

# Ambrosia & Nectar



With our “Ambrosia & Nectar” food and wine extravaganza you’ll visit the beloved islands of Crete and Santorini. Indulge in each region's specialties through culinary seminars, cooking classes, vineyard visits and wine tastings, all conducted by local gastronomical experts.

Santorini lies in the midst of the alluring Cyclades islands. Everything in its vicinity seems to be bluer and whiter than Greece's national flag. Owing to a perfect dry climate, the volcanic island has been a wine making center since the Bronze Age, and its food epitomizes healthy Mediterranean cuisine.

Crete is so huge, it is practically its own country with its own culinary and wine traditions specific to the island and to each locale. Your immersion into Crete foods and spirits will include visits to famous and fascinating antiquities, including the Minoan palace of Knossos and Venetian fortresses in Rethymno.

## Tour highlights

- Sailing around Santorini's volcanic crater
- Traditional cuisine cooking classes
- Ancient Doric and Minoan ruins
- Sampling wines, spirits and raki
- Swimming in the Cretan Sea

## Trip Duration

8 days

## Start & End Points

Start: Santorini

End: Hania, Crete

## Day 1: Santorini

Welcome to the Cyclades region and its star island, Santorini. Actually Santorini is four volcanic islands. Have your welcome dinner at a traditional seaside *tavern* overlooking the caldera to catch and catch an incomparable sunset.

## Day 2: Santorini

Explore the island's wineries and vineyards with a seminar explaining how and why Santorini grapes are cultivated close to the ground in circular vines. Take a boat ride around the caldera, the volcano's crater.



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## Day 3: Santorini

Take a tour to Ancient Thira founded in the 9th century BC by Dorians and inhabited until the Byzantine period. Afterwards, a cooking class featuring Santorini specialties, including *fava*, stewed capers, and tomato *keftedes*

## Day 4: Arhanes (Crete)

Arhanes is a beautiful village in the mountains about 1000 feet high where eating and drinking are given full attention. Visit a family owned distillery that makes *raki*, a local spirit. The owner explains the process from the grape harvest to the bottling.

## Day 5: Rethymno

Morning tour of Knossos, the celebrated Minoan palace and then the Archaeology Museum in Herakleion. A cooking seminar featuring traditional Cretan specialties but with a contemporary twist. Don't miss the Fortezza in Rethymno's old city.

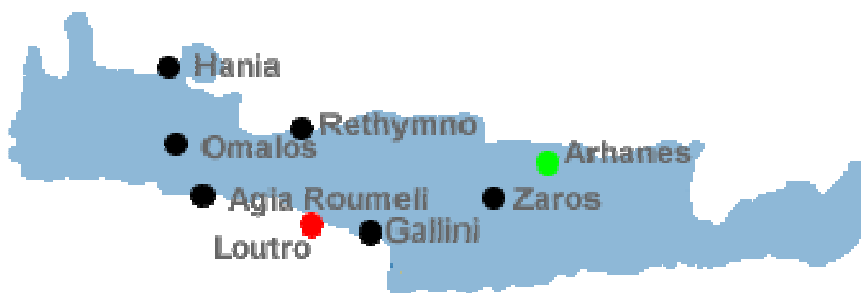
## Day 6: Milla

Milla is a lovely oasis established when two families restored the ruins of 16th century stone cottages that had been abandoned following a cholera plague in 1650. The guesthouses are a retreat into nature with organic farming, locally crafted wood furniture and tender touches.

## Day 7: Hania

Stroll the harbor with its Venetian architecture and tiny boutique shops. Explore the mosques of the old Turkish Quarter. Visit the Naval Museum or the Byzantine Museum. Go horseback riding in Akrotiri. Many things to do in this romantic city.

## Day 8: depart



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### 12 days

#### Luxury Level

(4-5 star hotels-all inclusive)

2-5 guests: **5130 €**

#### Group Prices

6-9 guests: **4560 €**

10-16 guests: **3800 €**

Single Supplement: **500 €**

**For current exchange rates:**

[www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com)

#### Moderate Level

2-5 guests: **3591 €**

(3 star hotels-basic services)

### Luxury Inclusions

- 11 nights accommodations in luxury hotels or country inns, a/c, private bath
- 11 dinners with house wine, 10 lunches, 11 breakfasts
- Mini-bus with driver
- Local Tour Director / Guide
- Ferry passage from Santorini to Crete
- 7 seminars or classes in culinary & wine
- Archaeology experts at ancient sites
- Entry fees to all archaeology sites
- Transfers to/from airport in designated periods



## Day 8: Milia

8 Day guests depart from Chania airport

*Milia: (2 nights)*

## Day 9: Milia

Cooking seminar takes place during a walk in the woods. You learn about local herbs and wild plants that enliven Cretan cuisine. Everything we eat and drink in Milia is homegrown.

## Day 10: Hania

Final seminar takes place in a family run winery whose owners enlighten us on the varieties and richness of Cretan wine. Stop for a dip in the Cretan Sea before heading on to the Crete's most romantic city, Hania.

*Casa Delfino:* A gorgeous 17<sup>th</sup> century Venetian mansion with elegance and atmosphere galore.

## Day 11: Hania

## Day 12: Departure

### Moderate Inclusions

- 11 nights accommodations in country inns, a/c, private bath
- 11 breakfasts
- 4 seminars or classes in culinary & wine



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