“I knew that no matter what door you knock on in a Cretan village, it will be opened for you. A meal will be served in your honor, and you will sleep between the best sheets in the house.

In Crete, the stranger is still the unknown god.

Before him, all doors and all hearts are opened.”

Nikos Kazantzakis
the year to explore Crete

Discover the hidden gems of the Cretan inland, spanning 1000 kilometers of coastline. Unwind on more than 550 alluring beaches, hike through 500 dramatic gorges, sail through over 80 scenic islets, visit 3 UNESCO designated natural sites and create lifelong memories!

2019 και πάλι ανέβαι για να εξερευνήσετε την Κρήτη

Ανιχνέστε τις γραφικές αρωματικές της εναέριας του ποικίλου, διάσημους από 1000 χιλ. ετών εκθεμάτων. Περιπάτηση μέσα από 550 μάτια καρδιών, 800 εθνικές παραλίες, 500 ιστορικά μνημεία και 3 έκθεμα από το ΕΥκλήμενο θα απογοητεύσει την επόμενη ημέρα σας!
CRETE & CYCLADES

TRAVEL WITH THE FASTEST & MOST LUXURIOUS CRUISE & CATAMARAN FERRIES

PIRAEUS - HERAKLION
DAILY DEPARTURES

PIRAEUS - CHANIA
DAILY DEPARTURES

PIRAEUS - MILOS - HERAKLION
SUMMER ROUTE, JUNE - SEPTEMBER

HERAKLION - SANTORINI - IOS
PAROS - MYKONOS
SUMMER ROUTE, APRIL - OCTOBER DAILY DEPARTURES

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Paros - Polos Tours: +30 22840-22092 -22093 -22333 Mykonos - Delta Travel: +30 22899-223123) or travel agencies

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The mystery of Crete runs deep. Whoever sets foot on this island senses a mysterious force coursing warmly and beneficently through their veins, sensing their soul beginning to grow.

Nikos Kazantzakis

We have seen the first positive data to the forefront. This will bring even more insight into the distinctiveness of the island. In this way, we are aiming to highlight our traditional advantages, relating to the natural environment, climatic conditions, soil-agrometeorology and biotopes of clean coasts.

Stavros Arnaoutakis

The island is mountainous and has a number of gorges and waterfalls its visitors can enjoy. There are also thousands of coastal caves that will captivate the senses of all who seek to be seduced by the natural surroundings, the breathtaking sea views, clean coasts.

Like the famous myth of Minos’ palace and the minotaur, we hope you will be able to explore Crete with a mind open to the world of wonder that Theseus took to explore, and eventually conquer, the labyrinth.

We hope you enjoy this special issue that will focus on Crete and its tourism for the best of 2019. Look out for our additional inserts which will focus on other parts of Greece throughout the rest of the year!
Thalassa Boutique Hotel

Stamathioudaki 89, Rethymno • Tel: (+30) 2831058000
email: info@thalassaboutiquehotel.gr • www.thalassaboutiquehotel.gr

Welcome to an Exclusive Seaside Experience in the Heart of the city of Rethymno

Thalassa Boutique Hotel is set in a 150-year-old building, completely refurbished in 2017 to redefine the level of comfort and customer service. It includes a sea-view terrace and swimming pool with hot tub.

The spacious and sound-proofed apartments at the Thalassa Boutique Hotel overlook the Venetian Castle and the Old Town of Rethymno.

Staff are happy to assist you with booking tickets, as well as car/motorbike and bicycle rental. The Thalassa Boutique Hotel provides a 12-hour currency exchange service, air conditioning, free WiFi access, a fridge and TV. A rich breakfast is served each morning.

High-level services include 7 Seas Restaurant and Euphoria Health Spa to create a complete package ideal for couples and travelers looking for quality and comfort in their overall experience.

7 Thalasses Mediterranean Seafood Restaurant

Stamathioudaki 89, Rethymno, 74100 at Thalassa Boutique Hotel or Irakliotou & Irodotou 1, Nea Alikarnassos Heraklion

At 7 Thalasses Restaurant, seafood and fish have a leading role and are distinguished for their quality, freshness and masterful cooking.

That's why 7 Thalasses is the #1 choice for seafood dishes!

Either in Rethymno or Heraklion - experience fresh seafood, complete wine list and top service.
An Interview with Yannis Psaroudakis of “Creta Eleon”

The Oil that Enhances everyone’s Life

By Anastasia Karouktsogianni

In today’s Crete there may not be any more military sieges, but Crete’s people are still subject to another threat by the amorality of modern societies and the development of the bank of the Crete diet, is one of the relicts of the Minoan dynasty.

“Creta Eleon” is a family business founded by Yiannis Psaroudakis, who was born in the center of Chania selling a variety of goods that catered to the needs of olive oil producers from the city and surrounding areas. Over the next 40 years “Creta Eleon” managed to develop, expand and develop its business – always respecting the product and the producer and, in its new role, trade and artisans produced 10,000 tons of olive oil annually.

The oil is sold to other traders after undergoing the standardization test that certifies its high quality in Greece and the rest of Europe, and it is also bottled in the company’s own label. Creta Eleon S.A., in order to safeguard the highest quality product, applies all the strictest international standards. Its quality is also confirmed by the ISO 22000:2005 while its brands are among the 100 top brands in Greece, and the national and international mould in modern olive oil production.

Psaroudakis, what is the philosophy behind your production?

Yannis Psaroudakis: In order to create a product that is not just good but also a reflection of what the Cretan land and its crop – olive oil – can offer to the table of the moment, we must first bear in mind the health benefits that are contained in the natural products that our ancestors used daily.

By Yiannis Sfakio-Alueo

The traditional Cretan diet is based on Greek standards. Its strength lies in its simplicity and healthfulness, in natural fruits and vegetables, reticulum and the choice of animal proteins. This diet is locally produced in nearby farms and villages and has been cherished for centuries. Sociology is an essential part of the food of the Cretan peasant, who believes that Cretans are also known for their hospitality. One cannot imagine any social event without olive oil, which is used in abundance in traditional Easter treat and is sometimes served as a condiment in some dishes.

Cretan olive oil is an essential part of the Cretan diet, as it is rich in polyphenolic compounds, specific to the Cretan olive variety, which has been cultivated in Crete for thousands of years. It is rich in phenolic compounds and antioxidants, which are beneficial to our health.

Cretans are also known for their hospitality and love of food. This is particularly evident in the way that they prepare food and share it with others. The first thing researchers did was to evaluate the potential health benefits of olive oil, which have been shown to include lower cholesterol levels, reduced risk of heart disease, and improved cognitive function.

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By Yiannis Sfakio-Alueo

Traditional olive oil is produced at the oil press, and every single stage of the production process is carefully monitored to ensure the highest quality. Without any military sieges, but Crete’s people are still subject to another threat by the amorality of modern societies and the development of the bank of the Crete diet, is one of the relicts of the Minoan dynasty.

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Our Story

Our family business was founded in 1950, starting with a small store at the center of Chania city, which covered the selling of olive oil needs for the olive oil producers of Chania. In the next 60 years that followed, being guided and consulted by our perennial experience and having respect to the product and the producer, we managed to develop, establish and expand our business, distributing up to 5,000 tons of olive oil annually, which we sell for standardization in Greece and the rest of Europe but it also can be bottled in our facilities.

This is our Philosophy

In order to create a great product, you must first get to know it, be familiar with, love and respect it. So, if you want to produce a fine olive oil, you firstly have to know its particularities, its value and every single stage of its life. You have to know the land that grew the olive tree, the conditions that it went through growing, the way that the producer collected the olives, the way elision is made at the oil mill and every single stage of transfer until the olive oil comes to our hands to be bottled.

The Natural Elements of Mediterranean, Hellenic Soil and our island, Cretan Land with the mountain Herbs Aroma, Citrus Tree Flavors and Sea Aura that encompass us.

We bottled up all of these in an EXTRA VIRGIN Olive Oil Bottle which we offer to the consumer and we invite you to taste and love it, rewarding our effort.

The Health Advantages of Cretan Extra Virgin Olive Oil

The advantages of Cretan Extra Virgin Olive Oil for a Healthy, Balanced Diet are Tremendous. Extra Virgin Olive Oil is one of the Best Foods to include in your everyday diet in order to improve your Health and Longevity for you and the people you care.

The care and traceability of our company starts in the base of production and continues up to the selling moment.

Our goal, throughout this effort, knowledge and care, is to introduce our product to the consumers all around the globe and using our fine quality that we offer, convince them to include it in a daily basis on their diet, as a lifestyle.

Knowing the endless nutritional and curing capacities of pure olive oil, we commit that our company’s olive oil has all of it’s natural contents unalterable that makes it unique and special.

Contact us

Oasis Varipetrou, Chania, Crete, Greece
Phone: 0030 28210 94896 • E-mail: info@cretaeleon.gr
www.cretaeleon.gr
Unique Cretan delicacies

Enjoy pure thyme honey, locally-made pasta, virgin olive oil, fresh fish, delicious cheeses and a bewildering variety of amazing traditional recipes cooked with care and dedication. The world-renowned Cretan cuisine is bound to satisfy even the most demanding palates. This is the very essence of Crete. All it takes is a single bite, and the island will live in your heart forever.
Crete is widely known for its mesmerizing beaches. Many of these areas are protected under the international Natura 2000 program which was established in 1992 by the EU to protect the biodiversity of nature. Thus, always remember to respect nature when visiting these areas.

Vai Beach, Sitia
Located in the very eastern part of the island, Vai has the biggest palm forest in Europe. In addition to having beautiful palm trees, Vai also has a wonderful sandy beach and clear waters, making one of the most beautiful destinations in the Mediterranean.

Seitan Limanias Beach, Akrotiri
In the northwestern part of Crete, this beach is located at the bottom of two rocky hills, but it’s definitely worth the hike. The water is calm and deep, and the beach even has some rocks to jump from. It’s very small though, so be prepared for crowds especially during the hottest tourist season.

The beaches of Agios Nikolaos
What’s best about the beautiful beaches of Agios Nikolaos is that they are located right in the center of the city and are easily accessible. These beaches are especially convenient for families since the local tavernas are within walking distance.

The Red Beach, Matala
Located on the southern part of the island close to Matala, the Red Beach is a great location for free-spirited people – nudism is completely acceptable. Close to the shore there’s a beautiful lagoon, and it’s possible to swim quite far inside to investigate more.

Psaromoura Beach, Agia Pelagia
This beach used to be under the occupation of pirates, and it’s understandable why – the view is just breathtaking and the white sand gives this beach an exotic look. You can choose to stay either at the more organized or the more casual part of the beach, depending on your preferences.

The beach of Chrissi Island, Ierapetra
This small island was almost closed to the public once it was clear that the ecosystem couldn’t handle the amount of tourist tours being left behind. Daily boat cruises are still organized, but every visitor must promise to be responsible – the clear water and fresh smell of cedar are worth it. The island has the largest naturally formed Mediterranean cedar forest in Europe, which makes the beach even more unique. The majority of the trees have an average age of 200 years, and the density is approximates 20 trees per hectare.

Korakas Beach, Rethymnon
Close to the city of Rethymnon and next to the village of Rodakino, this long beach is well-organized with tidy umbrellas, tavernas and even rooms for rent, but on the other end, it has some wild rocks and plenty of pebbles. The water is clear and there is lots of room for everybody.

Top 10 Beaches in Crete

- Elafonissi Beach
- The Red Beach
- Psaromoura Beach
- Beach of Chrissi Island
- Lagoon of Balos
- Korakas Beach
- Vai Beach
- Seitan Limanias Beach
- Beach of Agios Nikolaos
- Ditiko Beach

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**Thalassa Boutique Hotel**

An Exclusive Experience

By Anastasios Kritsasgiannis

**Thalassa Boutique Hotel offers an exclusive front-row experience in the heart of Rethymnon city. The hotel is situated in building with 150 years of history, fully renovated from the ground up in 2017 just to rediscover the level of comfort and customer service. The location is magical but also convenient. The facilities are fresh, modern, and comfortable. High-end services include our 7 Seas Restaurant and our Euphoria Health Spa to create a complete experience ideal for couples and professionals looking for quality and location to enjoy their overall experience.**

The National Hotel spoke with Kate -

rina Borisenko, the director of communications of the hotel, who spoke about the history of the building, the amenities of the hotel, and about the natural beauty and delicious local cuisine of Crete.

**Thalassa Boutique Hotel is located in a historic building in the city of Rethymnon. Do you think you’ve set a bit more about its history?**

The building has a fascinating history whi -

ch begins in 1823. During the years of the Turkish occupation it was the summer abode of the Turkish Pa -

ina. It was built by the best engineers and carpenters of the time – with stones and soil from Samaria.

The apartment style rooms on the top floor were
given by the Pasha to all-allegiance school and orth -

and. Right after the departure of the building was bought by a prominent and wealthy family from Rethymnon, which eventually became their primary abode. Because of the location of the building – right above the ocean – the bottom floor was used as a fisherman’s fish market, where fish could be cu -

ed up with the cooperation of the local fishermen.

Between 1993 and 2017, the building was used as a furnished apart -

ments for rent. In 2017, it re-opened as Thalassa Bou -

tique Hotel after the building and the restaurant underwent a complete renova -

tion. The new restaurant, the 7 Th -

alasses (Sea) was opened.

**What types of amuse -

ments can your guests en -

joy?**

Our guests can enjoy our fa -

mous restaurant, the 7 Thalasses, whi -

ch is located right next to the water. The benefits of staying with us are many – main -

ous restaurants are: our full-service spa with jacuzzi, sauna, massage, and other therapies for the body and face, and heated outdoor pool.

**How old are your typical guests?**

Our guests are typically between the ages of 30 and 50 years old. They are usually couples (no children under the age of 15 are permitted at the hotel) or friends who like to unwind and rel -

ax. Additionally, I would like to mention that the hotel supports diversity and “gay friendly.”

**Where do you get the ingredients that you use?**

A large share of the vegetables we use come from the garden of the owner of the hotel, and fish are caught daily from the Greek seas. We are very careful about our menu, always looking for fresh, fish and local producers.

You have two restaurants, one in Rethymnon and one in Heraklion. Are the menus the same, or do they differ?**

The menus are almost the same – with slight variations due to the differences in the local products and producers. We believe that the restaurant is the same, and the chef of the two restaurants is the same!

**Introducing Out of the Blue Capsis Elite Resort**

By Heini-Sofia Alavuo

Out of the Blue, Capsis Elite Resort is a luxurious destin -

ation for those who want to have a unique and unfor -

table experience accompanied by the beautiful nature of Crete. The National Hote -

l spoke with the general manager of Chryssikopoulos, the Marketing Director of Out of the Blue, Capsis Elite Resort that opened in 1998 and was established by Marla and Thomas Capis, pioneers in the luxury hospitality and tourism industry. It was first opened towards business con -

ferences and high-profile conferences, up until 2007, when the resort underwent major renovations. Now the resort is fo -

cused on VIP guests and their families, wellness lovers, and those looking for the perfect place for a destination wedding environment surrounded by nature, with -

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**What would you like to know about its history?**

The hotel is a 15-minute walk from the Old City of Rethymnon, which has scenic, small alleyways adorned with Venetian architecture and where you will find many museums, the old port with its ligh -

house, and the Fortress castle.

The hotel is also a 15-minute drive to the Arkadi Monastery, the new museum of Eleftherias, as well as many beaches.

Crete cuisine is one of the most famous in the world. Does the menu of the 7 Thalasses Restaurant focus on the island’s cuisine or does it include dishes from other parts of Greece?

The main components of our menus are the fresh fish and other seafood. The root and philosophy of our cuisine is Cretan but our dishes are from all over Greece and the rest of the Mediterranean as well.

How old are your typical guests?

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Daydreaming of the divine visits in Cretan holy places?

It’s only natural.

No matter what your faith or religion, you will find that the customs and traditions of the island will move you at a deeply spiritual level. Hospitable monks in century-old monasteries, churches in idyllic spots and numerous pilgrimage routes will guide you through to the most intense spiritual experiences. This is the very essence of Crete. All it takes is a single visit to a remote church and the island will live in your heart forever.
1. Scuba diving
For some, scuba diving is an activity that...
Today is Life

Archana Center of Minoan Culture

By Heini-Sofia Alavuo

The village of Archanes is a perfect place for anyone looking for a real village experience. With 3000 residents and as many cats, the place serves as a tranquil safe harbor for anyone escaping the rush of the city. The Anemospilia temple is located on the north end of Mount Juktas and the areas around it make it clear why the Minoans decided to choose the location for their sacred necropolis, the city of the dead. The Anemospilia temple is one of the most important Minoan peak sanctuaries, which were places of religious rituals.

The village of Archanes is a must-see destination for every history enthusiast with ancient Minoans surrounding the outskirts of the village. Free from long lines and big crowds, the archaeological sites are fascinating history.

The old site of freedom and creativity can still be felt in the village today. Previously a fishermen’s village, Matala survives mainly from tourism. The summer months are especially busy with many concerts and events taking place in the local squares and bars. Although a popular destination, Matala still manages to maintain a serene atmosphere. The village motto: “Today is life, tomorrow never comes”, sums it up perfectly. This life philosophy is the legacy of the hippies and still greatly valued in Matala today.

In addition to all of the common tourist shops, Matala has a lovely range of places offering hand-made items, such as jewelry, clothes, and art. Some of the old cave-dwellers stay in Matala to sell their creative and eco-friendly items by the main road, so it’s easy to find the perfect souvenir that holds some of the history and feeling of Matala.

How to get there

Renting your own car in Crete is definitely the best way to get around the island, but with a bus it takes only a bit over half an hour to get to Archanes from Heraklion. One-way tickets are available at airports, bus stops and during the summer, the buses run almost every hour. The village is ideal for a day trip, but it also has a good variety of hotels and traditional houses for those who want to stay a bit longer - try Villa Archanes or Eliathos Hotel.

Museums and Workshops

While having a stroll around the city visitors can learn a lot about the village at the various museums and workshops built and run by the locals. The Folklore Museum, the Crete History Museum, and the Archaeological Museum make sure the village has something to offer to everyone. It’s also possible to join the sculpture workshops of famous sculptor Manolis Tzab. Matala is also an absolute paradise for the local Knossos caves of ol.

How to get around

Through our day trips, you can admire at firsthand the beautiful beaches, enjoy the sights and do your shopping at some picturesque settings and do your shopping.

Simple Routes with 24h service & support

We offer a complete transportation service, 24 hours a day, providing safety, convenience and reliability to our clients.

Book a taxi

You can Book a Taxi (regardless of the departure and arrival points) and be sure that your driver will be there on time. You can also Request Special Services, such as the transportation of people with special needs, children and V.I.P.s, as well as a car seat for children.
Unbound Prometheus

Unbound Prometheus is an Athens-based organization that offers authentic travel experiences in Greece in different locations—this year it’s organized in Chania, Crete. Unbound Prometheus is an intellectual and cultural hub focused on travel, seminars, an academic subject on seminars, as well as quality accommodation, and tourists will also love the professional staff and the natural atmosphere of Chania. It’s truly open for both the exercise and the relaxation of the mind.

In 2019, Program 1 takes July from 1 to 14, and Program 2 from July 14 to 21. Promotions are offered when calling the Unbound Universe. Ready and willing to offer more and more, and always about corporation sponsorship.

Program 2 offers a bundle about the science behind mass media’s influences on people, and one about the computer and the brain. In these seminars, the participants learn how to make molds and leather belts as well. You can also find leather bags and belts as well as leather sandals in a wide variety of designs and colors.

Do you trade overseas or just in Greece? We sell our sandals in many countries in Europe, Germany, Britain, the USA, and Japan.

You recently presented a store in Cre- atia and Reythron. What can we ex- pect from this new presence? In our new store where my brother Tsikalaria on an island. Besides the enormous range of our sandals, some- one can also find leather bags and belts as well as leather sandals in a wide variety of designs and colors.

Who is in charge of the designs? My father is in charge of the designs, and my brother A. Kavallieratos, as well.

Do you have any idea, yet, what place Crete has in the Southern Mediterranean? The communication policy of the national and the local government is essential.

What place do you think is Crete’s chief competitor? Crete’s chief competitor is not a great publicity campaign between Crete and the other Cyclades. Crete has become a special and unique tourist destination. It’s not just the many years that have passed since its creation, but also the unique character of the handmade Greek leather sandal itself, that can always create a very good Greek fa- miliar sandal.

Classic and unique designs are al- ways a big part of our production but th- ough Crete have ideas that people love so much that in the end they be- come classics and Crete’s best associates.

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Minoan Lines

Swiftly, Pleasantly & Safely to Paradise

by Vassilis Koutitas

The president of TaxiKnossos, Manolis Psilakis spoke to The National Herald about the current state of the taxi industry in Greece and the changes the taxi industry is undergoing.

Psilakis named a comprehensive list of the services that make the company competitive:

1. 24 hour service and support
2. VIP transport
3. Passenger pick-up from harbors and airports to a specific drop-off zone
4. Planned trips
5. Travelers with disabilities
6. Secure transportation of personal items without the customer needing to be there in person

7. Polyjot drivers
8. Drivers adhere to a dress code
9. Beloved pets are transported with care
10. Children are transported by drivers who pay strict attention to safety and comfort criteria, including providing ear covers for children of all ages
11. Free Wi-Fi on all of the vehicles
12. Transfer of people with disabilities through pre-booking

Asked why a person should choose Taxi Knossos, Psilakis said that the customers prefer Taxi Knossos because it is the largest taxi company in Crete, with a fleet of 300 vehicles based in Heraklion that travel to every corner of the island. With experienced personal who have a deep knowledge of the services they provide, Taxi Knossos workers are very sensitive, comfortable and in touch with their customers.

The taxi field in Greece, as in all other European countries, is in a transitional phase, he said, emphasizing the rise of independent private drivers (non-taxi) who want to provide the same services. Taxi Knossos does not have the necessary prerequisites and record keeping. Psilakis said, “There are companies that work with these drivers in order to cut corners and artificially cut costs when it comes to providing transportation. Taxi Knossos has up to date information about its employees’ driving records and monitors violations of Greek law and EU risk and security regulations, and licenses judgment in accordance with the EU’s General Data Protection and Regulation (GDPR). We offer transportation with certified personal drivers in Crete 2019

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By Vassilis Koutitas

Travelers will also be able to enjoy the breathtakingly beautiful Aegean Sea, and the really lucky ones might even spot some dolphins.

Minoan Lines is one of the most prominent European shipping companies. Offering reliable and high-quality services, the company has made a huge impact on Crete tourism and transportation. The National Herald had the opportunity to speak with Antonios Maniadakis, the Managing Director of Minoan Lines.

Antonios Maniadakis has devoted his career and expertise to Minoan Lines for almost 30 years, and in 2005 he was unanimously elected as Managing Director of Minoan Lines S.A. In 2011, he was named “The Leader in Greece” according to distinguished Greek newspaper and newspaper. Mr. Maniadakis told TNH that Minoan Lines has been serving the transportation industry for 46 years, managing to gain an excellent reputation, for reaching reputation, and standing out in an increasingly competitive field. This company is headquartered in Heraklion, Crete, and Minoan Lines employs approximately 250 employees on land and sea. “The company manages and presents a fleet of state of the art high-speed cruise ferries and catamarans, which adhere to the highest safety and environmental standards,” he said.

Mr. Maniadakis told TNH that Minoan Lines operates in the domestic market in Greece, offering connections from Crete to Piraeus and the Cyclades Islands. Regular connections from Crete, either Heraklion or Chania, to Piraeus in Athens operate daily all year through the year. For the summer season, from April to the end of October, the company offers routes from Heraklion to Santorini, Ios, Paros, and Mykonos, and two more cruise ferries operate on the route Heraklion-Piraeus from June to September.

The National Herald talked to the president of the Italian Gemikal Group, since Minoan Lines acts as a General Sales Agent for the Grimaldi Group, it also offers routes between Greece and Italy, including Patras, Igoumenitsa, Corfu, Ancona, and Venice.

According to the latest numbers, Minoan Lines is clearly an important operator in the industry. For example, during the second quarter of 2019, the domestic Heraklion-Piraeus route carried 538 thousand passengers. 38 private cars and 444 buses from land and sea. Mr. Maniadakis said, “The company’s market shares on the routes between Piraeus, Santorini, and Mykonos is 46.4% for private cars and 46.4% for buses.”

He agrees that Crete is undoubtedly one of the most popular destinations in Greece and Europe.Because the majority of travelers choose to fly to Crete, ferry services are aiming to keep up with the strong competition created by low-cost airlines and charter flights. Mr. Maniadakis told TNH, “Minoan Lines operates within the passenger ferry sector, serving Crete on a daily basis with its ferries. With our regular itineraries, we aim to connect Crete to the mainland, serving not only our passenger but also offering our cargo services to the agricultural and other sectors that need to transport their products to the mainland.”

Traveling by sea makes Crete accessible throughout the year. Most airlines tend to operate only during summer season, whereas in winter, Minoan Lines continues to travel. Mr. Maniadakis revealed that the company’s goal, along with other factors, is to keep Crete as the main sector in Crete, “To link Crete via a touristic destination, offering a very different atmosphere, travel choices, hospitality, and serene atmosphere.”

In the context of climate change, traveling to Crete by bus instead of flying is also an ecological choice, especially after the emission reduction actions Minoan Lines has chosen to take. Minoan Lines aims to be the first Greek ferry company installing exhaust gas cleaning technology to comply with the new international emission regulations.

According to Mr. Maniadakis, their aim is to be by April 2019. A month prior to the January 1, 2020 deadline set by the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee. This will eliminate 97-98% of sulfur oxides and 70-80% of particulate matter leading to a significant reduction of harmful emissions and providing a greener future. Minoan Lines is known for its excellent and high-quality services, which is why travelers decide to travel by sea instead of flying. Mr. Maniadakis told TNH, “Our specific focus is on meeting the individual requirements, needs, and expectations of our passengers.” The goal is to provide a unique travel experience on board, making it not just a trip but a luxury cruise experience.

The passengers can enjoy state-of-the-art cabins, swimming pools, banquets, elegant dining venues, boutiques, exclusive children’s areas, internet corners, disco, and live music – the list is endless. Mr. Maniadakis highlighted, “Each aspect of the ship appeals to everyone and is geared towards relaxation, convenience, and comfort, the qualities the company prides itself on.”

Travelers will also be able to enjoy the breathtakingly beautiful Aegean Sea, and the really lucky ones might even spot some dolphins.

Customers may purchase their tickets by calling the Minoan Lines reservations office, visiting their ticket office, or contacting their travel agent who network within Greece. The company has also introduced an e-ticketing facility on their website and online booking systems, making it even easier for travelers to plan their trips. Mr. Maniadakis told TNH, “We are fully committed to helping each and every one of our customers enjoy the best possible experience.”

According to Mr. Maniadakis, the company is optimistic about the future, and its main strategy is to invest in new vessels in order to deliver frequent service from diversified ports to its customers.

In accordance with Greek law and the company’s privacy policy, we care about the protection of your personal data. Your personal data is processed only with your permission and it is collected, stored and processed only within the limits of current legislation and EU regulations. By using our website, you consent to the processing of personal data in accordance with this policy. You also have the right to access, update or delete your personal data or to withdraw your consent for the processing of your personal data at any time by contacting us at: info@minoanlines.com.
Daydreaming of the Cretan way of celebrating?

It's only natural.

Join the locals in singing a catchy "mandrakia", a traditional couplet. Share their joy in a traditional Cretan wedding. Make sure to enjoy every single festival. Dance till morning drinking raki, the trademark Cretan spirit. Learn everything about ceramics, pottery, and crafting traditional musical instruments. This is the very essence of Crete. All it takes is a few days to experience the local way of life, and the island will live in your heart forever.