









ponnese peninsula, a region that bristles with enormously tall crenellated towers and frescoed churches. 'Kyrimai has the feeling of an old castle; an ideal place to just relax, swim and be in love,' says Vinke.

Stylish and sybaritic world-class resorts can, of course, be found without leaving the mainland. In northern Greece, on the middle prong of the Halkidiki peninsula, less than an hour's drive from Thessaloniki International airport, the Danai Beach Resort is a five star chill-out zone set among pine trees on the edge of the Aegean sea. Thirteen suites

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have private pools; and the terrace, with white chairs and umbrellas overlooking the ocean, is an incredibly romantic spot at sunset.

The most fabulous resort hotel close to Athens (just 20 kilometres

from the airport) is, according to Yorgos Galazidis, the Grand Resort Lagonissi. 'Architecturally it resembles its sister property, the famous Elounda Beach in Crete. Bungalows with private pools are spread out on a 72-acre peninsula, so there's a sense of independence and privacy. Many have direct access to the beach, and Club waterfront suites have indoor and outdoor heated pools with hydro-massage.'

The Danai attracts mainly couples and the odd celebrity – Mel Gibson is a regular visitor – and it excels at organising intimate evenings on a private beach. Says Galazidis: 'You can dine Arabian-style on floor cushions in tents with Persian carpets. The Maria Callas night is an opera tribute with champagne, candles, torches, white lounging sofas and tables. The diva would have approved.'

## CONTACTS

**1864 THE SEA CAPTAIN'S HOUSE (KAPETANOSPITO)**Oia, Santorini (00 30 22860 71983, www.santorini-gr.com).
Suites from €255.

ARGENTIKON LUXURY SUITES Kambos, 82 100 Chios (00 30 22710 33111, www.argentikon.gr). Suites from €660. BRATSERA HOTEL Hydra 180 40 (00 30 22980 53971, www.greekhotel.com). Double superior room with balcony from €187; Virani Suites from €197 per night.

DANAI BEACH RESORT & VILLAS Nikiti, Halkidiki (00 30 23750 22310). For rates contact: Leading Hotels of the World (www.lhw.com); Elegant Resorts (01244 897 000, www.elegantresorts.co.uk); ITC Classics (01244 355 550, www.itcclassics.co.uk); Amathus (0870 443 2972, amathusholidays.co.uk); Seasons in Style (01244 202000, seasonsinstyle.co.uk) from around \$1,500 per person for seven nights.

ELIA Ano Vouves, 730 06 Kolymvary, Crete. From €80 per night. To book visit www.yourgreece.gr.

GRAND RESORT LAGONISSI Contact: Leading Hotels of the World (www.lhw.com); Planet Holidays (0870 066 0909, planet-holidays.co.uk) has seven nights' B&B in a deluxe beachfront bungalow from £2,100 per person, including return flights and private taxi transfers; Amathus (0870 443 2972, amathusholidays.co.uk).

IMARET Kavala (00 30 2510 620 151, www.imaret.com) from €220 per night.

KATIKIES Oia, Santorini (00 30 22860 71401, www.katikies.com). Rooms from €260 per night. Contact: Sovereign Holidays (08705 768373, www.sovereign.com); Planet Holidays (www.planet-holidays.co.uk); ITC Classics (01244 355 550, www.itcclassics.co.uk).

KIVOTOS CLUBHOTEL DELUXE Ornos Bay, 84 600 Mykonos (00 30 22890 24094, www.kivotosciubhotel.gr). Contact: Leading Hotels of the World (www.lhw.com); Planet Holidays (www.planet-holidays.co.uk) from £2,000 per person in a suite for seven nights; ITC Classics (01244 355 550, www.itcclassics.co.uk); Amathus (0870 443 2972, amathusholidays.co.uk).

KYRIMAI HOTEL Gerolimenas, Mani (00 30 27330 54288, www.kyrimai.gr). Doubles from €100 per night.

ORLOFF RESORT Old Port, Spetses Town, Spetses 18 050 (00 30 229 80 75 444). From €105 per night.

PARENTHESIS VILLA RESORT Mykonos Villas from €8,000 a week. Contact Ileana von Hirsch at Five Star Greece (020 8422 4885, www.fivestargreece.com).

PERIVOLAS 84702 Oia, Santorini (00 30 22860 71308, www.perivolas.gr). Contact CV Travel, Thames Wharf Studios, Rainville Road, London W6 (0870 606 0803, www.cvtravel.co.uk), from €1,017 for seven nights including

THEOXENIA Kato Mili, Mykonos (00 30 22890 22230, www.mykonostheoxenia.com). Deluxe split-level seafront rooms from €350. Contact: Design Hotels (00 800 3746 8357; www.designhotels.com); Amathus (0870 443 2972, amathusholidays.co.uk).

flights and transfers.

THE TSITOURAS COLLECTION Firostefani, 84 700 Santorini (00 30 22860 23747, www.tsitouras.gr). House of Nureyev €620 night, including airport transfers and breakfast.

JACOLINE VINKE Your Greece Network of Great Small Hotels, 13 Papathanasiou St Peania 190-02, Athens

(00 30 210 664 0077, jacoline@yourgreece.gr, www.yourgreece.com). Jacoline's new book on small and special hotels in Greece will be published by Road Editions at the end of the year.

YORGOS GALAZIDIS Key Production, 13 Lykomidon St, 116 51 Alhens (00 30 210 3453787, key1@otenet.gr).