

The best boutique hotels in Crete, from serene mountain cottages to chic townhouses



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Kapsaliana Village Hotel is surrounded by mature gardens and wild countryside in the mountains



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Home of the healthy Cretan Diet and cradle of the Minoan civilisation, Greece's largest – and Greeks would say friendliest – island is perfectly suited to the boutique hotel experience. Hospitable Cretans love receiving guests, so you can expect a hearty welcome – along with a glass of raki – in a string of independent hotels stretched between the peaceful seaside resort of Makrighalos in the East, to Chania's bustling Venetian harbour in the West. Here's our pick of the best

boutique hotels in Crete, including the top places to stay for 14th-century Cretan cloisters, private infinity pools, antique furnishings, panoramic views, eclectic art collections, excellent service and trendy bars in locations including Rethymnon, Chania and Sissi.



Kapsaliana Village Hotel

Crete, Greece

9/10 Telegraph expert rating

This beautifully renovated cluster of stone village houses, surrounded by mature gardens and wild countryside in the mountains, once belonged to Arkadi monastery and has been lovingly restored by its owners. There are 22 houses linked by a labyrinth of stone-paved lanes with plenty of original features (huge olive grindstones, high wood-beamed ceilings) and some spectacular design features. Upper-floor rooms have terraces (some very large) and most have sea views; rooms on lower floors are spacious but with smaller windows. Breakfast and dinner are both served on the leafy raised terrace, offering mostly organic food inspired by Cretan tradition. A good-sized pool and three large rooms displaying the hotel's impressive collection of antiques completes the picture.

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