

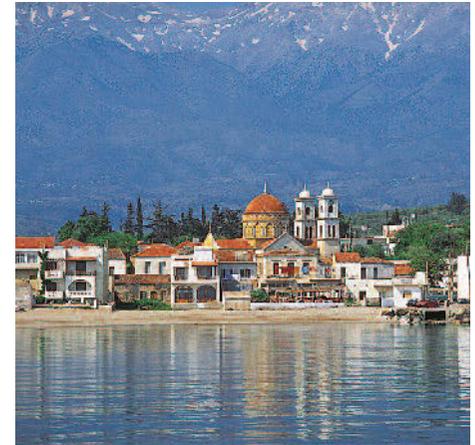


# CRETE

The largest of the Greek islands, Crete is a land of myth and history, of dramatic mountains, fertile valleys and glorious beaches. At the same time sophisticated and elemental, Crete is unique.



Taverna in Kaliviani



Kalives

First settled by humans 130,000 years ago and positioned between Africa and Europe, Crete was the cradle of Mediterranean civilisation and still retains its own strong identity and culture, characterised by a history of proud resistance against invaders through the ages.

Rich in its physical contrasts, the island has always been the source of legend and adventure. Fascinating archeological remains are sited all over the island, from the colourful

reinvntion of Knossos to the arid mystery of Phaestos. Three separate mountain ranges riven with spectacular gorges and rivers stretch from west to east, with lush valleys falling to a varied coast of small fishing villages and magnificent sandy beaches.

An absorbing mix of Minoan, Venetian and Turkish architecture, the island's towns weave together palaces, churches, castles, and minarets alongside the bustle of markets, cafés and tavernas.



# The white mountains provide the backdrop for western Crete's dramatic landscape.

## NEROKOURO

Although just nine kilometres from Chania there are no signs of tourism in Nerokouro: a church, a mini-market, a small bakery; a friendly community and beautiful views over valleys towards Souda Bay. Souda Bay with its supermarkets, fresh fish stalls, cafes and tavernas is only 5 minutes' drive away.

## VAMOS

Vamos is really a small town with many folk and neoclassical architectural influences. There are some very interesting buildings in the village, notably the churches of Agios Nikolaos and Agios Georgios and the restored school, originally built in 1863. Twenty six kilometres from Chania, the village has narrow cobblestone streets and lanes passing by interesting and attractive stone houses. There is a large square shaded by plane trees. The beaches of Kalives are 6km away. Vamos has a good selection of traditional tavernas, coffee shops, post office, bank, chemist and a variety of small shops.

A wonderful and beautifully kept village.

## VRISSES

A very well situated, working village with a backdrop of the White Mountains and about 30 minutes drive to either of the two main towns of Rethymnon and Chania in the west

of Crete. The sandy beaches of Georgoupolis are about a 15 minute drive and the dramatically located village of Chora Sfakion on the south coast a 45 minute drive across The White Mountains. Many gorges and small villages are in the vicinity making Vrisses an excellent base from which to walk in the area and also to explore the whole of western Crete by car.

The village has a good selection of tavernas, a kafenion, a butcher, two bakers, a couple of mini-markets and even a bank and pharmacy.

## KALIVES

About 20km east of Chania and at the entrance of the dramatic Souda Bay, Kalives has retained its village atmosphere and boasts two long sandy beaches, one to either side. Centred around a tree-shaded square, housing a couple of cafes and a fine church, Kalives has authentic local tavernas and small shops which cater for most needs.

The village has a population of 1,400 and in Byzantine towns was the likely site of Kissamos, one of the ancient city of Aptera's two harbours. To one side of the village is the sea and behind low hills covered by orange and olive groves with the dramatic White Mountains in the background.

A highly recommended spot, with easy access to atmospheric Chania, the Venetian built main town in the west of Crete.

## THERISSO

At 580 metres above sea level, 14 km from Chanea and accessed through the stunning, picturesque Therisso Gorge, the village was a centre for the struggle against the Turks. In 1905 it was the headquarters for Venizelos in the drive for union of Crete with Greece. Tavernas and restaurants abound in Therisso and the in the neighbouring villages of Zouvra, Drakona and Meskla. There are several picturesque walks and drives across the mountins.

## STYLOS

The modern village of Stylos is 23 km from Chania and 2 km from the town and beaches of Kalives. Several tavernas are set around streams that run through the village, making it a refreshing place to sit and eat. There is one mini-market in the village. There are many walks around Stylos and the Diktamos Gorge begins here. For the curious, next to the church of St. John, the fossilized remains of a Cretan dwarf elephant, Palaeoloxodon Chaniensis, can seen.



# VILLA STELLA

NEROKOURO • CRETE

At first glance, Villa Stella seems to grow straight out of the landscape. The tiered terraces and steep stairs of the villa follow the contours of its environment, lined with bougainvillea, hibiscus and mulberry trees. Each tier brings new delights, from the tastefully-decorated double bedroom to the pool terrace.

As you walk around the beautiful grounds of the property you're greeted with stunning views of Souda Bay. Enjoy the total privacy of these shaded terraces, where you can enjoy an evening glass of wine or cook a barbecue for an al fresco dinner. It's the perfect couple's retreat, though the steep 50m walk from the car parking area to the villa means it can be a slight challenge for those with mobility problems. If that's a concern for you, just get in touch with our team, who will be happy to recommend a property to suit you.

This romantic retreat is in the charming village of Nerokourou, away from the busier tourist hubs nearby. There's a mini-market in the village, but the nearest tavernas are in the towns of Chania or Souda. Drive a little further to Kalives for some of the island's best beaches.

-  Sleeps up to 2
-  1 bedroom (1D)
-  1 bathroom
-  Car hire included
-  Swimming pool
-  Air conditioning
-  WiFi

## The setup

### Ground floor:

- Open-plan sitting room with dining and kitchen area
- Bathroom

### Gallery:

- Double bedroom
- Swimming pool (7m x 5m and depth 1.50m-1.60m)



# VILLA STATHIS

VAMOS • CRETE

History meets modernity at Villa Stathis. This atmospheric property is around 100 years old, but it comes with the comfort and convenience of the 21st century. The beautiful interior, which mixes bleached white walls and overhanging wooden beams with contemporary furnishings, will immediately make you feel at home. Its outdoor terrace, shaded by a canopy of vines, opens onto a swimming pool and blissful seclusion.

This enticing combination of old and new is also reflected in the location of Villa Stathis. The property is on the outskirts of Vamos, a picturesque town that oozes Cretan character. You can pick up supplies at the shop here or dine in one of the tavernas without ever getting in a car. You'll end up feeling like one of the locals in no time at all.

The surrounding area adds to the appeal of Villa Stathis – if you're looking to get outdoors, head into the White Mountains for excellent hikes, and there's an array of picture-perfect sandy beaches within 10 minutes' drive.

- zzz Sleeps up to 6
- 🛏 3 bedrooms (1D-2T)
- 🚿 2 bathrooms
- 🚗 Car hire included
- 🌊 Swimming pool
- ❄️ Air conditioning
- 📶 WiFi

## The setup

### Ground floor:

- Open-plan living area with dining and kitchen area
- Twin bedroom with en suite bathroom

### Mezzanine:

- Twin beds

### First floor:

- Double bedroom with en suite bathroom
- Swimming pool (8m x 4m and depth 0.60m-1.50m)



# VILLA APHRODITE

NEAR VRISSES • CRETE

Embrace the alluring rustic tranquility of Villa Aphrodite, a traditionally-styled house with expansive views of the White Mountains. Life moves at a slower pace here, so you can easily while away the hours swimming in the pool, wandering through the well-kept gardens or relaxing on a lounge with a drink.

The cosy interior has a traditional character, with its fireplace, exposed stone walls and wooden ceiling, making it a romantic place to spend quiet evenings in. Or stay outdoors and usher in the evening with a barbecue, watching as the sun sets over the surrounding pine and olive trees.

Choose between privacy or sociability during your stay in Villa Aphrodite. The raised garden and pool area allows you to enjoy the grounds without ever meeting another person. But if you feel like mingling, there are other houses and a taverna in the hamlet of Maza. You can walk there for dinner in just five minutes. Nearby, the sandy beaches of Georgioupolis are perfect for sun, sea and sand.

-  Sleeps up to 4
-  2 bedrooms (1D-1T)
-  2 bathrooms
-  Car hire included
-  Swimming pool
-  Air conditioning
-  WiFi
-  Early booking offer



## The setup

- Open-plan sitting room with dining and kitchen area
- Double bedroom with en suite bathroom
- Twin bedroom
- Bathroom
- Swimming pool (8m x 4.5m and depth 0.90m-1.40m)



# VILLA ANASTASIA

KALIVES • CRETE

Immerse yourself in authentic Greek life in this delightful villa tucked away in a traditional seaside village. Twenty kilometres from Chania and just a few minutes' drive to Almirda, the village of Kalives offers bustling little tavernas, shallow sandy beaches and far-reaching sea views.

Villa Anastasia is the perfect escape for couples looking for a tranquil getaway or families with children. While the interior is cool, airy and spacious, with a traditional wood-beamed, terracotta-tiled kitchen, Villa Anastasia's outdoor spaces are the highlight. In the pretty little garden, the lawn-fringed swimming pool is perfect for cooling off on hot summer days and there are plenty of sun loungers. The upstairs terrace makes a fine spot for an evening drink, a balmy family meal and watching the sun go down.

Everything you could need is within walking distance from the villa – lovely sandy beaches with gentle waves, friendly little tavernas serving up authentic Cretan dishes, and a great selection of shops.

-  Sleeps up to 7
-  3 bedrooms (1D-1T-1TR)
-  2 bathrooms
-  Swimming pool
-  Air conditioning
-  WiFi
-  Early booking offer

## The setup

### Ground floor:

- Open-plan sitting room with dining and kitchen area
- Bathroom

### First floor:

- Double bedroom
- Twin bedroom
- Triple bedroom
- Bathroom
- Swimming pool (8m x 4m and depth 1.40m-1.80m)



# VILLA GEORGIA

NEAR VRISSES • CRETE

The magnificent Villa Georgia promises a relaxing Cretan holiday to remember. Perched in the foothills of the White Mountains, the villa's crowning glory is its full 360-degree view. Swim to the edge of the vast swimming pool and soak up panoramas of undulating olive groves and breathe in the scent of pine trees.

Villa Georgia manages to combine grandeur and homely comfort with ease. Inside, the villa has traditional dark wood furniture. Yet modern luxuries such as a jacuzzi bath are a welcome addition. Outside, enjoy days splashing in the pool, dining under the covered patio and sizzling up some Greek specialities on the barbecue. There's even a pizza oven for some fun experimenting.

The villa is in the heart of nature, near the village of Vrisses. This is the perfect location for day-trip forays; the sandy beaches in the resort of Georgioupolis are just 15 minutes' drive away, the National Road is 10 minutes away, and you can be exploring the island's staggering south coast in under an hour.

- zzz Sleeps up to 6
- 🛏 3 bedrooms (1D-2T)
- 🚿 3 bathrooms
- 🚗 Car hire included
- 🌊 Swimming pool
- ❄️ Air conditioning
- 📶 WiFi
- 📅 Early booking offer

## The setup

### Ground floor:

- Open-plan sitting room with dining area
- Kitchen
- Twin bedroom
- Bathroom

### First floor:

- Double bedroom with en suite bathroom
- Twin bedroom with en suite bathroom
- Swimming pool (10m x 4.5m and depth 0.90m-1.70m)





Villa Georgia pool

For more detailed information & photos visit [www.gicthevillacollection.com](http://www.gicthevillacollection.com)

# VILLA MARIS

NEAR VRISSES • CRETE

Head just five minutes by car from the quaint little village of Vrisses into the foothills of the White Mountains, and a small track will lead you to Villa Maris. This house is striking, with spacious rooms, traditional décor and French doors leading from the bedrooms onto balconies. Yet it's the panoramic views around that leave guests in awe – 360-degree vistas of vineyards and farms, olive groves and pine forests nestled below the great peaks.

Grassy gardens and an expansive patio wrap around the stone-built villa, with the large swimming pool taking pride of place. There are pretty fruit orchards, an impressive outdoor kitchen with barbecue and pizza oven, and a welcome shaded eating area that looks over both the pool and sweeping landscape.

If you can tear yourself away from Villa Maris, the nearby National Road provides easy access to northwest Crete's sights, while the lovely sandy beaches of Georgioupolis are just 10 minutes' drive away. Meanwhile, the rugged south coast is under an hour's drive.



- zzz Sleeps up to 8
- 🛏 4 bedrooms (1D-3T)
- 🚿 3 bathrooms
- 🚗 Car hire included
- 🌊 Swimming pool
- ❄️ Air conditioning
- 📶 WiFi
- 📅 Early booking offer

## The setup

### Ground floor:

- Open-plan sitting room with dining and kitchen area
- Twin bedroom
- Bathroom

### First floor:

- Double bedroom with en suite bathroom
- Two twin bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Swimming pool (8m x 5m and depth 1m-1.60m)



# VILLA KARINA

NEAR VRISSES • CRETE

Villa Karina has a private, countrified setting on the outskirts of Maza. Six kilometres south of the sandy beaches of Georgiopolis and three kilometres away from the pretty village of Vrisses, Maza has a few traditional stone houses and a sleepy square with a small chapel and a taverna – just a five minute walk from the villa.

Villa Karina has views over the surrounding countryside and valleys of pine forest and olive groves unfolding towards the White Mountains. Attention to detail is apparent throughout and the result is a comfortable home from home.

- zzz Sleeps up to 6
- 🔑 3 bedrooms (1D-2T)
- 🚿 2 bathrooms
- 🚗 Car hire included
- 🏊 Swimming pool
- ❄️ Air conditioning
- 📶 WiFi



### The setup

- Open-plan sitting room with dining and kitchen area
- Double bedroom with en suite bathroom
- Two twin bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Swimming pool (8m x 5m and depth 0.80m-1.50m)



# VILLA THERISSO

THERISSO • CRETE

For those in search of total tranquillity, Villa Therisso is the ideal Cretan escape. The village of Therisso might be just 16 kilometres south of Chania, but it's a world away from the hustle and bustle of the city, tucked away at the far end of a stunning gorge in the foothills of the White Mountains.

The villa is delightful, with classic charm, and light and airy rooms. Fling the windows open and let the smell of pine trees breeze through, lie in bed and enjoy dramatic views of the peaks and valleys through the open French doors, or enjoy a romantic breakfast on the little balcony. Indoors and outdoors blend beautifully at Villa Therisso, with an inviting swimming pool, barbecue area and series of terraces – perfect for family meals under the stars and days splashing around.

Therisso might not have a supermarket, but it is well-stocked in tavernas and cafes, and has a fascinating World War II history, along with a museum on Eleftherios Venizelos, the Cretan Prime Minister responsible for reuniting Crete with mainland Greece after 400 years of Turkish rule.



- zz Sleeps up to 4
- 🛏 2 bedrooms (1D-1T)
- 🚿 2 bathrooms
- 🚗 Car hire included
- 🏊 Swimming pool
- ❄ Air conditioning
- 📶 MiFi

## The setup

### Ground floor:

- Open-plan sitting room and kitchen
- Study
- Cloakroom

### First floor:

- Double bedroom with en suite bathroom
- Twin bedroom with en suite bathroom
- Swimming pool (9m x 4.5m and depth 0.70m-1.70m)



# STYLOS RIVER HOUSE

NEAR STYLOS • CRETE

Tasteful modernity blends with the ancient Cretan landscape to create a stylish villa surrounded by centuries-old olive and orange groves, with far-reaching views. Stylos River House has mastered the art of contrasting delights. It's wonderfully private, secluded and romantic, yet it's under three miles from the seaside village of Kalives, with its sandy beaches. Close by, the sleepy village of Stylos just two kilometres away promises evenings in traditional tavernas chatting to locals.

Lovely gardens surround a good-sized swimming pool, and a river runs along the rear of the villa. You can even pick your own vegetables from the garden – throw them on a fresh pizza and pop it in the outdoor oven for a meal to remember.

Explore a hidden corner of Crete along quiet tracks, where the sound of sheep bells floats on the air, walk the six-kilometre Diktamos Gorge, which passes through rugged mountain landscapes and farms. Stylos River House is ideal for couples or families in search of a modern villa where they can unwind and explore.

-  Sleeps up to 5
-  2 bedrooms (2D)
-  1 sofa bed (1S)
-  3 bathrooms
-  Car hire included
-  Swimming pool
-  Air conditioning
-  WiFi
-  Early booking offer

## The setup

### Ground floor:

- Open-plan living room with dining area and kitchen
- Bathroom

### First floor:

- Two double bedrooms both with en suite bathroom
- Swimming pool

