

# Gran Reserva Greece

Peloponnese & Santorini

May 5 - 12, 2019



## What to expect

This is a new trip, especially tailored for members of our Gran Reserva club, taking in the wines, food, history and culture of one of the earliest and most advanced civilisations on Earth. From Athens, the birthplace of democracy, over the Gulf of Corinth and through the Peloponnese, this trip takes in a huge spectrum of Greek life.

Get used to new varietals like Roditis, Moscofilero, Malagousia, Mavrodaphne, Assyrtiko and Agiorgitiko. These local wines are astonishing, interesting and novel. Sometimes blended with international varietals like Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon they are often better when left to express their native terroir. But that's for you to decide on your own Greek Odyssey.

As well as some of the some of the country's best wine regions there are great historical sites to savour as well. We visit Mycenae and Epidauros, famed throughout the world since ancient times.

Along the way the food is delicious; fresh fish brought in daily by the little fishing boats that chug along the coast are grilled over flames, while the quality lamb, souvlaki, stuffed vines and moussaka, all are scented by the ubiquitous fresh mountain herbs. From rural and rustic to Michelin star, the standard is always high.

In addition, there is the beguiling scenery from fabled Arcadia to the mountains of Nemea and the romantic neo-classical seaside city of Nafplio.

There will also be an optional extension to the wonderful exclusive island of Santorini, which

offers some of the best scenery and food and wine experiences imaginable.

## Highlights

- Visits and long lunches at the best wineries in Nemea, Mantinia and Patras
- Guided visits to the ancient sites at Mycenae and Epidauros
- Michelin star dinner in Athens
- Spectacular train ride in Kalavrita
- 4WD through the vineyards in Arcadia
- Wine tasting in Athens best wine bar
- Walking tour of Athens
- Optional visit to Santorini, including guided visit to Akrotiri, top wine visits and dinners

## Winery visits

Achai Clauss, Paparoussis, Skouras, Palivos, Semeli, Tselepos, Tetramythos, Argyros, Sigalas, Santo



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## Trip Itinerary

### Start in Athens.

**Day 1.** We meet at 1900 in the NJV Plaza Hotel, set in Athens' top location, before taking the luxury coach to Paleo wine bar, considered by locals as being the best in the city. Set in Piraeus, the docks of Athens, we enjoy dinner to include a tasting of wines from the regions of Greece that we will not be visiting. We will be joined by our friend, wine lover and Athens resident, Manolis Siatounis, who has traveled with us on many occasions in the past, and who will give us an introduction to Greece.

**Day 2.** Travel over the Gulf of Corinth and up the mountain to Kalavrita, a village that became synonymous with Nazi brutality during the 2nd World War. We visit the memorial and museum, before a light lunch. What follows is one of Europe's most spectacular rail journeys back down the mountain through some amazing scenery. Our bus meets us at the bottom and we visit Tetramythos winery, one of the region's (Patras) best organic producers, where we enjoy a picturesque dinner with owner Aristos. Check in to our hotel the restored monastery at Semantron for next 2 nights.

**Day 3.** Morning visit to Paparoussis, a very good small producer best known for the production of endangered local varietals such as Sideritis. Visit and lunch to Greece's oldest and most historic winery, Achai Clauss. With wines dating back to 1873 and favoured by Bismarck, this winery has a wonderful barrel room with vats made from Russian oak. Also on site is a vast archive of memorabilia relating to its interesting past, including occupation by the Nazis in WWII. Free evening.

**Day 4.** Leaving the Patras region for Nemea there is a fascinating journey into the past with a visit to Mycenae. Dating from 2000BC and home to King Agamemnon, this has been an inspiration for many Homeric epics. We enjoy a guided stroll around the well preserved ruins before visit and lunch at one of

the Nemea wine region's top estates, Skouras. George Skouras has been one of the Peloponnese pioneers of fine wines, and if he's in town will join us for lunch. Head to the coast to the city of Nafplio, renowned as the most beautiful in all of Greece, and check in to the Grande Bretagne hotel for the next 3 nights. Free evening.

**Day 5.** Morning wine visit to Semeli, a high altitude winery set in one the 'cru' regions of Nemea. Visit and lunch at Palivos in the heart of Ancient Nemea, one of the best family run wineries in the region. Fully organic since 1995 the old farm has now been replaced by a small winery with over 30 hectares planted, Agiorigitiko being predominant. Back in Nafplio for an evening dinner in the town.

**Day 6.** Morning visit to Tselepos in the Mantinia wine region. Set in the rural countryside of Arcadia is this is home to one of the finest winemakers in Greece. Gianni Tselepos studied oenology in Burgundy and brought back techniques learned there to this beautiful estate. We will travel by 4WD through the vineyards and have lunch al fresco by the old mill, all of course accompanied by some wonderful wines from the region and maybe also some from their Santorini vineyards. After lunch the rest of the afternoon and evening is free to shop or maybe visit the majestic Palamidi castle which looks over the city.

**Day 7.** Morning visit to the impressive ancient site of Epidaurus, dating from the 4th century BC. Famed for the well-preserved theatre, this was a large sanctuary dedicated to the Greek god of medicine, Asclepius. Much more than just a theatre, there are many temples, stadia, hospitals and other ruins to explore with our guide. We follow the spectacular coastal road back to Athens enjoying lunch with a view over the sea at Old Epidavros. Check in to the NJV Plaza. Optional afternoon walking tour of Athens before dinner in Michelin star restaurant, Spondi.

**Day 8.** End of tour or flights to Santorini extension.



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\$4200 per person double occupancy

\$675 single supplement

\$500 deposit per person

## Included

- 2 nights NJV Plaza, Athens
- 2 Semantron Hotel, Diakoptu
- 3 nights Grande Bretagne hotel, Nafplio
- Private transport by luxury coach
- Tour manager
- Breakfast daily; 6 lunches/ 5 dinners
- Visits and activities as specified

## Not included

Airfare; meals not mentioned above; travel insurance; gratuities for guides



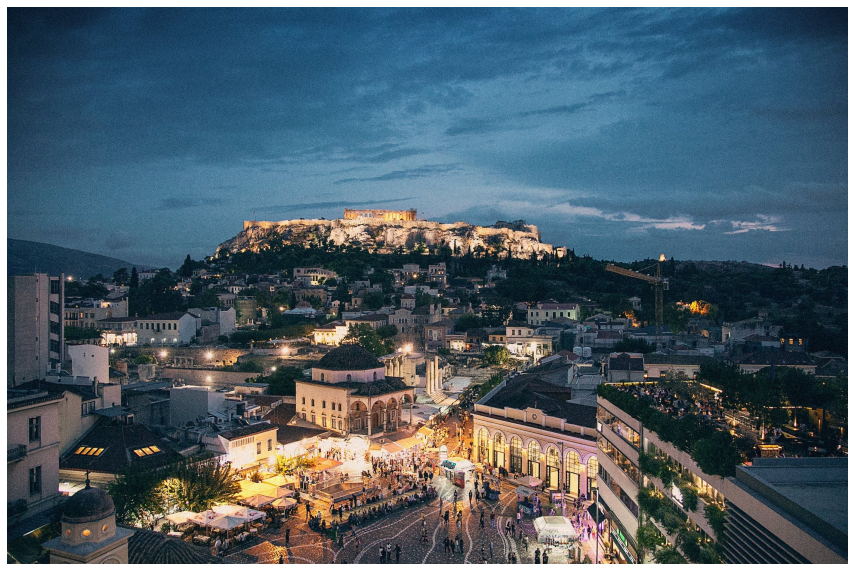
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## Iberian Wine Tours

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# Gran Reserva Greece

## Santorini Extension

May 12 - 15, 2019

### Trip Itinerary

*"Of all the islands, Santorini in the southern Aegean, is the most original and compelling"*

Hugh Johnston & Jancis Robinson

#### Flights from Athens.

**Day 1 Sunday 12 May.** We join the afternoon flight from Athens to Santorini and transfer to the Kafeiris Blue, our accommodation for the next 3 nights with spectacular views over the caldera, volcano and Aegean Sea. Evening dinner on the water's edge at Katina, a well-renowned seafood restaurant.

**Day 2. Monday 13 May.** Morning visit to Argyros, a family-run winery since 1903. Specialising in Assyrtiko their wines are made from grapes grown in volcanic soil from very old vines. Expect a powerful and mineral white with great acidity. Visit and lunch at Sigalas winery. This is another of the real big-hitters from Santorini, specialising in local varietals. At lunch their fine wines are paired with fine local cuisine. Free evening to enjoy the pool.

**Day 3. Tuesday 14 May.** Morning guided visit to the Minoan Bronze Age settlement of Akrotiri, which was destroyed and buried in volcanic ash in 1627 BC. Like Pompeii the ruins have been well-preserved. Light lunch and tasting at Santo winery, a co-operative with a great reputation and of course wonderful views. Evening dinner at Selene including a visit to the folklore museum, followed by a presentation of agricultural products from the island giving you a knowledge of the farming life of Santorini. A gourmet fine dining last night dinner follows at Selene upstairs.

**Day 4 Wednesday 15 May.** After breakfast transfers to the airport and end of tour before flights back to Athens.



### Prices:

**\$2250 per person double occupancy**

**\$550 single supplement**

**\$500 deposit per person**

### Included

- 3 nights Kafeiris Blue, Santorini
- Private transport by luxury coach
- Tour manager
- Breakfast daily; 2 lunches/ 2 dinners
- Visits and activities as specified

### Not included

Airfare; meals not mentioned above; travel insurance; gratuities for guides

