



## **The Rourke Art Gallery + Museum, Sam Wai, and Peter Schultz present . . . . The 2023 Aegean History, Food, and Wine Adventure 10-22 September 2023**

Discover the history, cuisine, and viticulture of Greece on a 12-day excursion led by Mr. Sam Wai, wine educator extraordinaire, and Dr. Peter Schultz, former Olin J. Storvick Chair of Classical Studies, Concordia College.

For 12 incredible days, the world's best food, wine, and adventure will be ours!

With Mr. Wai and Dr. Schultz as our guides, after a two-day jaunt in breathtaking Athens, we'll explore the world-famous Greek islands of [Crete and Santorini](#). Our journey will take us over the lofty peaks of ancient Thera, across the sun-kissed landscapes of the Aegean, and through the ancient art of the Bronze Age and Classical Greece. Of course, all of this is a sidebar to the *true* focus of our adventure: the food and wine of the Aegean!

### **Sunday, 10 September – Day 0 – *Arrival in Athens***

Our journey begins with our arrival to the conveniently located [Herodion Hotel](#) in Athens. Here, we'll kick jet lag and prepare for our adventure! (The world famous [Tod Ganje](#), of Travel Incorporated, in Moorhead, is available and willing to help you with your travel plans.) No activities are scheduled for today. Please do take the time to acclimate and enjoy the city on your own!

### **Monday, 11 September – Day 1 – *Athens***

For our first day together, we'll get acquainted with our neighborhood and then tour the [Athenian Acropolis](#). For dinner, we'll feast together Greek style at [To Kati Allo](#) before walking back to the Herodion where you may enjoy a night-cap at the rooftop cafe.

### **Tuesday, 12 September – Day 2 – *Athens***

Our second day in Athens begins with a tour of the [Athenian Agora](#) with world-renowned Classical archaeologist, Dr. David Scahill. Free time for lunch and exploration of the famous shopping district of [Plaka](#) follows. We will then meet at the [Acropolis Museum](#) for a tour of this most extraordinary of collections. Dinner tonight is at the exclusive [Kuzina](#), with a panoramic view of the Athenian Acropolis.

### **Wednesday, 13 September – Day 3 – *Departure to Crete***

This morning, we will depart on a mid-morning flight to arrive on [Crete](#) and check into the modern and efficient [Olive Green Hotel](#), an eco-friendly hotel with excellent service in the heart of the Cretan capital, [Heraklion](#). After settling in, we will pay a visit to the [Historical Museum of Crete](#) which boasts two El Greco paintings and countless other treasures. Dinner tonight will feature a Venetian harbor sunset at [Herbs Garden Restaurant](#).

#### **Thursday, 14 September – Day 4 – Crete**

Today, we head east to the extraordinary [Bay of Elounda](#) for exploration and a visit to the famous island of [Spinalonga](#). After our visit, we'll head to the Cretan village of [Kritsa](#) one of the oldest and most beautiful hamlets in Crete. We'll eat lunch there and then have a bit of free time to explore before returning to Heraklion. Dinner tonight will include olive oil and wine tastings and creative takes on traditional island fare from our knowledgeable host, food anthropologist Dr. Georgios Maltezas, of [Tasting Crete](#).

#### **Friday, 15 September – Day 5 – Crete**

Early morning is entirely open for free exploration. In the late morning, we'll depart for the Peza wine region. Our lunch and wine tasting will be at the picturesque [Domaine Paterianakis](#). Organic wines and some of the finest raki found on the island will be shared with our group by third-generation family winemakers, Emmanuela and Niki. Dinner tonight is on your own.

#### **Saturday, 16 September – Day 6 – Crete**

Today begins with a visit to the world-famous [Heraklion Archaeological Museum](#), most notable for its complete collection of artifacts of the Minoan civilization of Crete. After a tour of the collections and a quick lunch on your own, we'll depart for [Knossos](#) and explore the most famous archaeological site on the island. After we've wandered the path of King Minos of antiquity, we will hop back on the bus and head to the Cretan village of Voni, where we'll visit with legendary local ceramist, [Vassilis Politakis](#), and feast in a private olive grove.

#### **Sunday, 17 September – Day 7 – Crete**

Today, we'll depart early for the west, visiting the picturesque port city of [Rethymnon](#). After a tour of [Arkadi Monastery](#), a site dating back to the 16th century which played an active role in the Cretan resistance to the Ottomans, we'll lunch at a *cafeneion* so non-touristic that it has no name, but is affectionately called "Manolis's Place" by the locals. We'll also enjoy some free time in Rethymnon before returning to Heraklion. Dinner tonight is on your own.

#### **Monday, 18 September – Day 8 – Crete**

This morning we'll walk to [Agia Ekaterini](#), an impressive building dating back to the second Byzantine period. Once an intellectual center for the arts, literature, and sciences, it now houses the Museum of Christian Art, which presents an overview of Cretan art from the 15th to 19th century including works from famed icon painter, [Michael Damaskinos](#). Our lunch and wine tasting this afternoon will be at [Lyrarakis Wines](#), a family-owned winery surrounded by the idyllic Lassithi mountains and credited with the revival of ancient Cretan grape varieties, Dafni and Plyto. Dinner tonight will be at [Peskesi](#) — truly one of the finest restaurants in the Aegean with modern gastronomy rooted in ancient and local culinary traditions.

#### **Tuesday, 19 September – Day 9 – Departure to Santorini**

We'll depart on a mid-morning ferry to meet our hosts, Dora and Nikos, in the Santorinian village of Kamari where we'll settle into the family-owned, beachfront [Nissia Apartments](#) and get acquainted with our neighborhood. We will then go to our first wine tasting at [Hatzidakis](#) winery, just a short drive from Kamari. Dinner tonight is at the very private [Metaxi Mas](#) — one of the best kept secrets on the island.

#### **Wednesday, 20 September – Day 10 – Santorini**

Today, we will leave for our tour of the ancient Bronze Age town of [Akrotiri](#), the "Pompeii of the Aegean." Buried by volcanic ash from the eruption of ca. 1600 B.C.E., the archaeological site is one of the most important in Europe. Following our tour of the site, we will visit a local organic farm, [Faros Market](#), owned by friends for a late morning snack, a lecture on traditional ingredients, and culinary tips on using them at home. Next we will visit the [Co-Op Store of Santos Wines](#), a great stop to shop for fabulous wines and Greek ingredients. We'll spend the afternoon in the island capital of Fira, visiting the Archaeological Museum and exploring the town for lunch, shopping, and other delights at our leisure! Dinner tonight is on your own.

### Thursday, 21 September – Day 11 – *Santorini*

The morning of our last full day in Santorini is free. If you're looking for some optional adventure, Dr. Schultz will be leading a morning adventure to [the ancient city of Thera](#), right above Kamari. In the early afternoon, we lunch and sample the famous wines of [Domaine Sigalas](#). The rest of the afternoon will be free time in the charming cliffside town of Oia. We conclude the day with a sunset farewell dinner on the northwestern tip of the island at [Fanari Villas](#), an iconic Santorini experience.

### Friday, 22 September – Day 12 – *Return*

In the morning, we depart for the airport for our return flight home, until the next time . . . .

## Costs

**Three Days in Athens, Six Days in Crete, Three Days in Santorini: \$5,745** / person, double occupancy. Cost includes a pre-trip dinner with wine pairings and presentations on Greek viticulture and archaeology at the Rourke Art Gallery + Museum, all hotel accommodations, all breakfasts, all planned lunches and dinners, all entry fees, all intra-country travel (Athens → Crete → Santorini), all transportation for group outings, and all wine tastings with Mr. Wai. **\*International airfare for arrival to Athens and departure from Santorini is on your own.**

**Single occupancy surcharge: \$795**

**Deposits: \$1,995/person** is due **1 October 2022**.

\*Deposits are fully refundable up until 15 February 2023, if replacement travelers can be identified.

\*Deposits are taken and seats are held on a “first come, first served” basis.

**Final payments: \$3750/person** is due **15 April 2023**.



- \* **Giotto Patrons of the Rourke Art Gallery + Museum take \$175/person off the sticker price.**
- \* **Giotto Fellows of the Rourke Art Gallery + Museum take \$350/person off the sticker price.**

## Contact

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