

unlock the experiences



asterion
SUITES & SPA



to travel,
to experience
and learn:
that is to live

TENZING NORGAY

feel like a local

become one with the people, the land, and the nature

connect [verb]

is to bring together people or into contact so that a real or notional link is established

Vision, smell, hearing, taste, and touch.

Get connected with all five senses at once.

experience [noun]

practical contact with and observation of facts or events

During travelling you may experience the craziest, most exciting things, that will eventually become great life stories to tell.

Unlocking experiences can provide you with happiness and satisfaction for the rest of your life.

chania, crete

The ancient name of the city was Kydonia. During the Byzantine period it was captured by the Arabs who changed the name to La Hanim, meaning The Palace in Arabic. When the Byzantines recaptured the city, they made the new name sound more Greek by changing it to Hania.

Venetians captured the city a few centuries later, using it as a provincial capital. They called the city La Canea in order to sound more Italian. When Turks captured the city they used the name Cania and the Greek inhabitants the name Hania. The latter became the official name in 1913, when Crete joined Greece.

It is only written "Chania" in English so that it may sound correct. The "H" must sound like in "him" or "her".





unlock the asterion's experiences



frosinis garden

ANOTHER GREAT OPTION WOULD BE TO VISIT THIS FAMILY-OWNED RESTAURANT WHICH IS A COMBINATION OF A TRADITIONAL CRETAN FARMHOUSE, COLONIAL STYLE SEMI-OUTDOOR SEATING ARRANGEMENT, AN ORGANIC CRETAN GARDEN AND A CHILLED SUMMER VIBE, WHILE COOKING IN TRADITIONAL WOODEN STOVES AND IRON CAULDRONS!

You start by picking the raw materials from their garden, then preparing the meal which you will have the Cretan way! You will learn recipes that you can even create at the comfort of your home!

While the food is being cooked you will also have the chance to visit a small local winery, and after the meal is done what better way to call it a day than to try amazing traditional sweets accompanied by our local spirit- raki!



winery tour

A FAMILY OWNED AWARD
WINNING WINERY

WITH A LEGACY SPANNING OVER 80 YEARS, THE KARAVITAKIS FAMILY HAS CREATED A BOUTIQUE WINERY IN PONTIKIANA VILLAGE IN CHANIA, CRETE. THE ESTATE CONSISTS OF 150 ACRES OF VINEYARDS BOTH PRIVATE AND CONTRACT ONES WITH CAREFULLY SELECTED TERROIRS FOR EACH AND EVERY VARIETY.

They produce award winning wines from local grape varietals, international ones while experimenting with rare varieties from around the world.

The winery features modern equipment, 2 wine tasting areas and a small church is nestled between beautiful vineyards and olive groves on the hilltops of Kolimbari area, just 30 minutes out of Chania.

With a selection of various wine tasting experiences available, as well as a selection of "mezedes", these tours are ideal for everyone. From the experienced wine connoisseur to an amateur wine lover!





Visit to the Olive Tree Museum

In the village of ano vouves kissamou chania, visitors can witness the oldest recorded olive tree in the world, a natural monument proclaimed by the general secretary of the region of crete. According to estimates, the age of the olive tree falls between 3000 to 5000 years old and it still bears fruit to this day.

Its base was once a wild olive tree before being domesticated by humans through the tsounati variety. The hole of the tree, shaped by time, stands proud with a circumference of 12.5 Meters and a diameter of 4.6 Meters.

The Olive Tree Museum of Vouves stands next to the ancient olive tree, allowing visitors to learn about the tradition of olive cultivation in Crete. The museum features tool exhibits from antiquity to the mid-20th century, showcasing traditional olive harvesting methods before the mechanization of cultivation and production.



The monumental olive tree of Vouves has played a significant role in the Olympic Games, as the first olive tree that Idaios Hercules transplanted for the ancient Olympics in Olympia was brought from the village of Vouves.

It was also the source of the wreath with which the winner of the Olympic marathon in Athens 2004 was crowned, and the wreath for the relative winner of Olympic Games in Beijing 2008. The olive tree, a symbol of immortality, reminds visitors of the resilience and strength of both nature and humanity in the face of harsh conditions.

Visit to the Archaeological Museum of Chania

The Archaeological Museum of Chania, located in the historic district of Chalepa, is a magnificent building that covers 12 acres of land and offers a breathtaking view of the seafront. The museum, designed by architect Theofanis Bobotis and partners, consists of two linear masses, symbolizing the vestiges of civilization beneath the ground. It is a recognizable landmark for the whole city and was constructed to international standards for public buildings.

The museum's permanent exhibition showcases the rich archaeological heritage of the Chania region. The exhibition starts with the earliest human presence in Chania and continues through prehistoric settlements and historical cities. It explores social and administrative organization, religion, entertainment, war, trade, and daily life. Visitors can see reconstructions of public and private life from the Minoan past of West Crete, the coming of the Mycenaeans, and the importance of the palatial centre of Kydonia.



The second gallery explores the establishment of city-states in West Crete, such as Kydonia, Aptaera, and the League of cities established in the 3rd century BC. Emphasis is placed on productive activities, alliances, coinage, and commerce with East and West.

In the third gallery, visitors can see aspects of everyday life in historical times through a multitude of artefacts, including the reconstruction of a house that was destroyed in the great earthquake of 365 AD. Visitors can also explore sanctuaries, religious customs, the Asklepieion of Lissos, funerary practices, and representative examples of sculpture and funerary monuments.

The upper floor gallery features numerous objects from the Konstantinos, Marika and Kyriakos Mitsotakis Collection, ranging from the 4th millennium BC to the 3rd century AD. Visitors can enjoy a tactile experience through two tables with exhibits and braille captions. The Archaeological Museum of Chania is a must-visit destination for those interested in the rich history and culture of Crete.



Guided visit to Chania's Old Town

TAKE A GUIDED TOUR TO THE OLD TOWN TO EXPERIENCE FIRST-HAND THE CITY'S LONG AND RICH HISTORY AND ITS WELL-PRESERVED VENETIAN ARCHITECTURE, WHICH CAN BE SEEN THROUGHOUT THE TOWN.

There, you can admire the well-preserved mansions that adorn the ancient town of Chania, which have been converted into Cretan taverns, local shops, and restaurants. Be sure to visit the aristocratic neighborhood, full of beautiful Venetian buildings that are worth seeing. Among them is a fortress called Firkas that stands at the southernmost point of Topanas, at the entrance of the harbour. It was built in 1629 and now houses the Naval Museum of Chania and a summer theatre.

One of the most important historical sites in Chania is the 16th-century Venetian lighthouse, which is the landmark of the town and lies at the extreme end of the pier. It is the first thing a visitor sees while reaching the port.





cooking experiences

FOLLOW US TO THE EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEY
THROUGH THE CRETAN FLAVORS AND TASTE THE
REAL CRETAN WAY OF LIFE.

Up in the high peaks of the White Mountains, you will prepare some traditional and extremely tasty home-made dishes, using only healthy organic Cretan ingredients like extra-virgin olive oil, fresh vegetables picked from the garden, dairy products, and the most aromatic herbs.

You will have the chance to walk around our vegetable gardens to see, feel, smell, touch, and taste the pure products of Mother Earth. Your host will also reveal the secrets of local herbs, how the Cretan olive oil affects the people's health and useful tips about the local products you will use. You will prepare a traditional Cretan recipe with your own hands and learn how Cretans cook.

After the magnificent cooking experience, you will taste delicious Cretan wine paired with local cheese just like heaven on earth. The view of the mountain is breathtaking right out of our window. Later, you will prepare some appetizers like "Ntakos" and "Tzatziki" and of course, the popular Cretan Cheese-pies "Kalitsouni". You will definitely love the bread-making as well. In the meantime, the meal will be ready.

You will taste your own dishes, paired with fruity local wine, and taste some traditional jar desserts at the end. The healthy Mediterranean diet and the famous Cretan cuisine have already been revealed in front of your eyes.





botanical park

NEARLY 20 HECTARES OF LAND ARE WAITING TO WELCOME YOU, FULL OF FRUIT TREES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD, HERBS, MEDICINAL AND ORNAMENTAL PLANTS, IN A PARK DIFFERENT FROM OTHERS, WHERE THE LAND'S FORMATION AND THE REGION'S MICROCLIMATE MAKE IT A PARADISE FOR HUNDREDS OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS!

In the midst of this colorful and vivid landscape stands a burnt centennial olive tree, a memorial and a reference to the dismal fires of 2003, the park's history, and origin. It lies just 18 kilometers outside the city, on the feet of the White Mountains. It is ideal for visitors of all ages, combining enjoyments that only Crete can offer!

No matter how you consider your visit here, whether as a scenic trek, or an interesting tour of nature's paths, the Botanical Park is the ideal alternative proposal for a day's escape from the city's noise and the fashionable beaches. The dramatic scenery here is composed of rare samples of the local flora and fauna, as well as tropical and subtropical species from all over the world, with new samples added daily, changing the look of the Botanical Park, and providing visitors with a motive to enjoy it over and over again!

This adventure in nature which lasts one to two hours, follows paths of unique natural beauty and provides visitors with the opportunity to get acquainted with the numerous different plants and trees that grow on the two hundred square kilometers of the well-designed planted hillside.



cooking lessons in the botanical park

THE COOKING EXPERIENCE IN BOTANICAL PARK IS A UNIQUE AND IMMERSIVE WAY TO LEARN ABOUT THE LOCAL CUISINE OF CRETE. VISITORS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN CRETAN RECIPES FROM WOMEN WHO HAIL FROM NEARBY VILLAGES AND HAVE PERFECTED THEIR CRAFT OVER GENERATIONS.



The experience begins with a guided tour of the Botanical Park, where visitors can marvel at the wide variety of plants and trees on display. Following the tour, participants are led to a designated cooking area where they are introduced to their hosts - the women who will be teaching them the secrets of Cretan cuisine.

The women are warm and welcoming, eager to share their knowledge and passion for cooking with the visitors. They guide them through the process of preparing traditional dishes, using fresh, locally-sourced ingredients. The Cooking Experience is a hands-on affair, and participants are encouraged to get involved in every step of the cooking process.

As they cook, the women share stories and insights about their lives and the cultural heritage of their villages. Visitors can learn about the customs and traditions of Cretan cuisine and how it has evolved over time.

Once the cooking is complete, the participants sit down to enjoy the fruits of their labor. The meal is a feast for the senses, with rich flavours and aromas that capture the essence of Cretan cuisine.

The Cooking Experience in Botanical Park is a wonderful way to learn about the culture and traditions of Crete. It is a unique opportunity to connect with the locals, and to gain a deeper appreciation for the rich history and culinary heritage of this beautiful region.



meet Asterion.

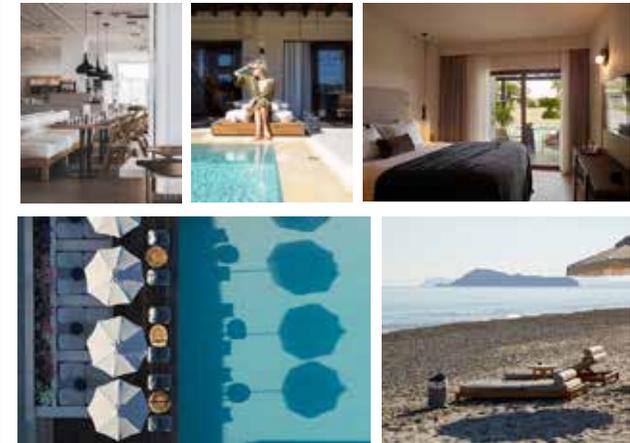
King Asterion looms large in the mythology of Crete. As the island's first king, his long reign is associated with Crete's rich cultural heritage, while as husband to the Phoenician princess Europa and stepfather to her children fathered by the mighty Zeus, he embodies the island's outward-looking ethos and deep-rooted hospitality. So, Asterion is the first King of Crete, the husband of Europa, and the stepfather of Minoas.

But where is he from?

What is his true origin?

Asterion was one of the Gods' favourites. Because they knew that he was different. He was a man with strong intuition, which helped him receive and understand the secrets of Gods. He was born from the explosion of a supernova, which made him so bright that it gave him the ability to create a magnificent civilization. He was a cosmic amphora comprised of flesh and bone that contained the essence of the universe. He was a wise creature, made from stardust, created from all the atoms of the big bang, a unique being, that evolved from the depths of space and time like a flaming star.

Like we all did.



meet yourself.

These attributes lie at the heart of the five-star Asterion Suites & Spa whose mission is to authentically celebrate the island's unique culture and hospitality with a sense of modern sophistication. Set in an idyllic beachfront location, this Cretan chic hotel draws from the myth of Asterion as much as from Crete's natural beauty, welcoming guests into an exclusive kingdom where traditional craftsmanship meets contemporary luxury; where eating ambrosia and drinking nectar reveals our star-made essence.

Meet Asterion.

The starmade King.

The son of a billion-star universe.

The host of a five-star hotel, a sanctuary where you can reign in your inner kingdom and expand the limits of your own universe.

