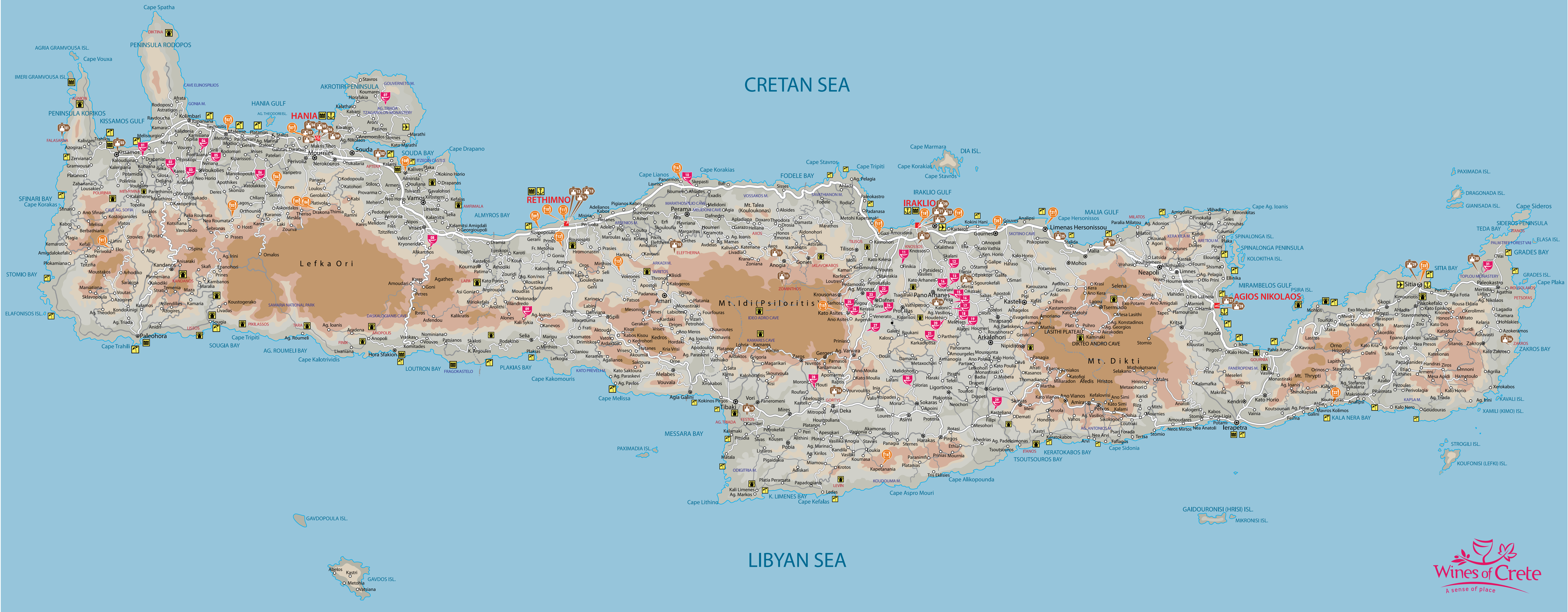
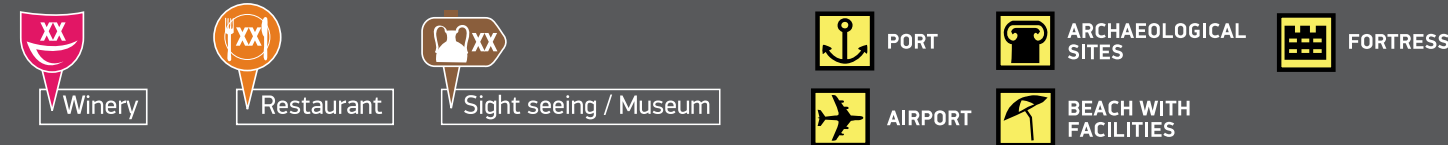


WINES OF CRETE MAP



WINERIES:

HANIA:

- 011 Pnevmatikakis Winery**
Location: Draparnas, Kissamos
(35° 29' 43.78" N / 23° 42' 47.43" E)
Tel.: (0030) 28220 31740, 28220 31741
Email: pnevmatikakis@yahoo.gr
- 021 Loupakis Estate**
Location: Karres, Kissamos
(35° 27' 38.00" N / 23° 45' 44.38" E)
Email: info@loupakiswines.com
- 031 Anoskeli S.A.**
Location: Pontikiana, Kydonia
(35° 29' 35.40" N / 23° 47' 28.22" E)
Tel.: (0030) 28240 83127, 28240 31326
Email: anoskeli@gmail.com
- 041 Karavitakis Winery**
Location: Pontikiana, Kolimbari
(35° 29' 07.17" N / 23° 47' 28.22" E)
Tel.: (0030) 28240 23381, 28210 33326
Email: karavitakiswines@hotmail.com
- 051 Douroudakis Winery**
Location: Neritana, Kydonia
(35° 29' 06.25" N / 23° 48' 51.58" E)
Tel.: (0030) 28240 31151
Email: douroudakis@yahoo.gr
- 061 Manosakis Winery - Nostos Wines**
Location: Vatsalakkos
(35° 26' 56.55" N / 23° 53' 16.15" E)
Tel.: (0030) 28210 78787
Email: info@nostoswines.com

RETHIMNO:

- 071 The Holy Monastery of Agia Triada**
Location: Akrotiri
(35° 12' 58.38" N / 24° 08' 06.65" E)
Tel.: (0030) 28340 61084, 6996467556
Email: info@vinolio.gr
- 081 Jourakis Winery**
Location: Alikampos, Apokoronas
(35° 20' 57.88" N / 24° 12' 11.21" E)
Tel.: (0030) 28250 51761
Email: info@jourakiswinery.gr
- 091 Zoumerakis Family Vineyards**
Location: Kali Sykia, Ag. Vasileios
(35° 14' 07.26" N / 24° 22' 53.25" E)
Tel.: (0030) 28320 51075, 6977503308
Email: zournwine@yahoo.gr
- 101 Klados Winery**
Location: Sikassiti, Mylopotamos
(35° 24' 59.66" N / 24° 42' 31.06" E)
Tel.: (0030) 28340 51589, 2834051169
Email: kladoswines@hotmail.com

IRAKLIO:

- 111 Alexakis Winery**
Address: 104-106, Eliniis & Filias Str.
Location: Iraklio-Malades
(35° 18' 07.90" N / 25° 06' 57.46" E)
Tel.: (0030) 2810 252019, 2810 252020
Email: info@alexakiswines.com
- 121 Boutari Winery - Fantaxometochi Estate**
Location: Sitali
(35° 16' 34.00" N / 25° 11' 32.19" E)
Tel.: (0030) 2810 731 617, 2810 731 750
Email: crete.winery@boutari.gr
- 131 Titakis Winery**
Location: Kounavo
(35° 13' 59.00" N / 25° 11' 01.92" E)
Tel.: (0030) 2810 743630
Email: info@titakis.gr
- 141 Winery Stilianou**
Location: Kounavo
(35° 14' 09.09" N / 25° 11' 29.04" E)
Tel.: (0030) 8936 430368
Email: info@stilianouwines.gr
- 151 Mino - Miliarakis Winery**
Location: Peza
(35° 12' 49.46" N / 25° 11' 39.17" E)
Tel.: (0030) 2810 741213
Email: info@minoswines.gr
- 161 Mino - Miliarakis Winery**
Location: Peza
(35° 12' 49.46" N / 25° 11' 39.17" E)
Tel.: (0030) 2810 741213
Email: info@minoswines.gr
- 171 Peza Union**
Location: Kalloni
(35° 12' 32.35" N / 25° 11' 30.75" E)
Tel.: (0030) 2810 226674, 6974 461501
Email: info@pezaunion.gr
- 181 Paterianakis Estate**
Location: Malades
(35° 10' 51.22" N / 25° 11' 46.85" E)
Tel.: (0030) 2810 226674, 6974 461501
Email: info@paterianakis.gr
- 191 Lyrarakis Wines**
Location: Sitali
(35° 16' 34.00" N / 25° 11' 32.19" E)
Tel.: (0030) 2810 289501, 6981 050681
Email: visit@lyrarakis.gr
- 201 Tamiolakis Winery**
Location: Kounavo
(35° 13' 59.00" N / 25° 11' 05.30" E)
Tel.: (0030) 2810 742083
Email: export@tamiolakiswines.gr
- 211 Michalakis Estate**
Location: Metaxochori
(35° 08' 22.22" N / 25° 09' 20.86" E)
Tel.: (0030) 2810 381304, 2810 741222
Email: info@michalakis.gr
- 221 Dououlafakis Winery**
Location: Dafnes
(35° 12' 54.25" N / 25° 02' 58.80" E)
Tel.: (0030) 2810 792017
Email: wines@cretanwines.gr
- 231 Silva - Daskalaki**
Location: Siva
(35° 12' 31.98" N / 25° 02' 09.07" E)
Tel.: (0030) 2810 741945-7
Email: silva_wine@yahoo.gr
- 241 Idaia Winery**
Location: Venerato
(35° 11' 49.95" N / 25° 02' 23.22" E)
Tel.: (0030) 2810 2440396, 6973768053
Email: info@idaiawine.gr
- 251 Diamantakis Winery**
Location: Kato Astes
(35° 12' 42.99" N / 24° 59' 32.91" E)
Tel.: (0030) 2810 861137, 6949198350
Email: info@diamantakiswines.gr
- 311 Toplou Monastery**
Location: Kato Astes
(35° 11' 04.79" N / 25° 12' 57.04" E)
Tel.: (0030) 2810 29630
Email: m.gialitakis@biosittia.gr

IRAKLIO:

- 261 Erosini Winery**
Location: Kerasia
(35° 11' 53.50" N / 25° 01' 52.03" E)
Tel.: (0030) 2810 791 989, 6992 399606
Email: info@erosini-winery.gr
- 271 Agrinion - Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Iraklion**
Location: Avgeniki
(35° 10' 26.36" N / 25° 01' 29.18" E)
Tel.: (0030) 2810 791 250
Email: info@agrinion.gr
- 281 Domaine Zacharioudakis**
Location: Ploufti - Municipality of Faistos
(35° 04' 38.42" N / 24° 56' 29.23" E)
Tel.: (0030) 28920 89228, 6972 092488
Email: info@zacharioudakis.com
- 291 Stratiridakis Winery**
Location: Kastellana
(35° 02' 35.20" N / 24° 23.63" E)
Tel.: (0030) 2810 71275
Email: info@stratiridakis.gr
- 301 Winery Nikos Gavallas**
Location: Vorias Monofatsi
(35° 59' 23.19" N / 25° 15' 59.51" E)
Tel.: (0030) 2810 51060
Email: info@nikosgavallas.gr
- 311 Toplou Monastery**
Location: Kato Astes
(35° 11' 04.79" N / 25° 12' 57.04" E)
Tel.: (0030) 2810 29630
Email: m.gialitakis@biosittia.gr

LASITHI:

- 211 Historical Museum of Crete**
Location: Iraklio
(35° 11' 53.50" N / 25° 01' 52.03" E)
Address: 27, Sofokli Venizelou Ave. / 7, Lysimachou Kalokerinou St.
Tel.: (0030) 2810 283219, 2810 288708
- 221 The Battle of Crete and National Resistance Museum**
Address: Doukos Beaufort and Merambelou Str.
Tel.: (0030) 2810 2842554
- 231 Natural History Museum Exhibition**
Location: Sof. Venizelou Ave., Dermatas Bay
Tel.: (0030) 2810 282740
- 241 Nikos Kazantzakis Museum Foundation**
Location: Mirtia, Municipality of Nikos Kazantzakis
Tel.: (0030) 2810 741689, 2810 742451
- 251 Lychnotatis Museum**
Location: Hersonissos Port
Tel.: (0030) 28970 23660
- 261 Palace of Festos**
Tel.: 28920 22615
- 271 Byzantine Museum of Hania**
Address: 78, Theodoropoulou Str.
Tel.: (0030) 28310 36046
Open: 8.30-15.00
- 281 The Historical Archive of Crete**
Address: 20, Sotiriou Str.
Tel.: (0030) 28210 52606
- 291 The Nautical Museum of Crete**
Location: Koutoumori coast
Tel.: (0030) 28210 51875
- 301 Iraklio Archaeological Museum**
Address: 2, Kantoudidou Str.
Tel.: 2810 279500

MUSEUMS & SIGHT SEEING:

HANIA:

- ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:**
- 011** Ancient city of FALASARNA
- 021** Ancient city of APTERA
- MUSEUMS:**
- 031** Archaeological Museum of Kissamos
Address: Stratigou Tzanaki Sq., Kissamos
Tel.: (0030) 28220 83308
- 041** Archaeological Museum of Hania
Address: 21, Haidion Str.
Tel.: (0030) 28210 90334
- 051 Folklore Museum of Hania**
Address: 46B, Haidion Str.
Tel.: (0030) 28210 97930
- 061** The War Museum of Hania
Address: 100, Tzanakaki Str.
Tel.: (0030) 28210 64156
- 071** Byzantine Museum of Hania
Address: 78, Theodoropoulou Str.
Tel.: (0030) 28310 36046
Open: 8.30-15.00
- 081** The Historical Archive of Crete
Address: 20, Sotiriou Str.
Tel.: (0030) 28210 52606
- 091** The Nautical Museum of Crete
Location: Koutoumori coast
Tel.: (0030) 28210 51875

RETHIMNO:

- ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:**
- 101** Ancient city of Eleftheria
- 111** Ancient city of Zominthos
- MUSEUMS:**
- 121** Paleontological Museum of Rethimno
Location: Veli Pasha Mosque (Temple of Mastaba)
Tel.: 28310 23083, 6989906018
- 131** Archaeological Museum of Rethimno
Location: Fortezza main gate
Tel.: (0030) 28310 54668
- 141** Historical and Folklore Museum of Rethimno
Address: 28-30, M. Vernardou Str.
Tel.: (0030) 28310 23398

IRAKLIO:

- ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:**
- 151** Palace of Festos
Tel.: 28920 22615
- 161** Ancient city of Gortys
Tel.: (0030) 28920 31144
- 171** Palace of Knossos
Tel.: (0030) 2810 231940
- 181** Minoan villa in Vathipetro
- 191** Palace of Malia
Tel.: (0030) 28970 31597
- MUSEUMS:**
- 201** Iraklio Archaeological Museum
Address: 2, Kantoudidou Str.
Tel.: 2810 279500

RESTAURANTS:

HANIA:

- 011 Kamare**
Location: Elos Kissamos, Chania
Tel.: (0030) 2822 061332, 6974 344213
- 021 Mistral Hotel**
Location: Maleme Chania
Tel.: (0030) 28210 62062
- 031 Nea Roumata**
Location: Nea Roumata, Chania
Tel.: (0030) 2821 077937, 6947 354415
- 041 Botanical Park of Crete**
Location: 15th km, National road of Hania
Fournes, Omalos
Tel.: (0030) 6976 860573
- 051 Tzaneris and Archontissa**
Location: Drakona
Tel.: (0030) 28210 75997, 6973 210847, 6973 786747
- 061 Ntounias**
Location: Drakona
Tel.: (0030) 2821 065083, 6974 989248
- 071 Kouina EPE**
Location: Daskalogianni 25, Chania
Tel.: (0030) 2821 042391
- 081 Pipera**
Location: Kalives Apokoronou
Tel.: (0030) 28250 31245, 31077

RETHIMNO:

- 091 Veneto**
Location: Epimenidou 4, Rethymnon
Tel.: (0030) 28310 56634, 6932 237620, 6934 943640
- 101 Alana**
Location: Rethymnon Old Town
Tel.: (0030) 28310 27737, 6948 374330
- 111 Avli**
Location: Xanthoudidou 22 & Radamantios, Rethymnon
Tel.: (0030) 28310 58250/26213
- 121 Prima Plora**
Location: Akrotiriou 4, Koumpes
Fournes, Omalos
Tel.: (0030) 28310 285629
- 131 Panakron**
Location: Near Sholi Asomaton
Tel.: (0030) 28310 22120
- 141 Kastro**
Location: Penomo, Rethymno
Tel.: (0030) 28340 51362, 51057, 6937 097757

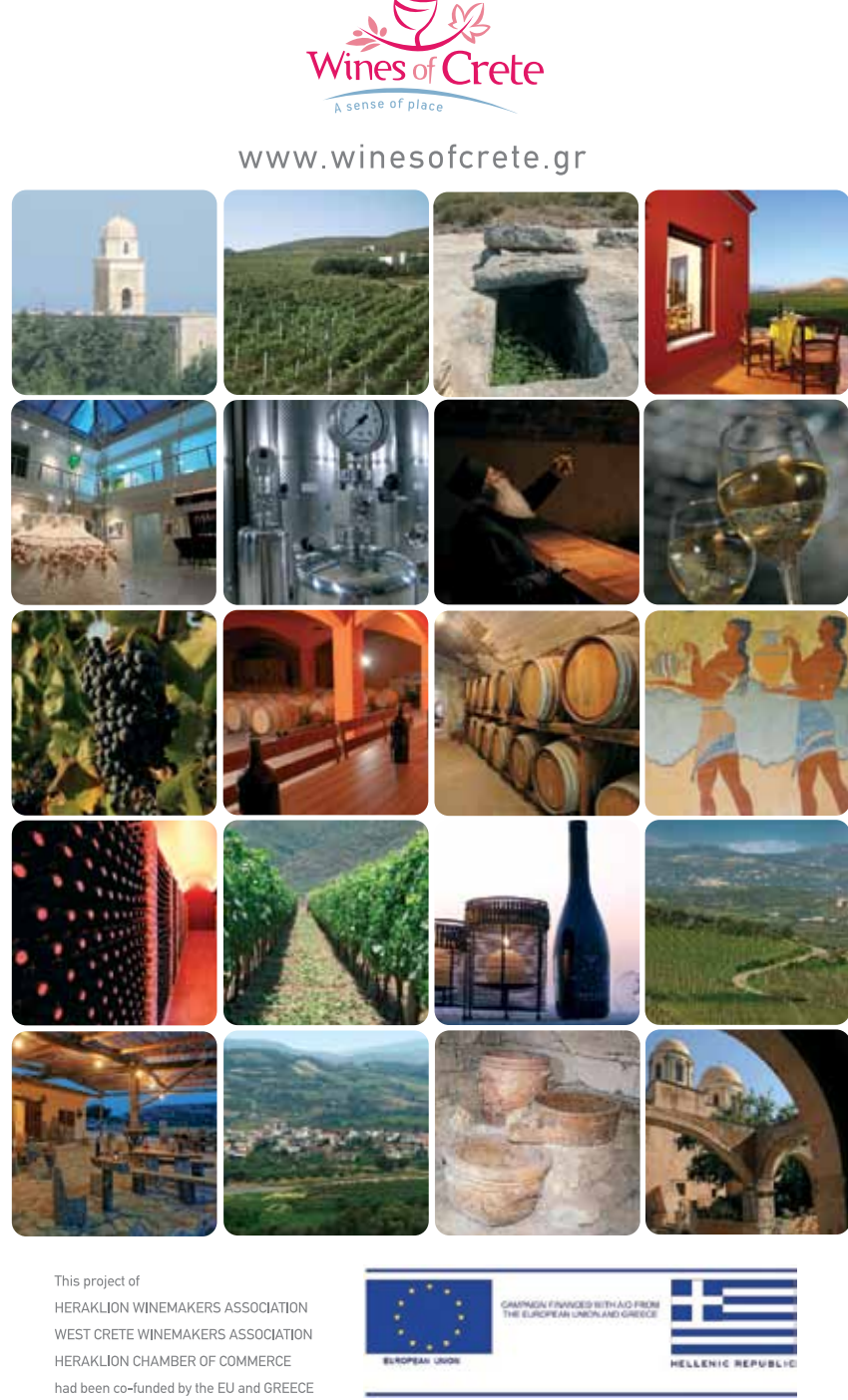
IRAKLIO:

- 151 Eairio**
Location: Elos Kissamos, Heraklion
Tel.: (0030) 2810 861528
- 161 Thalori**
Location: Kapetaniana, Gortyna Municipality
Tel.: (0030) 2893 041762, 6976 994896
- 171 Ambrosia (Apollonia Beach Resort & Spa)**
Location: Ellinoperamata, Gazi, Heraklion
Tel.: (0030) 2810 821603
- 181 Erganos**
Location: Georgiou Georgiadi 5, Oasi, Heraklion
Tel.: (0030) 2810 285629
- 191 Tris Mories**
Location: Ikarou Str. 84, Nea Alikamassos
Tel.: (0030) 2810 243003
- 201 Kites**
Location: Gourmes, Heraklion
Tel.: (0030) 2810 762666, 6937 45980
- 211 Hotel Crete Maris**
Location: Hersonissos
Tel.: (0030) 28970 27000
- 221 Robinson Tavern**
Location: Koutsouras, Lassithi
Tel.: (0030) 2843 051026
- 231 Yantes**
Location: Vatholomaiou 25, Sitta
Tel.: (0030) 2843 110217



Wines of Crete

Make your own way in the Cretan vineyard



Native varieties of the Cretan vineyard

Unique aromas, unforgettable flavors, unparalleled character. The Cretan vineyard hides a valuable treasure of native varieties, which will open up new taste horizons for every restless wine lover who will discover and enjoy them.

Mantilari:

Wild and untamed like the Cretan land and its people, Mantilari is probably the king of native red varieties. This is where the PDO (Protected Designation of Origin) Peza and Archanes wines draw their strength from.

Kotsifali:

Soft and mellow, full of plum fragrances, the fleshy Kotsifali can be described as the Cretan equivalent of Merlot. Jointly responsible for the wonderful PDO Peza and Archanes wines.

Liatiko:

Excellent red variety which may be lacking in color, but offers unique sweetness and character. The mind-blowing sweet and dry PDO Sitia and Dafnes wines are indisputable proof.

Romeiko:

A variety which gives lively red wines with high alcohol content, average acidity and variable color – due to the distinctive variegated grapes growing on the numerous branches of the plant. The traditional wine Marouvas, is made out of this variety.

Vilana:

The island's white star. Vilana makes an appearance in the PDO Peza or Sitia wines with its fascinating fine aroma. Its light taste and its refreshing lemon-scented acidity.

Vidiano:

Unique apricot aroma, rich body, transfixing creamy taste. These elements make Vidiano the rising star of the Cretan vineyard and justify its qualifying as Greece's Vignier!

Dafni:

The various aromas of Dafni bring to mind the well-known plant dafni (laurel), hence its name. Quite a remarkable variety, whose scarcity is matched by the rarity of its taste character.

Plyto:

Yet another variety recently saved from extinction. Plyto completes the mosaic of Cretan aromas and tastes with its refreshing acidity, its lemon scent and its lightness.

Thrapasathiri:

A variety grown everywhere in Crete, offering balanced wines, rich in flavor. This is where the white PDO Sitia wines draw their particular taste from.

Malvazia di Candia:

This special clone of the aromatic Malvazia has returned to the fore, offering a real scented bouquet to both sweet and dry wines of the island.

Muscato di Spina:

This clone of Muscato is a small-grape treasure. In fact, its thin skin skyrocketed the fine character of the dry wines it offers.

A blessed land, with authentic people

Minot palaces built 3,500 years ago, Byzantine temples, Venetian and Turkish forts, crystal-clear bay shores, but also snow-capped mountain tops rising 2,500 meters high. Chestnut and oak forests, exotic palm groves next to beautiful beaches, fertile plains with maturing vines gleaming in the summer sun, hills covered with thousands of olive trees – the wind turning their leaves into a stormy sea. But also ultra-modern tourist resorts offering hospitality and entertainment to millions of visitors, day and night!

Few places in the world have nothing to envy from this magnificent mosaic of tradition, natural beauty and history that is Crete: the island with the oldest European civilization!



Photos courtesy of Nikos Paliak

A land with an unenslaved soul

Crete is the largest island in Greece and the 5th largest in the Mediterranean. The capital and largest city is Heraklio. Crete is divided into four prefectures: Heraklio, Chania, Lassithi and Rethymno. Running 250 km long, it often makes visitors forget that they are on an island. Every year, millions of tourists come to enjoy its beauty, the hospitality of its people, the good weather and the clear waters. It is not surprising that, in recent years, people from all over the world have visited Crete have decided to make it their home, as they saw in this island the ideal haven where they can relax, have fun, and taste pleasures which most people can only dream of.

One of the first civilizations in Europe flourished on Crete from around 3000 BC until 1400 BC. One hundred years ago, Sir Arthur Evans brought to light the miraculous Minoan civilization and the oldest architectural monument in Europe: the palace of Knossos. Ever since the time of the Minoan civilization, Crete was the apple of discord for all European empires, but also for more recent superpowers which tried to conquer it, the Romans, the Venetians, the Turks and the Germans were only a few in the long list of those who tried to enslave it. Creans had to fight for their freedom and independence almost throughout their long history. Nevertheless, being skillful warriors and free-spirited by nature, they managed, despite adversities, to become a symbol of freedom and to carry their age-old tradition intact through time.

When you find yourself in Crete, right away you feel that this land has a true soul, that it is a living organism gradually casting its spell over you, an untamed soul springing from virgin nature, its pure products, its age-old and tumultuous history, and, most importantly, from its spontaneous people, who stand ready at all times to welcome you in their home and offer you a treat.

All the while, Crete remains a well-hidden secret and a land open to exploration. No matter where you are on the island, there are endless different routes you may take to get to know it better. Every single one of them holds different surprises and constantly alternating images. If there is one thing you can be certain about, it is that Crete offers such diversity that can impress even the most demanding visitor: museums and archaeological sites narrating in their own unique way the island's tumultuous journey through time, thousands of paths and imposing gorges, but also naked hills and plateaus providing habitat to dozens of birds and animals, romantic atmosphere and picturesque alleys of bygone eras in cities such as Chania and Rethymno, beautiful cosmopolitan beaches, but also more secluded coves, with inviting crystal-clear waters, while, a few miles down the road, dozens of villages insist on their own way of life, preserving their tradition, their language, their manners and customs. Here you will also meet genuine Creans: people with pride and humour, friendly people, eager to help you wherever they can and offer you a glass of tsikoudia or local wine.

Creans, the guardians of tradition

Creans are truly remarkable. In spite of adversities going back five centuries, they have managed to preserve their national characteristics and their clear language intact. Bravery mixed with a sense of independence, wild intelligence, fervent imagination, language full of imagery, spontaneous and simplicity, love for every kind of adventure, and an irresistible urge to be free. It is a fertile land, which has been giving birth to the worst people in democracy, sciences and letters.

The culture and character of Creans are quite unique. Influenced by the different conquerors in the course of their history, Creans are culturally multidimensional and never fail to impress their visitors. Hospitable, joyous, vigorous, traditional and modern, they will be glad and proud to show you around, urge you to taste all land there are truly many their local products, and tell you stories and myths about their island.

All of us, more or less, have heard about the Cretan's understandingness, their outspokenness, their directness and their hospitality, the pride, the peculiarity, but also the resilience in time of this lively and special part of Hellenism. But when you come into direct contact with them, you realize right away that the more you stay on this land the bigger its pull on you to remain there.

If you are invited to a Cretan table, you will feel right from the start the authenticity of these people, how dedicated they are to their glorious past and how tenaciously they reject anything trying to change them. The reason why we are talking about the Cretan table is that it is where Creans display their true character. This is, where they will tell you about their history, about their bond with their land, a land that is special, ideal. This is where they proudly talk about their island and its products: from wine to olive oil, on to the various kinds of cheese, greens and herbs. And, in most cases, with a fair dose of Cretan humor, which makes you feel you never upset them. And all this ways with a glass of tsikoudia, their trademark spirit, which accompanies their sorrow and their joy, their feasts and social events, their welcomes and goodbyes. But beware! Never refuse their offer. They consider it an insult, since they are prepared to offer you everything to please you. Although a bit tricky at the start, once you realize the Cretan mentality and the tradition of drinking, you will easily become one of them!

If you are lucky enough to find yourselves in Crete, let yourselves go. Enjoy its magic and heartily accept all it has to offer. Become one with the land and savour it with all your being. And rest assured that, when the time comes for you to leave, you will not be able to say "good-bye". Only "until next time"!

And There Was Wine

The history of the vineyard can be traced back to the furthest reaches of time. Seeds of wild vines have even been found in caves inhabited by prehistoric nomadic tribes. Before the ice age, the vine flourished in the polar zone. Glaciers, however, limited its spreading and pushed various species of wild vines towards warmer zones, such as central and eastern Asia, central and southern Europe, but also the greater area of south Caucasus. That is the birthplace of Vitis vinifera, the wine-bearing vine, several varieties of which are almost exclusively being cultivated today.

The art of viniculture is said to have started during the cultural revolution around 5000 BC. The Akkadians (ancestors of Indians living in the area of Caucasus-Caspian Sea), the ancient Persians, the Semitic people and the Assyrians are considered to be among the first known wine growers. In fact, at that time, wine was known even in ancient China! The art of viniculture and the vineyard was then passed on to the Egyptians, the various peoples of Palestine and Phoenicia, and the Greeks.

Egypt had a long tradition in winery, starting prior to 4000 BC. Ancient Egyptians even used mechanical presses, while amphorae of the New Dynasty (1600 - 1100 BC) have also been discovered, indicating origin, harvest and wine-maker. Around 1700 BC in Mesopotamia, Babylonian king Hammurabi had passed legislation on the price of wine, but also on having it consumed only during the period after harvest (aging obviously was an unknown concept at the time). Despite their long tradition, these people soon lost their reputation as great winemakers, which is probably due to the fact that better vine varieties started growing in the Mediterranean climate of Phoenicia and Greece.

The Semitic people of the eastern Mediterranean got acquainted with wine early on, judging from the numerous accounts found in the Old Testament. The significance of wine in social life was so great, one has only to consider that Jesus Christ performed his first miracle at Cana in Galilee, turning water into wine so that the wedding was invited to continue.

Phoenicians were renowned winemakers, but also merchants. Phoenician wine amphorae have been found in every region of eastern and central Mediterranean. One of the first great centres of maritime wine trading was Tyros. Greeks developed winery to a great extent, almost establishing a monopoly in the market for centuries. They acquired knowledge of wine probably when they first settled at their current land. It is not certain when they learned the art of winery from, but, according to one of the most prevalent theories, they learned it from the eastern people (Phoenicians or Egyptians), with whom the Greeks, especially the Minoans, had developed commercial relations.

Wine as a core element of the first European civilization

Crete, "the land in the midst of the wine-dark sea," according to Homer.

However, the history of wine in Crete and its bonds with the island have deeper roots, dating even further back than the Homeric epics.

One hundred years have passed since internationally-acclaimed archaeologist Sir Arthur Evans brought to light the miracle of the Minoan Civilization in Crete. At the palace of Knossos, the oldest architectural monument in Europe, luxurious four-story buildings were found, with services the rest of Europe acquired several thousands of years later. Evans was so impressed by the long tradition of ancient Creans he very often praised them in front-page articles in the world's most popular journals. The multicoloured wall-paintings in Minoan Palaces depict a life full of creativity, good taste and in complete harmony with the natural environment.

Minoans cultivated their land and tasted what it so generously offered. Hundreds of tablets discovered by archaeologists show a flourishing economy with agricultural, livestock-raising and commercial activities. The main products



Creans successfully cultivated and traded were olive oil, cereals and wine. The vine has known around 4000 years of systematic cultivation in Crete! No wonder that the oldest wine-press (3500 years old) was found in the region of Vathiporto. Homer informs us that, at his time, Cretan wines were renowned throughout the known world. Apart from the 3500-year-old wine-press, impressive amphorae, vast underground wine storage facilities and relevant drawings in all Minoan Palaces provide evidence not only of wine's central role in the life of the island, but also of the sophistication of the Minoans' know-how.

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Vine-growing and winemaking continued unabated throughout the ages. The Law Code of Gortyn, the oldest legal text in Europe, includes the first set of rules on wine-growing.

The Roman Empire conquers Crete and Cretan wine conquers Rome

A few centuries later, when Crete became a province of the Roman Empire, the Romans realised that their needs in wine – a commodity they were particularly fond of – was too great to be met by the vineyards of the Italian peninsula.

They eventually turned to Crete. Its plains and hills were gradually turned into vast vineyards, while Cretan winemakers increasingly improved their vinification skills and produced excellent sweet wines which, through Rome, conquered the entire known world at the time.

Many Greek and Latin writers of the time spoke very highly of Cretan wine, which was also considered to have medicinal properties. The numerous Cretan amphorae found offer indisputable proof of this ancient commercial success. What is more, one such amphora found in Pompeii had "CRET EXC" inscribed on it, which, according to experts, means "Exceptional Cretan Wine".

Post-Christianity

Christian tradition slowly started to dominate the world and the star of the pagan Roman Empire started to fade. But wine still held a high place in people's lives. Greeks, together with almost the entire Mediterranean world, became part of the Byzantine Empire, the first Christian superpower which was beginning to form.

Crete took part in a series of wars and went through tumultuous times which did not favour vine-growing and winemaking. Finally, it was conquered by the Venetians in 1204. In Byzantine Greece, wine production and wine exports in particular started dwindling. Creans, however, taking advantage of both the security and the commercial networks offered by the Venetians, set off for a second time in their age-old history to dominate the European wine markets – and this time for longer.

Crean winemaking and exports thrived under Venetian rule. In 1415, annual exports of exceptional



quality wine exceeded 20,000 barrels. One and a half century later, exports reached 60,000 barrels. In 1669, Crete was conquered by the Ottomans. For the next two centuries, there is no clear picture of wine production in Crete, but Islam's prohibition of wine consumption must have had a negative impact. Nevertheless, even the supreme religious and political leaders of the Ottomans, the Sultans, often succumbed to the temptation of this exceptional drink.

Cretan wine in the 20th century

Crete was liberated from the Ottoman rule in the late 19th century. The new and fairly progressive independent administration of the island promoted the restructuring and updating of

agricultural production with all its might. The wheels of wine production thus started turning anew. In the international fair held at Chania at the beginning of the 20th century with the aim of promoting new Cretan products to the markets of the West, 18 winemakers were awarded prizes for the quality of their wines.

In 1913, Crete was annexed to the Greek state. But Greece's tumultuous history over the next decades, with one war after the other, did not favour exports, affecting wine in particular. Despite adverse conditions, however, Crean winemaking tradition survived all these hard years, owing to its core unit: the family. To this day, many modern companies producing and exporting wines, which are becoming all the more popular



in foreign markets and are awarded prizes in international competitions, come from families of large and medium landowners, who kept both tradition and their love of wine alive all these years.

In modern reality, Cretan wine has long attracted the attention of and is being increasingly preferred by the general public. Crean wines are a valuable heritage of traditional varieties, in complete harmony with the island's climate. The great number of local varieties, the diversity and uniqueness of various wine regions, but also the long Cretan wine tradition form the foundation of Cretan wine's high quality standing and ongoing growth.

This tradition, however, would not bear fruit without knowledge and technology. Crean winemakers took recent advancements, but also the consumers' preferences, seriously into account. This is largely due to the existence of a new generation of winemakers, enologists, viniculturists, etc, who are trying to improve all aspects of Crean wine with knowledge, vision, and passion.

New varieties are being tested, and new aromas and flavours are emerging, presenting the consumer with fine wines, which can satisfy all tastes and needs. Making good use of traditional vine varieties and age-old experience, modern wine producers in Crete have managed to elevate Cretan wine to its rightful position.

HOTEL INFO

Crete is one of the most frequent tourist destinations in Europe. Every year the island welcomes more than 2,000,000 visitors who are presented with a selection of all kinds of accommodation. Although the demand for accommodation is met by a large number of travel agencies and portals, the following list contains local links which may prove useful should you have special requirements.

Lasithi Hotel Association
Tel. 2841024749
berostar@berostar.com.gr

Rethymno Hotel Association
Tel. 2831055873
rethtel@rethel.gr

Chania Hotel Association
Tel. 2821083845 / 2821091129
ksrinala@cha-fortnet.gr

Heraklio Hotel Association
Tel. 2810288108
info@heraklion-hotels.gr

Union of Greek Agrotourism Associations
Tel. 6936500670
www.agroxenia.net | mail.info@agroxenia.net

agrotourcrete.gr
Tel. 2810285372
info@agrotourcrete.gr

RESTAURANTS

Crete is widely known for its unique cuisine. It is the birthplace of the Mediterranean diet and even to this day one can enjoy traditional recipes in almost any restaurant on the island. The restaurants shown on the map are members of Concared, a European program for the conservation of the Cretan diet, as well as of the Cretan quality agreement, a non-profit organization aiming at the promotion of the Cretan diet.

For more information and updates, visit the following webpages:
http://www.concared.gr
http://www.cretan-nutrition.gr

TODAY



HANIA

MUSEUMS & SIGHT SEEING:

04) Archaeological Museum of Hania
Address: 21, Halidon Str.
Tel.: 28210 90334

05) Folklore Museum of Hania
Address: 46B, Halidon Str.
Tel.: 28210 97930

06) The War Museum of Hania
Address: 100, Tzanakiani Str.
Tel.: 28210 44156

07) Byzantine Museum of Hania
Address: 7B, Theotokopoulou Str.
Tel.: 28210 93046
Open: 8.30-15.00

08) The Historical Archive of Crete
Address: 20, Sfakianaki Str.
Tel.: 28210 52606

09) The Nautical Museum of Crete
Location: Kountourioti coast
Tel.: 28210 91875

RESTAURANTS:

07) Koumbo EPS
Location: Daskalogianni 25, Chania
Tel.: 28210 42391



IRAKLIO

MUSEUMS & SIGHT SEEING:

20) Iraklio Archaeological Museum
Address: 2, Xantoudiou Str.
Tel.: 2810 279000

21) Historical Museum of Crete
Located in: A. & M. Kalokerinos House
Address: 27, Sofokli Venizelou Ave. / 7, Lysimachou Kalokereniou St.
Tel.: 2810 283219, 2810 288708

22) The Battle of Crete and National Resistance Museum
Address: Doukas Beaufort and Merambelou Str.
Tel.: 2810 246554

23) Natural History Museum Exhibition
Address: Sofi Venizelou Ave., Dermatas Bay
Tel.: 2810 282740

RESTAURANTS:

18) Erganos
Address: Georgiou Georgiadi 5, Dasi
Location: Heraklion
Tel.: 2810 285629



AGIOS NIKOLAOS

MUSEUMS & SIGHT SEEING:

27) Folklore Museum of Agios Nikolaos
Address: 1, Konstantinou Palaiologou Str.
Tel.: 28420 25093

28) Archaeological Museum of Agios Nikolaos
Address: 74, Konstantinou Palaiologou Str.
Tel.: 28410 24943