Grand Reserve Travel
exclusive wine & gastronomy tours
Discover vineyards, unique sites and tastes of the breathtaking Greek countryside.
Grand Reserve Travel aims to combine a journey of colorful flavors to heighten your senses with the appreciation of natural gems in one of the oldest, but most promising wine regions in the world.

In a country rich in indigenous varietals and with plenty of age old secrets, Greek winemakers have taken on the challenge to produce wines of international standards. Our knowledgeable sommeliers and oenologists are eager to share their passion for wine with experts and novices alike. They seek out special, authentic, off the beaten track and personalized Greek wine and gastronomy experiences for all our guests, including cooking classes with local chefs, olive oil tastings and sightseeing, too.

Vaios Panagiotoulas, the founder and owner of Grand Reserve, is a driven and dedicated wine educator who strives to bring Great Greek wines to the world’s attention.

Grand Reserve Travel is in fact a sister company of the renowned Santorini Wine Tour Co, a long-time favorite for excellence in this field on the island of Santorini and root of Vaios’s wine tours.

Experience a journey of colorful flavors and the unparalleled beauty of Greece, today!
Chania

Chania is the largest port of Western Crete and used to be the Venetian capital of the island during the Middle Ages. Its varied and turbulent history is reflected in its Old Town, a marvelous mix of Byzantine, Venetian, and Ottoman architecture. Discover a town where culture has always reigned supreme and where up to our times quality is of the utmost importance. Here you will taste eggs with staka (milk curd), goat with stamnagathi (greens unique to Crete), and hard-to-find wines of local varieties, such as Malvasia, Plyto, and Kotsifali To the south and the west of the region are hidden some of the most beautiful beaches of Crete, as well as the famous Samaria gorge, one of the largest in Europe. Discover the Venice of the Aegean!

Wine and Olive Trails of Crete

A magnificent introduction to the two products that give life and enjoyment to every Cretan – wine and olive oil. Visit the oldest olive tree in the world and learn about the history of its sacred land. Continue with a tour of a -traditional yet innovative- organic extra virgin olive oil estate which persists in using time-honored techniques. Then visit a top local winery for a wine tasting and a delicious picnic in the winery grounds chock full with Cretan delicacies!

Tour Details

- Pick up & return luxury transfer from/to your hotel
- Visit the oldest olive tree in the world!
- Visit an organic olive oil estate with a tasting of extra virgin olive oil included
- Visit a traditional winery and its vineyards
- Learn about the unique viticulture and the indigenous grape varieties
- Experience a wine-tasting session with 5 different wines
- Enjoy a picnic in the winery grounds featuring traditional Cretan delicacies and drinks
2. Cretan Gardens Cooking Class
Learn about the rich and unique flora of the island of Crete in a unique setting, the Botanical Garden of Crete. It is home to a vast variety of Mediterranean fruits, herbs, medicinal, and ornamental plants. Learn about the herbs and spices growing here and their ingenious use in the Cretan diet. Learn from the chef how to cook local delicacies and feast like a Cretan!

Tour Details
- Pickup & return luxury transfer from/to your hotel
- Tour the amazing Botanical Park that preserves the horticultural legacy of Crete
- Hands-on cooking class of Cretan delicacies
- Experience a tasting of traditional drinks
- Savor your fresh-cooked creations at the end of your cooking lesson
- Experience a wine-tasting session with 3 different wines
- Learn about the unique viticulture and the indigenous grape varieties

3. Exploring Chania and its Villages
Ever felt you wanted to get away from crowds and blaze your own trail? This is your chance to enjoy the sights, tastes, and aromas of Crete on your own terms! Take advantage of our personalized tour service and get ready for a full-day or half-day private tour that will take you from one sight to the next, from breathtaking views to traditional villages to the secret villages of Crete – each one chosen by you! Are you into wine culture, archaeological sites, traditional Greek cooking lessons, unique beaches, or Mediterranean gastronomy? The Exploring Chania Private Tour will allow you to see the things you choose at your own pace.

Highlights:
- Sightseeing around scenic Cretan villages
- Choose an itinerary tailored to your interests and specifications
- Zero hassle! Your personal guide will arrange everything
- Visit the top wineries of the region to discover unique and hard-to-find wines
- Relax on some of the most beautiful beaches of Greece
- Visit archaeological sites giving an insight to a civilization lost since the remote antiquity
- Benefit from the accumulated knowledge of years of experience of our top local guides and sommeliers
- Tour in style! All private tours are taken in a brand-new luxury vehicle

Included:
- Luxury transfer from/to your hotel
- Half or Full-day private tour with a friendly local guide
- Luxury vehicle transport

Not included:
- Admission fees and guided tours to museums or archaeological sites
- Wine tasting fees
- Personal expenses
- Food and drink expenses, unless specified
Rethymno

Rethymno has been long overshadowed by the two larger towns of Crete on either side, but that’s not to say it has fewer marvels to offer: The Venetian Fortress, the vibrant Old Town, and its amazing beaches to the south make it a prime destination for travelers in the know. Here the secrets of the artisans and craftsmen of old are preserved and practiced unchanged. Unlock its wine and food secrets: taste apaki (a kind of preserved meat), kolokithoanthoi (fried zucchini flowers stuffed with feta cheese), and traditional rusks or gruyere, as well as the up-and-coming wines of the region that are poised to conquer the wine world in the coming years. Unlock the secret of Rethymno!

1. Cretan Food and Wine Lovers

A journey designed to showcase the significance and the nutritional value of the Mediterranean diet. You will learn about olive making in a modern olive mill which is home to an ancient olive tree. The secrets of wine making will be revealed to you next, offering you the chance to indulge in traditional recipes paired with some fine wines of Crete.

Tour Details
- Pickup and drop-off from/to your hotel
- Visit an old olive mill
- Experience a tasting with olive oil and raki (traditional Cretan drink)
- Visit a traditional winery and its vineyards
- Learn about the unique viticulture and the indigenous grape varieties
- A delicious picnic paired with amazing (and rare!) local wine
3. The Hidden Artisans of Crete

Enjoy a day filled with the lost Cretan customs and flavors. Visit a scenic village and explore its hidden treasure. Continue your journey to the heart of Cretan cuisine by learning how to prepare Greek-style deserts at the beautiful house of a local chef, and discover an incredible pottery workshop committed to the craft of ancient designs.

Tour Details
- Pickup and drop-off from/to your hotel
- Tour around the scenic routes and villages of the Cretan mountains
- A walk in the fields and olive groves of the region, along with an introduction to the local flora
- Visit a traditional pottery workshop to learn the secrets of old craftsmanship
- Hands-on preparation of traditional Cretan desserts
- A delicious dessert picnic paired with home-made beverages

4. Exploring Rethymnon and its Villages

Ever felt you wanted to get away from crowds and blaze your own trail? This is your chance to enjoy the many sights, tastes, and aromas of Crete on your own terms! Take advantage of our personalized tour service and get ready for a full-day or half-day private tour that will take you from one sight to the next, from breathtaking views to traditional villages to the secret villages of Crete – each one chosen by you! Are you into wine culture, archaeological sites, traditional Greek cooking lessons, unique beaches, or Mediterranean gastronomy? The Exploring Rethymnon Private Tour will allow you to see the things you choose at your own pace.

Highlights:
- Sightsee around the scenic villages of Crete
- Choose an itinerary tailored to your interests and specifications
- Zero hassle! Your personal guide will arrange everything
- Visit the top wineries of the region to discover unique and hard-to-find wines
- Relax on some of the most beautiful beaches of Greece
- Visit archaeological sites that give an insight to a civilization lost since the remote antiquity
- Benefit from the accumulated knowledge of years of experience of our top local guides and sommeliers
- Tour in style! All private tours are taken in a brand-new luxury vehicle

Included:
- Pickup and drop-off from/to your hotel
- Half or Full-day private tour with a friendly local guide
- Luxury vehicle transport

Not included:
- Admission fees and guided tours to museums or archaeological sites
- Wine tasting fees
- Personal expenses
- Food and drink expenses, unless specified
1. Cooking Class and Introduction to the Cretan diet

Tour in style around the scenic mountains surrounding the town of Heraklion, exploring its rich customs and traditions that get handed from generation to generation. Learn about artisanal professions and techniques whose origins are lost in time, and walk through lush olive groves. Collect wild herbs and vegetables directly from the field and bring them to the kitchen, to transform them into delicious Cretan dishes.

Tour Details

- Pick up & return luxury transfer from/to your hotel
- A unique tasting of traditional delicacies and local drinks
- A walk in the fields and olive groves of the region, along with an introduction to the local flora
- Introduction to the Mediterranean and Cretan diet
- Hands-on cooking class
- Outdoor lunch paired with wine and raki (traditional Cretan drink)

Heraklion

Heraklion is the largest town and the capital of Crete, and it is built near the palace of Knossos, the seat of the Minoan Civilization, one of the oldest in the world. The Cretan diet is the basis for the Mediterranean diet, and here you will find its perfect expression. You will taste exquisite organic cold-pressed olive oil that is prized everywhere in Greece and delicious (and healthy) dishes found nowhere else (such as snails boubouristi and cretan dakos). Also, Heraklion is the region that produces 80% of the island’s wine. Three of the four wine PDO designations of Crete can be found here, in the villages of Archanes, Peza, and Dafnes. Prepare to be amazed!
2. Cretan Picnic for Wine Lovers
Visit one of the most famous wineries in the vine region of Peza and explore its amazing wines. Drive through the scenic villages of Crete and discover the secrets and traditions of Cretan life and gastronomy. Walk in the olive groves and collect the wild herbs that give Cretan dishes their unique taste. Then, enjoy a lovely picnic paired with wine, on a hillside over the town of Heraklion, taking in the sea breeze and the vistas of the Aegean Sea to the north.

Tour Details
- Pick up & return luxury transfer from/to your hotel
- A visit to a traditional winery and its vineyards
- Tour around the scenic countryside of the village of Peza
- Learn about the unique viticulture and the indigenous grape varieties
- A wine-tasting session with 5 different wines
- Introduction to the Mediterranean and Cretan diet
- Outdoor picnic paired with wine and raki (traditional Cretan drink)

3. Exploring Heraklion and its Villages
Ever felt you wanted to get away from crowds and blaze your own trail? This is your chance to enjoy the many sights, tastes, and aromas of Crete on your own terms! Take advantage of our personalized tour service and get ready for a full-day or half-day private tour that will take you from one sight to the next, from breathtaking views to traditional villages to the secret villages of Crete – each one chosen by you! Are you into wine culture, archaeological sites, traditional Greek cooking lessons, unique beaches, or Mediterranean gastronomy? The Exploring Heraklion Private Tour will allow you to see the things you choose at your own pace.

Highlights
- Sightsee around the scenic villages of Crete
- Choose an itinerary tailored to your interests and specifications
- Zero hassle! Your personal guide will arrange everything

4. Heraklion Wine Roads
Combine a visit to two of Cretan wineries and a 3 course delicious Greek- Meze style menu at a lovely traditional tavern where you will enjoy both the local food and wine. Simultaneously you will learn all about the food and wine culture in Crete with tips on Greek gastronomy. This tour is ideal for foodies, adventure types, wine lovers and anyone who wants to try a complete gastronomic experience in Crete.

Tour Details
- Pick up and return transfer
- Visit 2 Estate family wineries and taste their awarded wines
- Guidance by an experienced local guide – sommelier
- Stop at selected vineyards located on Archanes or Peza or Dafnes
- Learn about the unique viticulture & the indigenous grape varietals
- Wine tasting in the wineries of 12 different type & style of wines
- 'Meze' style meal at a tavern located in a beautiful traditional settlement
Exploring Lasithi and its Villages

Ever felt you wanted to get away from crowds and blaze your own trail? This is your chance to enjoy the many sights, tastes, and aromas of Crete on your own terms! Take advantage of our personalized tour service and get ready for a full-day or half-day private tour that will take you from one sight to the next, from breathtaking views to traditional villages to the secret villages of Crete – each one chosen by you! Are you into wine culture, archaeological sites, traditional Greek cooking lessons, unique beaches, or Mediterranean gastronomy? The Exploring Lasithi Private Tour will allow you to see the things you choose at your own pace.

Highlights:
> Sightsee around the scenic villages of Crete
> Choose an itinerary tailored to your interests and specifications
> Zero hassle! Your personal guide will arrange everything

Sitia

Sitia is the capital of Lasithi, the easternmost of the four regions of Crete, and the wildest. In Ancient Greek lasithi meant place of stones. Discover a region where the village life is still lived as it was decades back. Here you will find gamopilafo (a kind of peasant risotto usually served at weddings), kaltsounia (small cheese pies with honey), and delicious raki (a traditional Cretan drink), and hard-to-find wines of local varieties. Visit the fortress at the island of Spinalonga, and marvel at the variety of this largely untouched region, from the Venetian ruins of the north to the untouched island of Chryssi to the south. Experience the secret Crete!

Included:
- Pickup and drop-off from/to your hotel
- Half or Full-day private tour with a friendly local guide
- Luxury vehicle transport

Not included:
- Admission fees and guided tours to museums or archaeological sites
- Wine tasting fees
- Personal expenses
- Food and drink expenses, unless specified
Attica

The poetry of wine, as given by the Gods Dionysus, the god of wine, chose Attica to introduce winemaking to the Greeks. Maybe that is why many world-famous, top quality wines are produced here.

Beyond the Acropolis, Plaka and Monastiraki, on the outskirts of Athens, lie in a mysteriously beautiful way, many golden fields of vines. Although a relatively small wine region, Attica offers generously its land to the inspired winemakers. International and indigenous varietals grow harmonically side by side and produce pure wine poetry.

Predominant varieties are Savatiano, for fresh fruity wines, Roditis and Agiorgitiko.

Athens Gastronomy & Attica's Wine Country

Aside the vineyard experience, Attica has a lot of cultural sites and breathtaking views to show. At Cape Sounio you will marvel at the temple of Poseidon and fill yourself with all the vast blue of the Mediterranean. For some extra taste and delicious meals, the city of Athens offers a lot of options, from restaurants, to intoxicating spice shops, and from enticing sweet shops, to the bustling central food market of Athens.

Included:

- Pick up & return luxury transfer based on the chosen tour or activity
- Half or Full-day private tours with an experienced, local English speaking guide
- Luxury vehicle transport

Not included:

- Personal expenses and purchase
- All Gratuities

Highlights:

- Daily winery tours to experience the wine making in Attica
- Hands on Cooking classes hosting by renowned Chef's for a farm to fork experience
- Special food and wine events in the wineries
- Greek food and wine matching in acclaimed restaurants in Athens
- Walking and bicycle tours in the city
- Expert-led guides
- Safe ground transportation with a professional driver
- Small group of participants for semi-private tours
Here the art of winemaking goes as far back as the days of Homer. Rich, dark and mysterious reds, whites with fresh aromas and wild floral intensity, await you for a poetic journey. Take a tour through ancient cities and theatres, and have a taste of all the contemporary delights Peloponnese has to offer, exceptional wines, virgin olive oil and freshly cooked dishes.

**Highlights:**
- Visits in top wineries and private tastings
- Olive oil tastings
- Hands-on cooking classes
- Visit the ancient theatre of Epidauros or ancient Olympia Stadium
- Sightsee of the Peloponnese countryside and Mountains
- Discover the beautiful white sand beaches of East Peloponnese

**Included:**
- Expert-led guides
- One meal per day
- Luxury ground transportation
- Two nights accommodation in 3 or 4 star hotel with breakfast*

**Not included:**
- Personal expenses and purchases
- Extra meals
- All Gratuities
- Airfare to and from Athens, Greece unless specify*
Explore The Wine Routes Of The God's

Take a four day tour in this magical land and get to know the award-winning wines that the top wineries of our North have to offer. The skillfully prepared Greek cuisine and the hands-on Cooking lessons with talented chefs shall top your experience with interesting, fresh ingredients.

Highlights:
> Visits in top wineries and private tastings
> One hands-on Cooking class follow with dinner
> Private occupancy in Pozar hot springs
> Menu degustation dinner paired with excellent local wines
> Walking to the "Arktouros" bear shelter
> Coffee break at Edessa’s water falls
> 3 nights in 4 star hotel accommodation with breakfast

Included:
- Expert-led guides
- One meal per day
- Luxury ground transportation
- Three nights accommodation in 3 or 4 star hotel with breakfast

Not included:
- Personal expenses and purchases
- Extra meals
- All Gratuities
- Airfare to and from Athens, Greece unless specified*
The Grand Reserve Travel Team
Meet the people behind (or in front of) the scenes that will make your tour an unforgettable experience!

Vaios Panagiotoulas - Managing Director/Owner/Sommelier
For the passion!
Vaios is the visionary that started the Grand Reserve Travel company and introduced, for the first time in Greece, the experience of touring the wine and gastronomic culture of a destination. His main goal remains the sharing of his passion for the gastronomy and wine culture of Greece. After working for 20 years as a top-level executive in the hospitality industry throughout Greece's luxurious resorts, Vaios, a certified sommelier, came to Santorini to offer a new experience to the island’s visitors. Inspired by the unique products and the full-bodied wines of the island, he incorporated all his knowledge and experience into the Grand Reserve Travel. His passion and spirit make the tours of Grand Reserve Travel a must-have experience for everyone!

Panos Dimitropoulos - Local Guide/Wine Expert
Because learning is fun!
Experienced, entertaining, and pure fun, Panos will transfer to you all his hard-earned experience of Santorinian wines, the vineyards, and points of interest of the island! Our guests love Panos from the moment he welcomes them on board for the tour experience! He will make sure that you are going to have fun while learning everything there is to know about wine and culture!

Vasia Dermentzopoulou - Senior Marketing
For the contact!
Vasia came to the company after enjoying a tour to the best of Santorini with Santorini Wine Tour. She made it her mission to augment the image and run all promotional actions for the company and, as her title suggests, she is responsible for keeping in touch with all of our customers, old and new. Her social media posts and blog articles inform, entertain, and share with a much wider audience the everyday life of Greece as well as every aspect of the wine and food culture that all visitors should know before or after enjoying a tour with Grand Reserve Travel!

Sokratis Tsanidis - Reservation Manager
For speed, reliability, and courtesy!
The reservations manager of Grand Reserve Travel guarantees the 24/7 support for any of your reservations with Grand Reserve Travel. Sokratis will promptly and efficiently answer your questions and take care of every detail. Nothing is automatic in Grand Reserve Travel - apart from delight! - and Sokratis is your go-to guy to book or organize the perfect tour for you in Greece!

Why Us
We have a long experience in wine tourism and we have traveled to over 20 wine destinations around the globe. Right from the start we committed ourselves to service excellence and high-end solutions, serving customers with discerning tastes seeking only the most exceptional quality.

> Insider local knowledge
> Original and personalized experiences
> Reliability and flexibility
> Unique access to VIP venues and events
> Deep understanding of various cultures