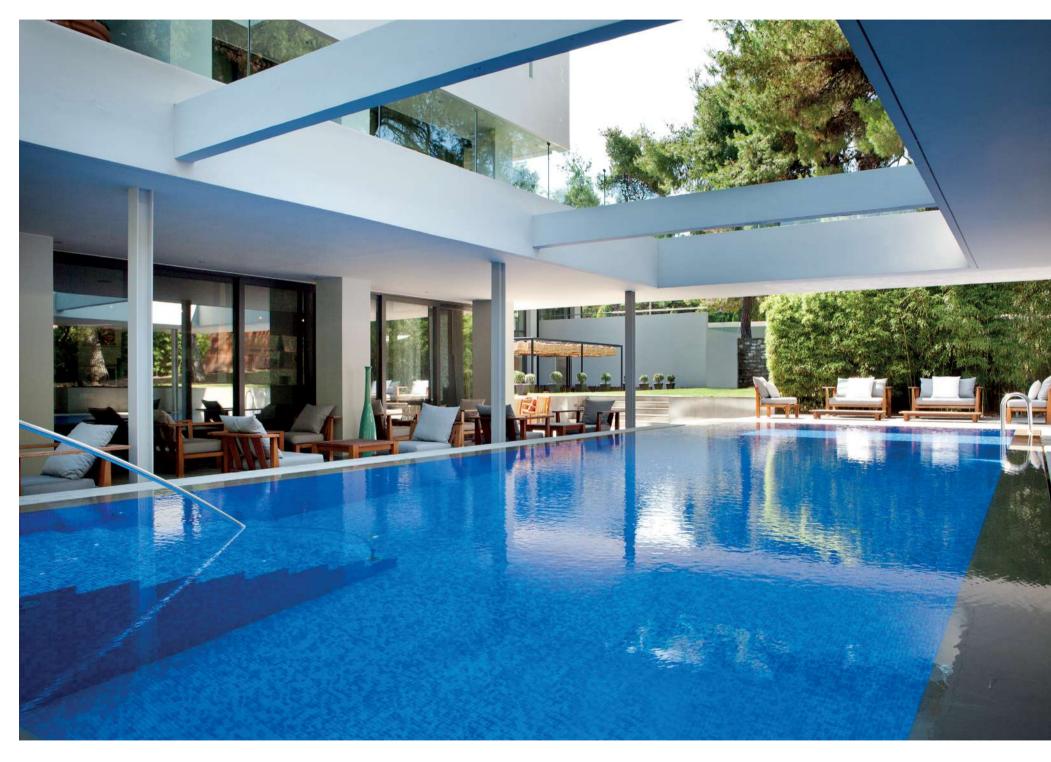
With its 5-star luxury facilities, endless amenities and serene environment, Life Gallery athens sets the standard for hospitality in an urban but serene environment.



THE PRIVATE VIEW







Cool, design-focused and engaging, Life Gallery awakens the senses.

The epitome of Athenian chic in the northern suburbs of the Greek capital, Life Gallery athens is the perfect haven to relax and enjoy the pleasures of life.

THE PRIVATE VIEW





With its enviable location amidst mature pine trees, Life Gallery athens offers a very different perspective to this bustling metropolis with its millennia-long history and fascinating culture.

upon setting foot into Life Gallery athens, you almost forget that the hotel is situated a mere thirty-minute drive from the hustle and bustle of central Athens. Every single detail artfully marries modern luxury, chic urbanity and total peace and quiet. And this is where Life Gallery athens' location comes into play: incredibly verdant, surrounded by mature pine trees and their unmistakable, crisp scent, greenery abounds to provide the perfect backdrop for this chic urban haven magnificently juxtaposed against the surrounding nature in a stunning edifice of glass and metal.

Inside, interiors see minimalism, ethnic design elements, extraordinary lighting and furniture come together in exquisite harmony with both the building and its incredible surroundings. This design ethos also continues into the property's outstanding deluxe rooms, art studios and two sleek suites, which feature luxurious furnishings, design details as well as contemporary facilities and deluxe amenities - simply put, it's an utterly perfect environment to relax. The turquoise waters of Life Gallery's iconic glass-bottom swimming pool further intensify this sense of serenity, as does the Ananea Wellness spa by Orloff Experts. Unique and indulgent in every sense, the spa also draws its inspiration from the natural environs surrounding the property, taking relaxation and rejuvenation to new heights in its sublime wet area, Jacuzzi, sauna and hamam. The incredible massages and rejuvenating treatments on offer use product ranges from cutting edge spa specialists such as Valmont and Cinq Mondes, truly reflecting this establishment's dedication to providing a world class wellness experience.

Conceived with both business and pleasure in mind, Life Gallery athens is a unique backdrop for business meetings and other events – further exemplifying the joys of Athens' leafier northern suburbs. In the warm summer months, a marked difference in temperature means cooler weather, while the surrounding area's parks and well-heeled neighborhoods provide a different vantage point of Greece's capital. It is an outstanding venue for all types of social events, receptions and informal celebrations.

What's more, Life Gallery on-site Kool Life Bar Restaurant gives both guests and hotel visitors the perfect opportunity to revel in beautiful surroundings. Ideal for any occasion throughout the day, Kool Life Bar Restaurant is a perfect meeting point for business lunches and dinners as well as the ideal spot to catch up with friends and relax – be it for a mid-morning coffee, exceptional cocktail, perfectly prepared brunch, chilled glass of wine at just the right temperature or an outstanding epicurean experience.

DOs

- Pamper yourself at Life Gallery's fantastic spa facilities.
- Dive into the refreshing waters of the incredibly designed glass-bottom pool.
- Join chic Athenians and travelers alike at Kool Life Bar Restaurant for perfectly executed cocktails, fine wines and incredible creative Greek cuisine.
- Marvel at Life Gallery athens' incredibly cool, forward looking design.
- Enjoy the best of both worlds, with exquisite surrounding nature just a 30-minute drive away from the pulsating bright lights of cosmopolitan central Athens.

An extension of the cloudless blue sky and inviting sea, the resort's infinity pool is a summer wonderland of relaxation.

MIRAMARE PARK

SUITES & VILLAS





A breathtaking natural setting combines with the latest in luxury and pampering to give you a vacation to remember for years to come.

PAYING HOMAGE to the concept of luxury leisure in its purest form, the Miramare Park suites & villas in Ixia, Rhodes, is immediately enchanting. Stand upon the sunkissed deck of the dazzling hotel swimming pool and gaze in awe at its crystal clear waters, blending almost seamlessly with the never-ending blue of the sky and sea beyond.

With its community environment, direct beachfront location, fragrant gardens and atmosphere of peaceful serenity, the 5-star Miramare Park suites & villas will immediately capture your imagination. Every form, color and scent emits an aura of spiritual tranquility, resulting in a perfectly conceived beachfront wonderland.

This sea view resort takes rest and relaxation to new heights, with guests invited to unwind by the pool and savor the stunning facilities, where the sole wish of the dedicated staff is to make you feel welcome and relaxed, providing the perfect home-away-from-home experience.

Located a mere 30 minute drive from Rhodes' international airport, the hotel complex features elegant surroundings, fabulous dining options and beautiful accommodation. You'll fall in love with its chilled-out vibe from the moment you set foot here. The 175 bungalows and suites consist of light, airy spaces nestled in various one and two story buildings dotted around the hotel grounds. In-room facilities include separate double or twin bedrooms, comfortable living areas, kitchenettes with microwaves and mini-fridges, hairdryers, satellite television, irons and

ironing boards, safes, air conditioning, bathrobes and slippers, modern bathrooms and sunny terraces.

The Miramare Park suites & villas is proud to offer guests a spectacular outdoor infinity pool, with ample sun loungers, parasols and pool/beach towels. The main restaurant serves an array of Greek and international dishes to be enjoyed inside or on the terrace, while the pool bar offers snacks and refreshments throughout the day. Two bars, tennis courts, an outdoor and indoor gym, fitness classes, free Wi-Fi, 24 hour reception and a wonderful spa offering a wide range of massage and beauty treatments complete the Miramare experience.

Rhodes, commonly known as the "island of the sun," is the largest in the Dodecanese, famed for its beaches and natural beauty as well as the warm hospitality of the local residents. Just a short drive from the Miramare is the UNESCO protected medieval old town, with its cobblestone alleys, Grand Master's Palace, Ottoman bathhouses and mosques, and a fascinating Archaeological Museum highlighting the island's rich history and culture.

The Miramare Park suites & villas is an ideal resort for families, with guests of all ages instantly falling in love with the resort's hidden treasures and enjoying long days on the sunkissed beach. The hotel's central location in the village of Ixia allows guests to truly experience and enjoy the wonders of the island before returning to their home base to be royally pampered.





With its community environment, direct beachfront location, fragrant gardens and atmosphere of peaceful serenity, Miramare Park suites & villas is truly special.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

BY THE PEOPLE OF BLUEGR

Illustrations Vladimir Radibratovic



Eirini Belenioti SOUS MAITRE AT MINOS BEACH ART HOTEL

"Minos Beach is designed to offer the best in tranquility and relaxation, but what makes us stand out from the rest is our hotel's history. You wouldn't believe the number of celebrities we have hosted. I would thus invite guests looking for something special to enjoy a private dinner right next to the calm, teal waters of the Aegean, accompanied by live music and exclusive views of Mirabello Bay. This is what Maria Kallas enjoyed in the '60s, as did famous authors and historic figures such as Walt Disney and the crew of Apollo 11, headed by Neil Armstrong."



Eleni Kardamaki
PERSONALIZED EXPERIENCE
SERVICES
AT MINOS BEACH ART HOTEL

"The full Cretan experience can be found in the villages, high up in the mountains. Stop at the "kafeneio" traditional cafeteria, the heart and soul of each settlement. Don't be taken aback when the owner greets you and asks about you, your family and your country. Have a chat and accept his offer of raki and meze. This is pure Crete. They might even get you drunk and tell you about the "panigiri" - the village's festival. If you're lucky, it might be a "feggarovradia" – a "moon night" full of mirth up in the woods. where locals let loose with music. drinks, food and dance well into the early hours."



Sofia Skyvalou MAIN RESTAURANT WAITRESS AT MINOS PALACE

"If you love nature, don't miss the sunrise from a fantastic spot above Kritsa village. As you head uphill after the village, at about 3km towards Katharo plateau, the road will straighten after a series of hairpin turns. You're here! Stop to admire the entire Mirabello Bay accompanied by the early morning smells of the wild herbs we use in Cretan cooking: sage, oregano, thyme and summer savory. You'll never forget the sight of the sunrise from Siteia's mountains, casting a red veil all over the sea! You can then continue uphill to Katharo plateau, once the site of an enormous prehistoric lake."

WE ASKED SIX STAFF MEMBERS FROM THE BLUEGR HOTELS AND RESORTS IN CRETE TO SHARE WITH US THEIR MOST SPECIAL, WELL-KEPT SECRETS FOR THE ISLAND. HERE'S WHAT THEY SAID.



Giannis Aleksakis GROOM AT MINOS PALACE

"For anyone who enjoys adventure, I'd highly recommend snorkeling around and above the ancient city of Olous. Now submerged in the sea, it was among the five most prominent cities of Minoan Crete, had 30,000 residents and was even mentioned by Homer in the Iliad. Its ruins are next to the beach at a depth of just a few meters. To get there, head to Elounda, next to the old windmills. As for how long it will take, it is up to you – anything from a regular visit to the beach to hours and hours of underwater discovery."



Lampros Tsiampalis CHEF AT CANDIA PARK VILLAGE

"I have a restaurant to recommend because its cooking and hosting philosophy is very close to mine. Psomi kai Alati taverna is inside a beautifully converted home in Vrouhas village, just out of Elounda - one to visit if you want to experience pure Cretan hospitality. The hall and patio are peaceful and comfortable, and the food local and authentic. We call this style creative Cretan and Greek cuisine; it's based on local, fresh ingredients and traditional recipes, often given a creative, contemporary twist. They even have vegetarian and vegan options for anyone who prefers them."



Angeliki Tzima FRONT OFFICE MANAGER AT CANDIA PARK VILLAGE

"I would like to recommend a standup paddleboard (SUP) ride from the Candia Park Village beach down to Agioi Pantes islet. It doesn't take too long, and along the way the view is magnificent. You'll reach a virgin beach and have a chance to swim in amazing turquoise waters. This islet takes its name, which means "All Saints", from the blue and white chapel found at its highest point. No people live there, just kri-kri goats – a long-horned species only found on the island of Crete and its satellite islets."

THE INCREDIBLE GIANNIS BAXEVANIS

Dubbed "the Greek magician of aromatic herbs" by impressed critics, Giannis Baxevanis has elevated Crete's ingredients and dishes to gourmet heights.



Photography Yiorgos Kordakis

AT THE HELM OF A HIGHLY talented kitchen squad, Executive Chef Giannis Baxevanis has embraced Cretan cuisine and formed the culinary identity of the bluegr restaurants by acting on an ambitious vision focused on the exclusive use of Greek products and the combination of tradition with creative contemporary techniques. Today, he speaks about his passion for Crete's ingredients and dishes, shedding light on a culinary philosophy that has landed him numerous acclaims in Greece and abroad, including the "Chef of the Future" award from the International Academy of Gastronomy.

What makes the cuisine at the bluegr restaurants in Crete and Athens stand out? The biggest surprise is that we only use Greek products instead of following norms and trends. We cook contemporary Greek cuisine, and we emphasize the value of Greek flavors.

Was it challenging to take on the position of Executive Chef for a dynamic hospitality group such as bluegr?

Of course it's a challenge. For years, I'd been saying that a hotel can use local products exclusively, and nobody believed me. Chefs, owners and directors thought it impossible. Ms. Mamidakis did not though, and my collaboration with her and her dynamic team was a breath of fresh air. Today, I am glad that we offer guests so many Greek products. They seek and buy them back home, too, helping Greek exports.

Visiting Crete, did you have a chance to enjoy its unique culture and landscape?

I first set foot on Crete in 1991, planning to cook French. Becoming more acquainted with the island's dietary habits, though, its smells and culinary background made me reconsider and devote my menu exclusively to Cretan and Mediterranean food – back when nobody dared feature greens on the menu of an expensive restaurant. I'm not Cretan. I hail from Asia Minor, but I feel Cretan as a chef.

Is Crete on the international gastronomy map today? Are audiences aware of its unique offering of ingredients and techniques?

When the entire world started speaking about the Cretan diet and the first researchers arrived from the USA, we restauranteurs and chefs invented the term Mediterranean diet to make our life easier by adding things like pasta and cream to dishes. Recently, the Mediterranean Diet made UNESCO's Intangible Heritage List. The uniqueness and flavor of Cretan cuisine are still recognized. The sun, sea and soil make the produce and meat exceptional, while traditional, uncomplicated techniques leave us speechless with their deliciousness. Anyone from Crete interested in cooking should learn as much as possible from their grandmothers and greatgrandmothers and embrace the entirety of their tradition; it's what makes us unique.

Which of Crete's ingredients stand out and which ones will diners find on your menus at bluegr hotels and resorts this summer?

There are so many flavors and aromas! Stamnagkathi and carob have risen to prominence – in fact, we now export them, but there's more, including ground ivy – which is delicious steamed. This season, we're featuring marjoram, seaweed, pennyroyal and saltwort.

What are your goals for diners at bluegr properties?

It's great when guests approach me to discuss dishes of mine they enjoyed years ago, even dishes I may have forgotten about.





THE CHEF'S CRETAN PICKS

- Lagoudopaksimada
- ground ivy
- Stamnagkathi Chicorium spinosum
 - Mallow
 - Bergamot
 - Cherry plums
 - Almyra saltwort
 - Carob
- Agriomaintana wild parsley
- Agrioprasakia wild chives
- Ksinithra wood sorrel
- Embracing traditional techniques







Giannis Baxevanis is the Executive Chef of the bluegr group restaurants at Minos Beach art hotel, Minos Palace hotel & suites and Candia Park village in Crete, as well as Life Gallery athens.

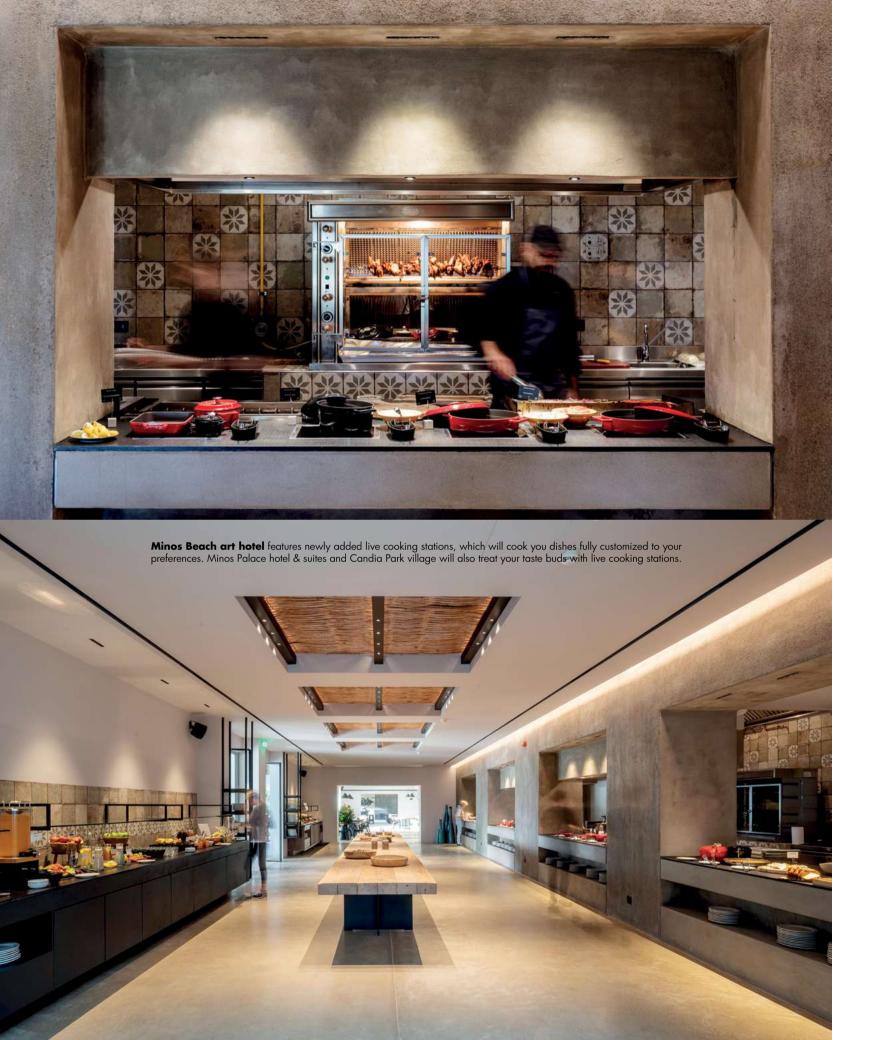


CRETAN CUISINE AT BLUEGR

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A NEW CULINARY ERA

The kitchens are filled with the aromas of wild Cretan herbs while local delicacies shine on the plate: Join us in welcoming a new epicurean concept across bluegr Hotels & Resorts!



AT EVERY SINGLE one of the bluegr Hotels & Resorts on the famous island of Crete as well as at Life Gallery athens, a new culinary era has commenced – and it's one celebrating the ingenuity and taste of Cretan cuisine and showcasing unrivaled local products.

Ushered in by a new star-spangled collaboration between acclaimed chef Giannis Baxevanis and bluegr Hotels & Resorts, this new chapter in the Group's culinary history brings new focus on the farm-to-table approach, making use of the freshest treasures of the Cretan and Greek land to initiate diners from across the globe to the wonders of authentic Cretan cuisine.

It all started with a vision to enrich the superb hospitality experience offered by Minos Beach art hotel, Minos Palace hotel & suites, Candia Park village and Life Gallery athens in a new, meaningful way, by further embracing what Crete means to those who live here – be it by choice or by birth. This eagerness to showcase tradition on an island like no other in the world simply had to extend to the culinary experience offered – after all, Crete is the origin of what has become known as Mediterranean cuisine, and its most genuine representative. To bring this dream to life, the expertise of multi-award-winning chef Giannis Baxevanis was called upon, and it wasn't long before he responded with enthusiasm. After all, as you can read in the exclusive interview he gave Blue Ink magazine, he had envisioned a hotel which solely uses local products and was determined not to let those who thought it impossible cloud his professional judgment.

This inspired joint vision gave its way to careful planning, training and, finally, realization. With Giannis Baxevanis as a consultant, dining at the bluegr Hotels & Resorts is all about the art of Greek and Cretan cuisine, resulting in food that is simple, fresh and healthy. The experienced chef's talent, skill and know-how, as evidenced by his multitude of accolades, including 11 Toques d'Or, two Chef of the Year awards and "Chef of the Future" award from the International Academy of Gastronomy, meant the delivery of this concept was going to be as precise and outstanding as the idea.

From breakfast buffets to a la carte pleasures, pure, bright Cretan and Greek ingredients are the veritable stars of the show. Rejecting any and all pretentiousness, the message is clear: This is the best our blessed land has to offer. Guests are already responding very positively to these remarkable flavors, especially when discovering lesser-known treats – from delicious dolma and organically reared lamb to stuffed zucchini flowers and wild greens freshly foraged by the kitchen team.

Give in to the hospitable embrace of Crete and Greece during your stay – not just indulging in its natural beauty but letting us initiate you to fantastic new flavors, too.

AMBITIOUS AND INNOVATIVE, THE NEW DINING CONCEPT SOURCES THE FINEST PRODUCTS AND RECIPES FROM CRETE & GREECE, PLACING THEM IN THE HANDS OF GIFTED, PASSIONATE CHEFS.



Seafood Pita Wrap

By KALLIOPI KOURKOUTAKI, Head Chef of BACCHUS MAIN RESTAURANT

Ingredients for 4

- 4 pittas
- Cooked mussel meat
- Assorted prawn, squid
- 2 potatoes
- 2 tomatoes
- 1 small onion
- 1 whole garlic

- 3 egg yolks
- Ouzo
- Lemon balm leaf
- Parsley
- Extra virgin olive oil
- Saffron
- Splash of vinegar

instructions Sautee prawns and calamari with a little onion and 1 clove of garlic. Add ouzo, flambee. Sprinkle lemon balm. Prepare the salad by dicing 2 tomatoes. Add chopped onion and parsley, sea salt, ground pepper, olive oil. Make the skordalia by boiling 2 potatoes, then puree in a blender while still hot. Add salt, garlic, vinegar, saffron, egg yolks, continuing to blend. Leave to cool. To assemble, grill each pitta, spread skordalia, add mussels and seafood mix, add salad, and wrap.



Kallopi Kourkoutaki, Head Chef at Bacchus Main Restaurant at Minos Beach art hotel poses for our lens.





Above, from top: The dining areas and buffets at Minos Beach art hotel are inviting and comfortable. **Artisan bread,** pies and other baked treats are served fresh from the traditional wood oven every single day.

Sea Bream with Broad Beans, Sorrel and Onion Cream

By Head Chef KYRIAKOS MYLONAS from LA BOUILLABAISSE

Ingredients for 4

- 600g sea bream fillet
- 470g white onions
- 1.2l vegetable stock
- 300g broad beans, blanched
- 400g baby sorrel
- Handful of wild greens
- Summer savory
- White wine
- 70g butter
- 50g extra virgin olive oil
- Clove of garlic
- Thyme
- Salt, white pepper

instructions Portion fish, salt and place skin side down in oil, in cold pan. Fry for 4 min and flip. Sprinkle with thyme, leave 1 min. Turn off heat, rest for 1 min. For the onion cream, julienne 400g onions. Sautee in olive oil and butter on low, so they stay white. Add thyme, garlic, salt, white pepper. Cook until soft. Place in blender and blend until smooth and creamy. Drain. For the broad beans and sorrel, in a pot, cook a handful of wild greens in olive oil on low. Add white wine, burn off. Add vegetable stock and boil until reduced to 400ml. In a pan, sautee 70g chopped onion. Add beans and sorrel. Add broth from earlier, boiling for 1 minute. Serve, sprinkling with summer savory.





Olive Crusted Red Mullet, Cauliflower Puree and Citrus & Basil Sauce

By Head Chef DIONYSIS ZACHAROPOULOS from KOOL LIFE BAR RESTAURANT

Ingredients for 4

- 8 small red mullets, filleted
- 200g dried olives
- 200g dried breadcrumbs
- Zest of 2 lemons
- Extra virgin olive oil
- 200ml orange juice
- 200ml mandarin juice
- 100ml lemon juice
- + 1 lemon for the sauce
- Bunch of fresh basil
- 300g pears, peeled
- 1kg cauliflower florets

instructions For the sauce & puree, boil pears in tangerine and orange juice. Once soft, add lemon juice and basil. Blend and strain. Boil cauliflower until slightly soft. Puree until smooth. Add salt, squeeze of lemon. For the crust, sautee breadcrumbs until golden. Mix in dried olives and lemon zest. For the fish, salt fillets. Fry skin side down until flesh is white throughout. Dry, sprinkle crust on skin. Serve fish on cauliflower puree, add salad and two Tbsp of sauce per portion.



Bass with Aromatics and Beetroot Puree

By Head Chef IRAKLIS APOSTOLIDIS from INBLU ALL DAY LOUNGE BAR RESTAURANT

Ingredients for 4

- 4 bass fillets
- 100g chervil
- 100g Mediterranean hartwort
- 200g rumex leaves
- 100g chard
- 100g fennel leaves
- 50g dill
- 50g parsley

- 50g verbena
- 2 leeks
- 2 onions
- 3 beetroots
- 100g butter
- Juice of 3 oranges
- Extra virgin olive oil
- Salt, pepper

instructions Finely chop all aromatic herbs. In a pot, sautee onion and leek in olive oil until wilting, add herbs. Leave to cook until soft – add water if they look dry. For the beetroot puree, boil beetroot. Peel, cut in large wedges. Place back in pot with orange juice. Once boiling, turn off heat. Puree with butter, salt and pepper in blender. For the fish, sandwich herbs between fillets and roast at 190°C for approx. 14 min.

Leg of Lamb with Rakomelo and Oven Potatoes

By Head Chef ANGELOS ANGELOUDIS from AMALTHEIA RESTAURANT

Ingredients for 6

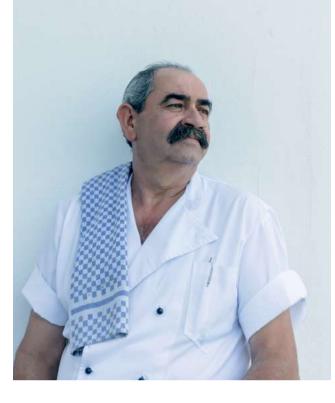
- 2.5-3kg leg of lamb
- 2 cloves of garlic
- 100g extra virgin olive oil
- 100g vegetable stock
- 2kg potatoes
- 100g mustard
- 200g rakomelo
- 2 sprigs of rosemary
- 2 sprigs of thyme
- 2 bunches of chervil
- Handful of lemon verbena
- Oregano, salt, pepper

instructions Peel potatoes, cut in wedges. Place in casserole with oil, stock, salt, pepper, verbena, thyme, half of mustard and half of rakomelo. Mix well. Trim and wash lamb. Dry and make 8 incisions at the thickest spots. Cut each garlic clove in 4 and squeeze into incision with the rosemary twigs. Mix remaining mustard and rakomelo and spread on meat. Salt and pepper. Place lamb on potatoes, cover and cook in preheated oven at 180°C for 90 min. Clean, wash and blanch chervil. Add to casserole at 70 min mark. To serve, cut lamb into cubes. Place chervil on plate, lamb on top, potatoes on side. Pour sauce on meat. Garnish with roasted baby tomatoes, paprika oil, pinch of smoked paprika and verbena.



Kyriakos Mylonas, Head Chef of **La Bouillabaisse**, Minos Beach art hotel (left) and Mironas Kavalos, Head Chef at **Terpsis Cretan Restaurant** at Minos Beach art hotel (right).





CHEFS WITH PASSION

At any restaurant worth its salt, the back-of-the-house team works like a well-oiled machine. Inside the kitchens and live cooking stations of the bluegr Hotels & Resorts restaurants, talented chefs cook with passion and precision. At the helm are exceptional professionals with illustrious careers and outstanding understanding of culinary art, serving "a contemporary approach on tradition, made with the best ingredients of our land," as Dionysis Zacharopoulos, the new Head Chef at Life Gallery athens explains.

In addition to devising new delights and ensuring that everything works like clockwork, these highly skilled and creatively minded Head Chefs have been called upon to implement bluegr and Giannis Baxevanis' new epicurean concept based on authentic Cretan and Greek cuisine. The end goal, says Head Chef Angelos Angeloudis from Minos Palace hotel & suites, "is to allow diners to enjoy the bounty of our mountains and our seas, and discover the diversity and quality of local products, which we elevate with modern techniques."

Following extensive consultation and a specially designed training workshop, given in February by Giannis Baxevanis and French chef Xavier Bouriot, bluegr Hotels & Resorts' fantastic range of eateries are fully prepared to source the very best ingredients available on the local market, utilize time-old Cretan techniques and epicurean secrets, and create using a flavor palette that's both nourishing and delicious – from the lavish breakfast buffets to a la carte delights.

GRANDMA'S SECRET RECIPES, AUTHENTIC CRETAN TECHNIQUES, FRESH INGREDIENTS SUPPLIED BY SMALL PRODUCERS: ALL THIS AND MORE COMPOSE THE NEW CULINARY LANGUAGE OF BLUEGR.

Ingredients for 4

- 500g prawns
- 500g squid
- 1 zucchini
- 1 carrot
- 1 red bell pepper
- 500g orzo pasta
- 50ml ouzo
- Extra virgin olive oil
- Mussel stock
 - Bisque
 - 500ml tomato sauce
 - 50g basil pesto
 - 50g pepper paste
 - Chopped parsley
 - Shisso (perilla leaf)
 - Black peppercorns

instructions Dice zucchini, red pepper, onion, carrot. Sautee in olive oil. Add orzo pasta, stir and cook for 5 min. Add 200g chicken stock. Reduce, then turn off heat. In a pan, cook prawns and squid in olive oil. Add finely chopped onion, garlic. Add ouzo and flambee. In a pot, mix bisque, mussel stock and tomato sauce. Boil orzo in this broth. Once soft, add prawns, squid and mussels. Salt and pepper. Serve and finish with pesto and pepper paste. Garnish with perilla and parsley leaves.

Seafood Giouvetsi

By Head Chef MIRONAS KAVALOS from TERPSIS CRETAN RESTAURANT



As Lampros Tsiampalis, who is in charge of the Candia Park village restaurants, explains, "the Cretan diet has endless recipes based on local ingredients such as wild greens and herbs, olives, honey, grapes, legumes, cereal and fish." That's why it's rich in Omega-3, fiber and vegetable oil. "A great lot of wild greens and fish, high quality olive oil, but only a little meat," adds Mironas Kavalos from Terpsis Cretan Restaurant. These building blocks combine nutritional value with enjoyment, explains Iraklis Apostolidis, Head Chef of Inblu All Day Lounge Bar Restaurant at Minos Palace hotel & suites – adding that it's often the team themselves who forage the wild herbs they cook with. While it's proven time and again to boost our health, at its very heart, Cretan cuisine is certainly all about taste, too: "So many flavors stand out here: olive oil, snails, yellow split peas..." says Kyriakos Mylonas, who has been Head Chef at Minos Beach art hotel's award-winning restaurant, La Bouillabaisse, since 2007.

In this mission to showcase everything that's delicious and healthy about this land's cuisine, dozens upon dozens of small local producers were enlisted. "We spent all winter looking for the very best ingredients and suppliers. We conducted extensive taste tests before choosing," says Angelos. In fact, most of the products that make it into bluegr kitchens enjoy Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) status.





Iraklis Apostolidis (left), Head Chef of **Inblu All Day Lounge Bar Restaurant** at Minos Palace hotel & suites, and Angelos Angeloudis (right), Head Chef of **Amalthea** restaurant at Minos Palace hotel & suites.



The impressive buffet of Amalthea restaurant at Minos Palace hotel & suites is a smogasbord of flavorsome, bright selections.

Lampros Tsiampalis (left), Chef at the **Candia Park village restaurants** and Dionysis

Zacharopoulos (right), Head Chef of **Kool Life Bar Restaurant** at Life Gallery athens.





The chefs have developed close ties with organic producers, fishermen, butchers and more professionals, all as part of a philosophy that calls for using everything that's local, fresh and pure, says Dionysis, who enjoys sourcing the catch of the day and hand-picking the very best delicacies. Newly recruited in 2019 after working at Elia Dubai, Kalliopi Kourkoutaki heads the team at Minos Beach art hotel's Bacchus Main Restaurant, and explains how the unique, fantastic cheeses on offer come from local producers she knows personally – each specializing in getting only a handful of cheeses just right. All bluegr Hotels & Resorts also feature a wide selection of fine wines. Coming from Greece as well as across the world, these stand-out labels are the best way to complement your meal.

"We want to represent in the best possible way the variety of flavor evident in Greek cuisine, and treat diners from Greece and abroad to food that you can only find here and nowhere else in the world," says Iraklis. It ultimately comes down to a land that's been blessed with a wonderful climate and inhabited by resourceful and proud people who have devised ingenious ways to make the best use of what Crete offers. Prepared by the talented hands of our professional chefs and under the supervision of Giannis Baxevanis, this ambitious concept delivers food that has to be tasted to be believed.

OF AROMATIC HERBS AND GREENS; FRESHLY
CAUGHT FISH AND EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL
ARE JUST SOME OF THE STAND-OUT INGREDIENTS.



LA STRADA

LAKE VIEW CAFE - RESTAURANT

Greek & Italian Cuisine Since 1991

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Ingredients for 4

- 500g octopus (tentacles)
- 500g small onions + 1 whole onion
- 500g yellow split peas
- 300ml vegetable or chicken stock
- 1 carrot
- Juice of 1 lemon
- 100ml white vinegar
- 50ml balsamic vinegar

- Bay leaf
- 100ml port or Vinsanto wine
- 20g brown sugar
- 20g butter
- 200ml extra virgin olive oil
- Caper leaves
- Sweet paprika,
- peppercorns, salt, pepper

instructions For the split peas, place in a pot with carrot and whole onion. Cover with vegetable stock, going 3cm over. Bring to a boil. Skim foam, turn down heat. Peas should be very soft 30 min later. Puree in a blender, with 40g of olive oil, lemon juice, salt and pepper. For the onions, peel and julienne. Pour sugar, butter and oil in a pan. Cook on high. Add onions, stir well and cook for 5 min. Turn down heat, cook another 15-20 min, stirring frequently. Leave to cool. Drain, save juice. For the octopus, in a pot, sautee in olive oil on high heat. Add white vinegar, 6 peppercorns, bay leaf. Cover with lid, cook on medium for 25 min. Lightly sautee octopus with the caramelized onions. Add balsamic and splash of caramelized onion juice. Glaze for 2 min. Slice tentacles. Serve onions on split peas, next to octopus. Garnish with caper leaves, dash of paprika and dash of olive oil on split peas.

Sauteed Octopus, Cretan Split Pea "Fava" and Caramelized Onions

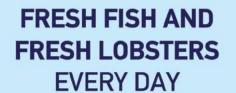
By Chef LAMPROS TSIAMPALIS from the CANDIA PARK VILLAGE RESTAURANTS













STEAKS
AND MEAT
ON THE BBQ



GREEK
TRADITIONAL FOOD
AND MANY MORE



BLUEGR LOVES Wine

Introducing Exceptional Greek Labels to the World

SPREADING THE WORD about the remarkable, acclaimed Greek wine production is LoveGreece.com – an initiative set up by bluegr CEO Gina Mamidakis' G. & A. Mamidakis Foundation with the vision and key goal of promoting our country, Greek entrepreneurship, Greek innovation and Greek products across the world.

As part of this push for further extroversion for the Greek art of the vine, a series of insightful, high-quality video presentations of leading companies in the field of winemaking were shot and shared to the internet via LoveGreece.com and its official channels. Each of these companies shares with bluegr a passion for authentic Greek wine produced with care and respect for the land. Presenting the wineries are: Petros Markantonatos from Gentilini; Nikos Douloufakis from Douloufakis winery; Konstantinos Boutaris from Boutari; Periklis Tatsis from Tatsis Estate; Giorgos Tsibidis from Monemvasia; Stellios Boutaris from Ktima Kir-Yianni; Giorgos Palivos from

Palivou Estate; Vassilis Tsaktsarlis from Ktima Biblia Chora; Christos Zafeirakis from Domaine Zafeirakis; Giannis Tselepos from Tselepos Winery; Kostas Vriniotis from Vriniotis Winery; Vartholomaios Lyrarakis from Lyrarakis family winery; Yliana Stengou from Domaine Porto Carras; George Salpigidis from Evangelos Tsantalis S.A.; Panagiotis Papagiannopoulos from Tetramythos winery. To help promote Greek wine even further, a wine tasting event took place at Ekali's Life Gallery athens. Master of Wine Konstantinos Lazarakis presented the 15 Greek winery labels, followed by an in-depth wine tasting experience. The wines were chosen by Mr. Lazarakis for their quality and unique connection to Greece, as they come from native grape varieties and are produced used innovative methods.

An audience of winemakers and producers, acclaimed chefs and industry professionals, journalists and influencers participated in this celebration of wine, tasting exceptional labels, discovering the stories behind them, talking to the creators, expanding their understanding of wine, making new favorites, networking and socializing. The wine was paired with finger food, specially selected to complement the tasting. In addition to hosting events to promote Greek winemaking, bluegr restaurants offer multiple Greek wine labels, pairing them with fantastic food, while Minos Beach art hotel is home to an amazing contemporary wine spot, La Cave de Bouillabaisse. Given bluegr Hotels & Resorts' focus on the best that Greece has to offer, the emphasis placed on excellent Greek wine here is no surprise.





Fine Greek and international wine labels are available across the bluegr Hotels & Resorts. The newly opened Minos Beach art hotel wine cellar, with two separate spaces featuring white and red wine labels from Greece and the world, is open to all guests.





Ammoudi club is situated at the coastal line of Agios Nikolaos,

Next to Ammoudi beach and overlooking the marvelous bay of Mirabello.

It's ideal for your coffee, lunch, dinner, event and entertainment during your holidays in the area of Agios Nikolaos.

Ideal for all who want to combine the holidays in front of the sea, with a location that is only a 15 minute walk from the center of the cosmopolitan and picturesque town of Agios Nikolaos.

Sotirhou Coast, Ammoudi area Agios Nikolaos - Crete Tel +30 28410 21500 www.ammoudiclub.gr Email: ammoudiclub@gmail.com On June 10th at the stylish outdoor area of Life Gallery athens, LoveGreece.com – an initiative of the G. & A. Mamidakis Foundation and its President, Gina Mamidakis – organized a special themed evening, dubbed **Love Greek Fashion by the Pool.** As part of its thematic presentations and actions, this LoveGreece.com event showcased talented new designers who shape modern Greek fashion, helping their extroversion. To this end, the Foundation joined forces with OZON magazine publisher, Giorgos Kelefis, and journalist Maria Papoukidi, who contributed their expertise to the selection of talent as part of a specially selected panel of judges. **Thirteen Greek designers** representing the new generation of Greek fashion were selected – and you can take a peek at their creations in this fashion feature.

LOVEGREECE.COM Presents the New Greek Fashion

Photographer: STATHIS BOUZOUKAS

Hair: HAIR EXPERTS — Makeup: FREDDY MAKE UP STAGE

Models: LANA FROLOVAA, CHRISTINA KIDONIDI,

IGUE JUNHAITE, EFTYCHIA MPAKA, FOTEINI AIDINI,

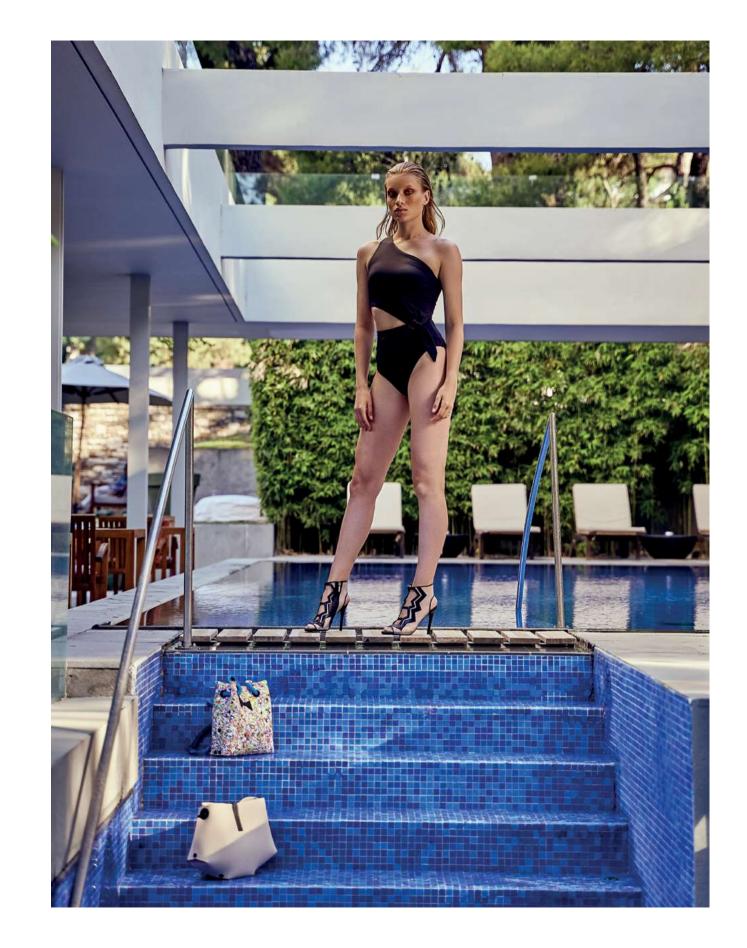
OKAN KELLY GRAEBNER, CAROLIN BENDA, MICHAELA

KRAVARIK, DIANA TITKOVA, ELISABETH, LISA,

COURTNEY, NADINE

Lana: **Etty Leon** "Tease" sandals featuring calfskin upper, goatskin lining, leather sole & 10cm heels.
On the stairs: **Lommer** "EvaPack Flakes Colors" backpack, and "EvaOri" cross-body bag.

Etty Leon makes luxury shoes. She studied at the Maryland Institute College of Art and the Fashion Institute of Technology. After collaborating with several shoemakers, she opened her workshop in 2017, outside Ancona, Italy. **Lommer** got the inspiration for their name from the phrase "we love materials and we meet requirements." The designer duo of Danai Gavrili and Alkioni Matsourdeli have received the international A' Design Award for their tote bag, EvaTwo.



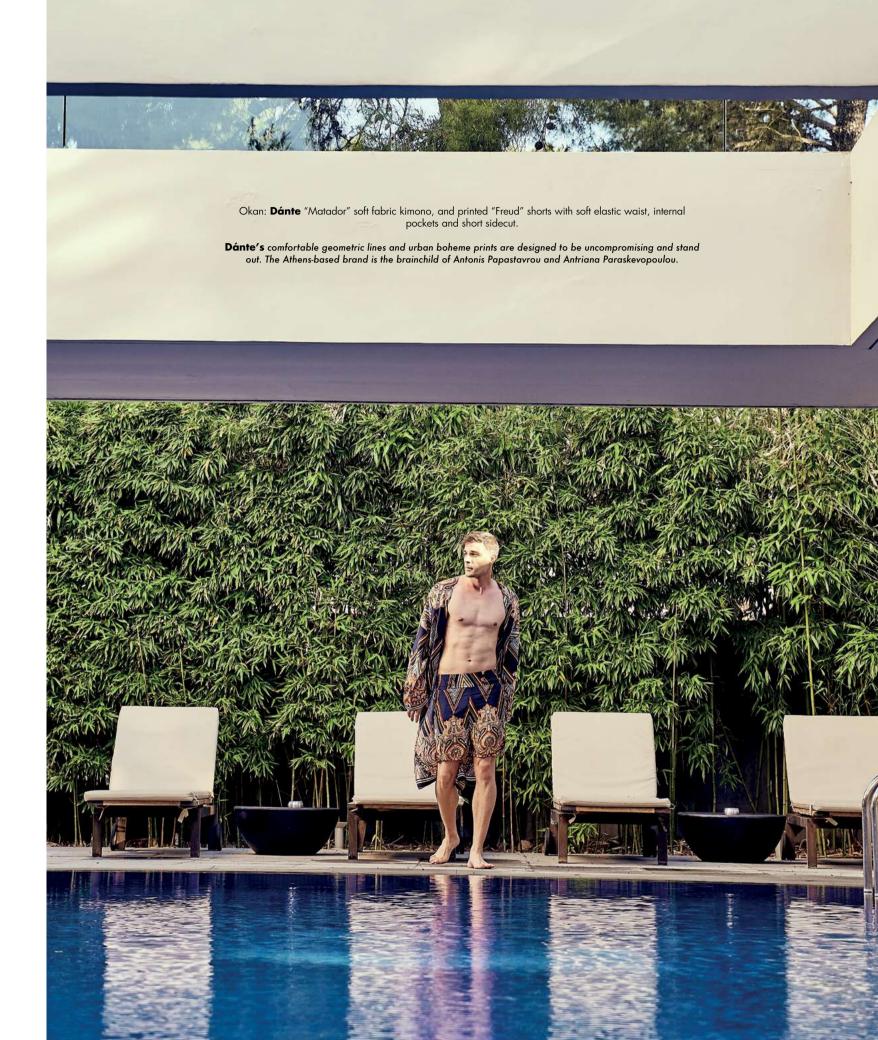


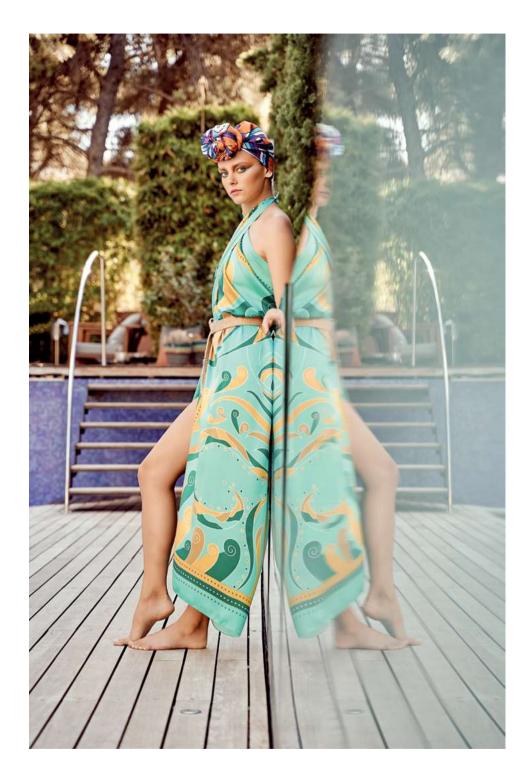
From left, Christina: **2WO+1NE=2** "Mont Sainte-Victoire 16" oversized amazonite mint cotton shirt with exaggerated stand collar, and "Mont Sainte-Victoire" 18 mini-length amazonite mint cotton skirt with asymmetrical hemline through front. **Aumorfia** "Hiastee_body piece" from the lasis collection, hand-stitched in genuine leather with sterling silver closures. Igue: **2WO+1NE=2** "Mont Sainte-Victoire 1" bauxite red Tencel jacket and "Mont Sainte-Victoire 9" high-rise bauxite red Tencel shorts – in environmentally-friendly regenerated fabric from wood cellulose. **Aumorfia** hand-stitched "T_mono_bodypiece" from the Linear A collection and "XX_body piece" from the Linear A collection, both in genuine leather with bronze closures. Eftychia: **2WO+1NE=2** "Mont Sainte-Victoire 19" limonite ochre linen dress with asymmetrical button fastenings through front. **Aumorfia** handmade "ZZ_body piece" from the Linear A collection, in genuine leather with bronze closures. Foteini: **2WO+1NE=2** "Mont Sainte-Victoire 21" obsidian black linen jumpsuit with four long straps fastening at the trousers and "Mont Sainte-Victoire 21A" obsidian black linen trousers. **Aumorfia** hand-stitched "Perikomio_body piece" from the lasis collection, in genuine leather with sterling silver closures.

2WO+1NE=2 create each of their collections around a specific international destination, using mathematically-inspired, highly challenging designs. Based in Athens, the brand was founded in 2017 by Stella Panagopoulou and Valisia Gotsi.

Aumorfia's Theano Potamianou has been creating singular leather pieces for over five years.

All hand-made, these fashion items toe the line between jewelry, accessory and clothing.





Kelly: **Debbie Tzima** hand-drawn, digitally printed "Seabed" and "Paradisea" silk scarves styled as a dress and headpiece, all made in Greece.

Debbie Tzima creates hand-illustrated, digitally printed scarves drawing inspiration from the eternal beauty of Greece. Made from sustainable, 100% natural silk produced in Soufli, they also come in fully recyclable packaging.



From left, Carolin: **Nadia Rapti** "Rabat Playsuit" in beige, and **Lommer,** small black 3D "EvaClutch." Michaela: **Nadia Rapti** "Black&White Exotic" swimsuit and **Lommer** large "EvaPack CorkFlakes."

Nadia Rapti has introduced a new philosophy to Greek fashion, defining an elegance that is dynamic and feminine at the same time. She came onto the scene in 2012 and her world is defined by contrasting elements.

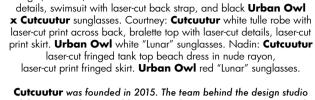
Left, from left: Diana: Aisha Diri sapphire blue kaftan dress and white leather sandals. **Ippolito** shoulder bag.

Elisabeth: Aisha Diri plaid jacket, top, shorts and mint leather sandals. **Ippolito** leather waist bag and mint leather shoulder bag.

Greece for her studies and work – including collaborations with Manolo Blahnik and Oscar de la Renta. She is celebrated for her clean lines and

goods brand. It's named after founder Pavlina Papailiopoulou's father. Pavlina studied in Milan and has collaborated with Bottega Veneta.

Aisha Diri hails from Syria, traveling to London, Milan and back to exceptional tailoring. Ippolito is a Plaka, Athens-based luxury handbag and small leather



deliver original, sustainable pieces with an innovative, experimental quality that are largely inspired by their background in architecture. **Urban Owl** was born when industrial designer Dimitris Diamantis and Pelagia Christaki crowdfunded their idea to democratize stylish eyewear. At the Love Greek Fashion event, they announced an upcoming collaboration with prominent designer Yannis Tseklenis.

Right, from left, Lisa: Cutcuutur black tulle kimono with laser-cut





In addition to the above, of the 13 designers selected by the panel, two more participated through on-site promotion and installations: Madame Shoushou is the brand name Elina Kordali chose for her clothing and accessories – all designed and produced in Greece. Floral prints and light fabrics frame a romantic, modern Greek style for women who are spontaneous and appreciate fashion. Fit & Craft is a small batch clothing company based in Thessaloniki. In 2014, founder and designer Konstantinos Michos put to use his two decades of fashion experience and creativity to start handcrafting one-of-a-kind tailor-made denim items.



Take your pick from a diverse collection of endless experiences to treat your interests and mood at the bluegr Hotels & Resorts. From basking in the sun, diving in the sea to taking part in perfectly organized conferences and picture-perfect weddings, there's something for everyone.



THE BEACH EXPERIENCE

Picture perfect beaches and dreamy clear waters await.

The true meaning of the bluegr experience lies in the exquisite blue waters embracing the Group's hotels. The dive into this pleasure can last forever – as a memory, as an image. What greater privilege is there than relaxing in such a blessed land? Staying by the sea at Minos Beach art hotel, Minos Palace hotel & suites and Candia Park village in Crete is driven by the energy of water. Life in this summer microcosm revolves around a series of sea activities revitalizing body and soul after the winter weariness and stress. Lovely sunloungers, strategically placed along the shore, await for you to indulge in their comfort. That's the starting point; the rest depends on each visitor's individual desires.



DIVE INTO BLISS

At Minos Beach art hotel, those ready to enjoy nature's precious gift can take part in diving lessons in the calm sea, exploring rocky cliffs, caves and shoals under the watchful eye of the certified Pelagos Dive Center, which operates within the hotel. Fans of water sports such as SUP, scuba diving, water-skiing and sailing will be delighted by the offering, while boat trips around the bay and daily cruises to Spinalonga and Mohlos boast vantage views of the area. Those opting for Minos Palace hotel & suites can also enjoy diving and water sports in the privacy of this romantic hideaway. Imagine a dive just for two or an exciting ride on the waves with your surfboards. And the best of it is that you don't have to worry about the details: By the time you have finished breakfast and put on your new bathing suit, all details will have been taken care of by the helpful staff, there to give you the chance to relax in the deep blue.

ENDLESS HOURS OF PLAY

Are you in Crete with your little ones? You'll see their faces light up at the the unique opportunity of discovering the excitement of vacationing by the sea. At Candia Park village, an oasis of recreation for families with children just 50 minutes from the Herakleion airport, all rooms have fully equipped porches and impressive sea views. Who among the family will be the first to dive in the clear, safe blue waters? And, most importantly, who will be the first to surf and learn to balance on the waves? Fun at the beach has only just begun - and it will go on for many hours, until the sun goes down and their energy has run out. Sea adventures, diving and sailing are available here as well for all to enjoy. The organized Candia Ski Club and the Mediterranean View Diving Center of this family resort offer a wonderful opportunity for children to improve their diving and water-skiing technique. The crystal-clear azure waters are ideal for kids, while children's parties can be organized on the beach for young guests who find it hard to leave the cool embrace of the bewitching sea.



THE WELLNESS EXPERIENCE

Relax, rejuvenate and recharge.

UNSURPASSED EXCELLENCE

Having obtained highly prestigious awards in the field of wellness for the highest standards of service and innovative spa techniques offered, the Ananea Wellness by Aegeo Spas at Minos Beach art hotel, Minos Palace hotel & suites and Candia Park village in Agios Nikolaos offer a wide range of tempting spa packages including body and skin care treatments.

YOGA TIME

You have chosen the ideal destination to enjoy body and mind wellness, with yoga and meditation in the lovely garden surroundings, by the sea or in the pool, overlooking the water. Letting the energy of a magical place such as Crete course through their bodies, guests – both women and men – can let go of stress and the winter tensions through everyday practice.

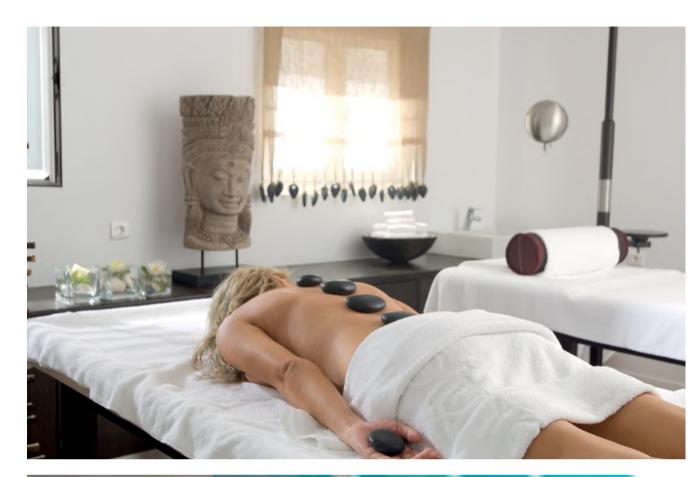
INDULGE YOURSELF

Another trend that is now on the rise abroad but has been a part of the bluegr Hotels & Resorts philosophy for some time is the combination of zen and adrenaline. On offer are treatments and wellness rituals to suit every need and mood, including signature treatments found nowhere else such as the 90-min "Minoan Culture" that makes use of Cretan herbs combined with deep back and foot massage inspired by traditional Greek techniques. Targeting different individual needs, bespoke hot stone, anti-cellulite, neck and scalp massages and more are delivered by highly trained professionals, while couples can relax after a visit to the onsite gym by enjoying "The Ultimate Journey," a luxurious ritual for two with aromatic oils and a fragrant vanilla body mask for utter relaxation and hydration.

ATHENS RETREAT

In the glamor of Life Gallery athens, the Ananea Wellness by Orloff Experts offers the serenity of an impressive spa with a comprehensive Jacuzzi system, steam bath, sauna and shower path. North African wellness practices in the steam bath with its impressive mosaics create the ultimate eastern ritual for cleansing both body and mind. Then it's time for the excellent Valmont and Cinq Mondes treatments in specially designed rooms where heated mattresses and authentic sounds of nature are in perfect harmony with the surrounding nature and its dense, green and fragrant pines.













THE FAMILY EXPERIENCE

Delivering fun in the sun and exciting family adventures.

Crete is an ideal destination for families with kids, and Candia Park village in Agios Nikolaos has been created not just to welcome children's laughter, natural curiosity and thirst for adventure but to fully cater to their every need. We embrace our guests like family, as befits the land of hospitality, Crete. The resort has been modeled after a traditional Cretan village. From the iconic clock tower to the square where everyone meets to socialize, all the way through to climbing flowers and picturesque buildings. Your little ones will have the time of their lives letting loose in a safe setting, making new friends, exploring the beach and gardens and discovering the wonders of the Aegean Sea. Its hospitality standards are sky-high, the heart of Candia Park village is joyful and carefree, like a child. Accommodation makes a really great first impression: Family rooms are spacious, comfortably accommodating both parents and children, and offering views over the sea and extensive gardens. There is a children's pool, built to the highest standards of safety, while two fully organized private beaches await the entire family, providing safe waters, surfside fun and even watersports under the watchful **Young guests are** entertained at the mini club, take part in family fun and explore in safety in a vacation they will remember for a lifetime.

eye of fully trained professionals. And when an active day at the beach draws to an end, everyone's mind is on a scrumptious meal – and Candia Park village offers ample tasty options. Agapi restaurant, named after the Greek word for love, awaits by the pool at the main square, with a buffet full of traditional Greek and comfort food, snacks and desserts that the entire family will fall in love with. To Fili taverna, Greek for kiss, is a traditional open-air taverna for the most daring little ones to discover the flavors of fresh seafood. Plori poolbar serves beverages that include freshly pressed juice from local oranges and assorted fruit for the kids. It wouldn't be accurate to say that Candia Park village is just kid-friendly; it is a warm, hospitable experience for the entire family to savor, an introduction to the Cretan way of life that feels comfortable and inviting. The Mini Blues club, for children aged 4-12, is a true paradise, running children's programs with themed days; educational games; theater play and costumes; face painting; arts and crafts; and treasure hunting that won't let them get bored even for an instant. From the donkey they will load with fruits and vegetables to sea-conquering pirates, games will last till sunset. And then - who knows? A magician might produce a treasure out of his sleeve, or a a kids movie screening might be organized in the main square, complete with fresh popcorn. As part of the bluegr ethos and green philosophy, Candia Park village also organizes a series of environmental activities and experiential learning events for children and adults every summer. From blue bicycles and getting to know the Cretan nature and lifestyle to Greek mythology adventures and picking vegetables right from the plot, members of the Mini Blues club will strengthen their bond with nature and simply have a blast.

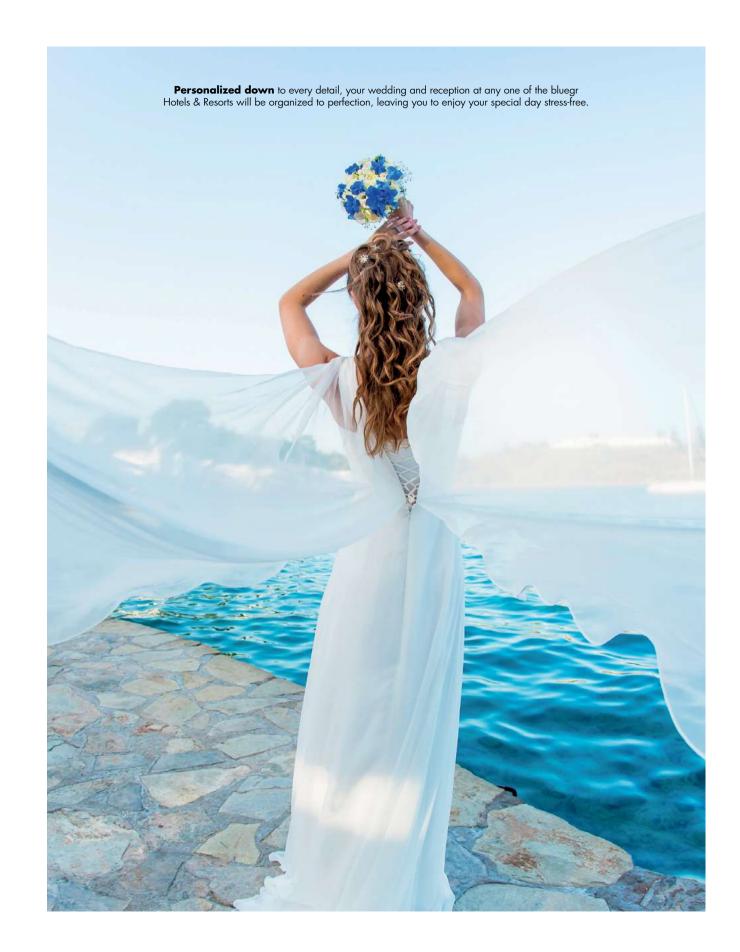
As for Minos Beach art hotel, everyone from babies all the way to parents (and grandparents!) are catered for. Couples with babies and toddlers can take advantage of the hotel's specialized services to let loose safe in the knowledge that their young ones are taken great care of by certified professionals. From babysitting to highchairs in the restaurants, cribs in your room and special lunches made exclusively for children from pure ingredients, family vacations are effortless at Minos Beach. As for bluegr's Miramare suites & villas at the amazing beach of Ixia, Rhodes, this hospitality gem on the "island of the knights" doesn't only provide the very best in accommodation but also their hub to set off on an array of exciting, safe experiences of adventure, exploration and history - not to mention endless fascinating hours playing with the sand and the surf on the spectacular beach.



THE WEDDING EXPERIENCE

Every little detail is taken care of so you can focus on what matters.

It is a priceless feeling to know right from the start that everything will be as it should, especially when the occasion is so important. Embracing the bohemian freshness the sea bestows upon a wedding, at Minos Beach art hotel and at Minos Palace hotel & suites in Agios Nikolaos, professional wedding planners take care of all the details for a picture perfect ceremony, whether youthful and modern or elegantly classic and romantic. Beachside allure, aromatic gardens, sleek interiors and more lend their beauty to your bespoke celebration, which will feature decoration, food, music, flowers and more that are fully personalized to your liking. For fans of luxurious urban architecture who would enjoy the convenience of an Athens-based wedding, Life Gallery athens in Ekali features an exquisite poolside garden and spacious facilities for all your guests. Inside the hotel, the vibe is one of stylish, balanced luxury. When you choose a bluegr property for your wedding, the celebration of your love is always made to measure, and the sky's the limit - or even the horizon. At Minos Beach art hotel, you can tie the knot underwater; you can enjoy a simple civil or have the wedding of your dreams at the hotel's small chapel, followed by a fantastic party; you can renew your vows in a fairy-tale setting; or treat your guests to a traditional Cretan feast complete with stunning local food and dancing. Just take your pick, and leave the rest to us.



THE HONEYMOON EXPERIENCE

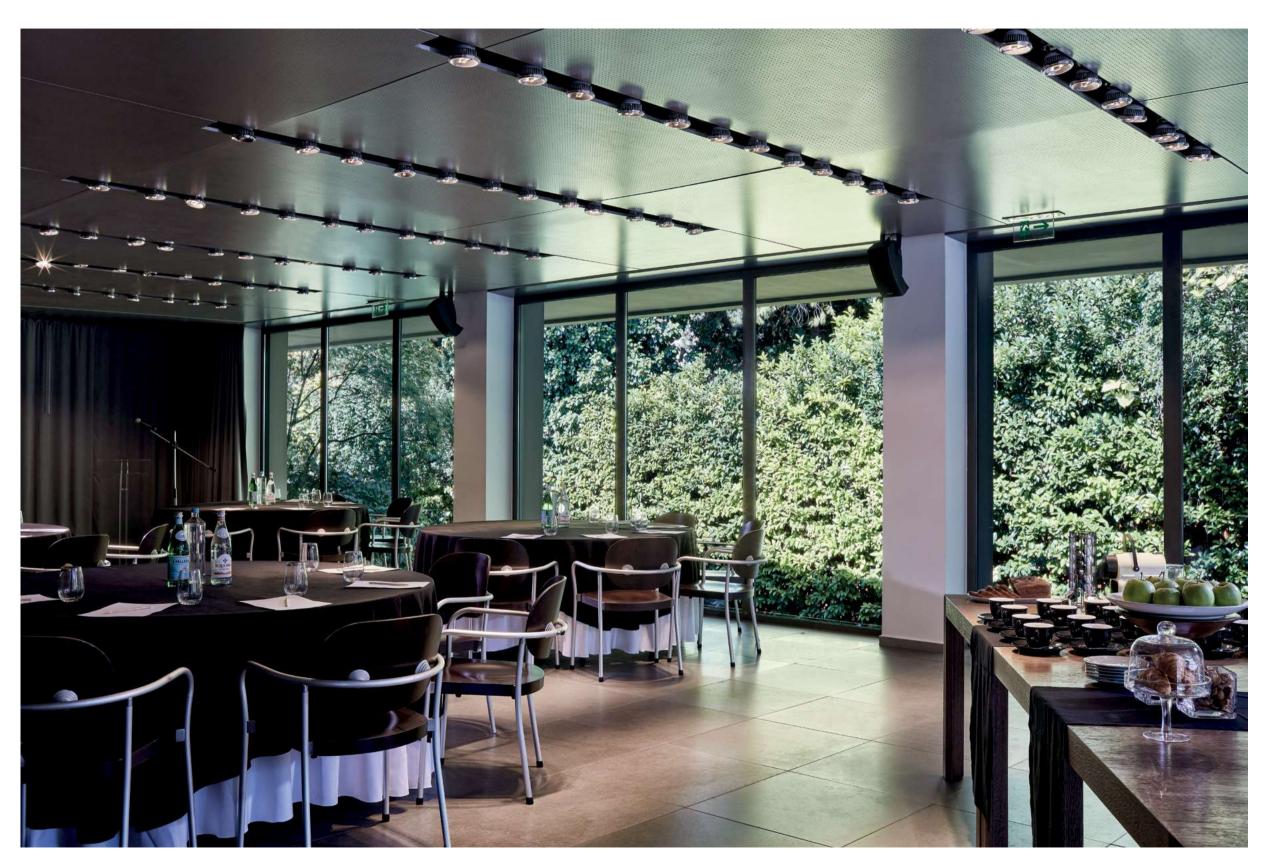
Your new life starts with a fairytale getaway.

Nothing compares to the feeling of waking up in a seaside bungalow. You and your spouse have everything at your disposal: attentive, discreet room service; romantic dinners for two prepared exclusively by exceptional chefs to your liking; exotic cocktails and champagne by the pool. At Crete's Minos Beach art hotel and Minos Palace hotel & suites, newlyweds start their new life together on the right foot, indulging their desires and enjoying each other's company in pure bliss. Special honeymoon packages are available, while many of the experiences and activities on offer can be personalized to be enjoyed by the couple. From a traditional, symbolic gesture of good luck like planting an olive tree so that the marriage will have strong roots, to spa treatments, water sports and inland trips, we're here to deliver the experience you deserve. As for those who don't want to make the trip down to Crete, Life Gallery athens has you covered amidst fragrant pine trees and stunning architecture, with the long summer evenings by the pool giving way to your first magical nights as a wedded couple.









THE BUSINESS EXPERIENCE

Enabling your success at elegant state-of-the-art facilities.

Set in the upscale area of Ekali, Life Gallery athens hotel attracts a great number of business travelers. The modern architecture, the minimalist design, the glass surfaces and art decoration details create a feeling of refinement and sophistication raising the standards of hospitality and instilling the property with an unprecedented luxury. Life Gallery athens features five conference rooms with state of the art audiovisual equipment, high-end facilities and modern amenities that are sure to render your every business meeting and conference session into a successful, memorable occasion. Widely regarded as one of the best Athens business hotels, Life Gallery athens boasts a knowledgeable, experienced events team that will ensure everything runs smoothly and efficiently for you, so you can focus on what's important. Following the latest trends in hospitality, Life Gallery athens' exceptional facilities allow business travelers to combine their business with leisure, arranging their stay at one of the hotel's impeccable rooms, enjoying creative Mediterranean dishes at the restaurant, making use of the hotel's exceptional facilities and amenities, and immersing in the tranquility of the spa as they turn their business trip into an occasion to remember at a truly upscale hotel managed by the high standards of bluegr Hotels & Resorts. Crete's Minos Beach art hotel also features one meeting room, an ideal choice for company retreats and memorable client meetings.

BLUE WORDS

"I dreamt we walked together along the shore. We made satisfying small talk and laughed. This morning I found sand in my shoe and a seashell in my pocket. Was I only dreaming?"

MAYA ANGELOU



just great coffee.



MINOS BEACH

art hotel

MINOS PALACE

hotel & suites

CANDIA PARK

village

LIFE GALLERY

athens

MIRAMARE

suites & villas



