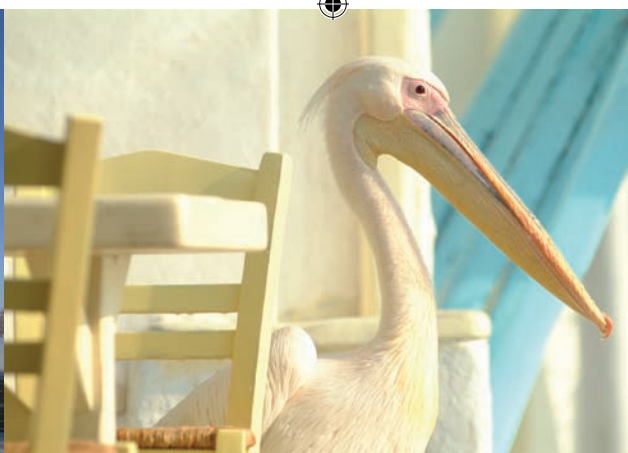


Mykonos and yet more Mykonos! Take your time...





Travelling to Mykonos...

... one realises that time is different in different places. The same parts of the island also look different over the course of the same day. Whether day or night, summer or winter, Mykonos proves that there is always time for something else... On Mykonos you have the time to discover just what it is that makes the difference, what creates those personal moments that stand the very test of time. Above all, you realise that you have time for the island no matter what stage of life you are in, no matter your lifestyle.

You'll understand why when you see a little of the island's history, with two starting points (**A story with two starting points, page 5**), when you realise that every beach has a personality all of its own (**Personalities built of sand, page 7**), when you discover that man and nature have allied themselves to create unique monuments (**Architecture bathed in white, page 9**), when you feel the millennia-old sacred aura (**Delos, the floating museum, Page 11**), when you encounter Mykonos' real soul (**Tradition seen differently, page 13**) and when you realise why people from such different backgrounds choose the same place for their holidays (**Mykonos' world: Everyone's Mykonos! Page 15**).

The island will win you over, and your first visit will certainly not be your last. With the countless options available, the island is simply screaming out that it will always be there for you, no matter the circumstances, and will be a canvas on which you can paint your own personal story.

Mykonos and yet more Mykonos! Take your time...





A story with two starting points

The birth ...

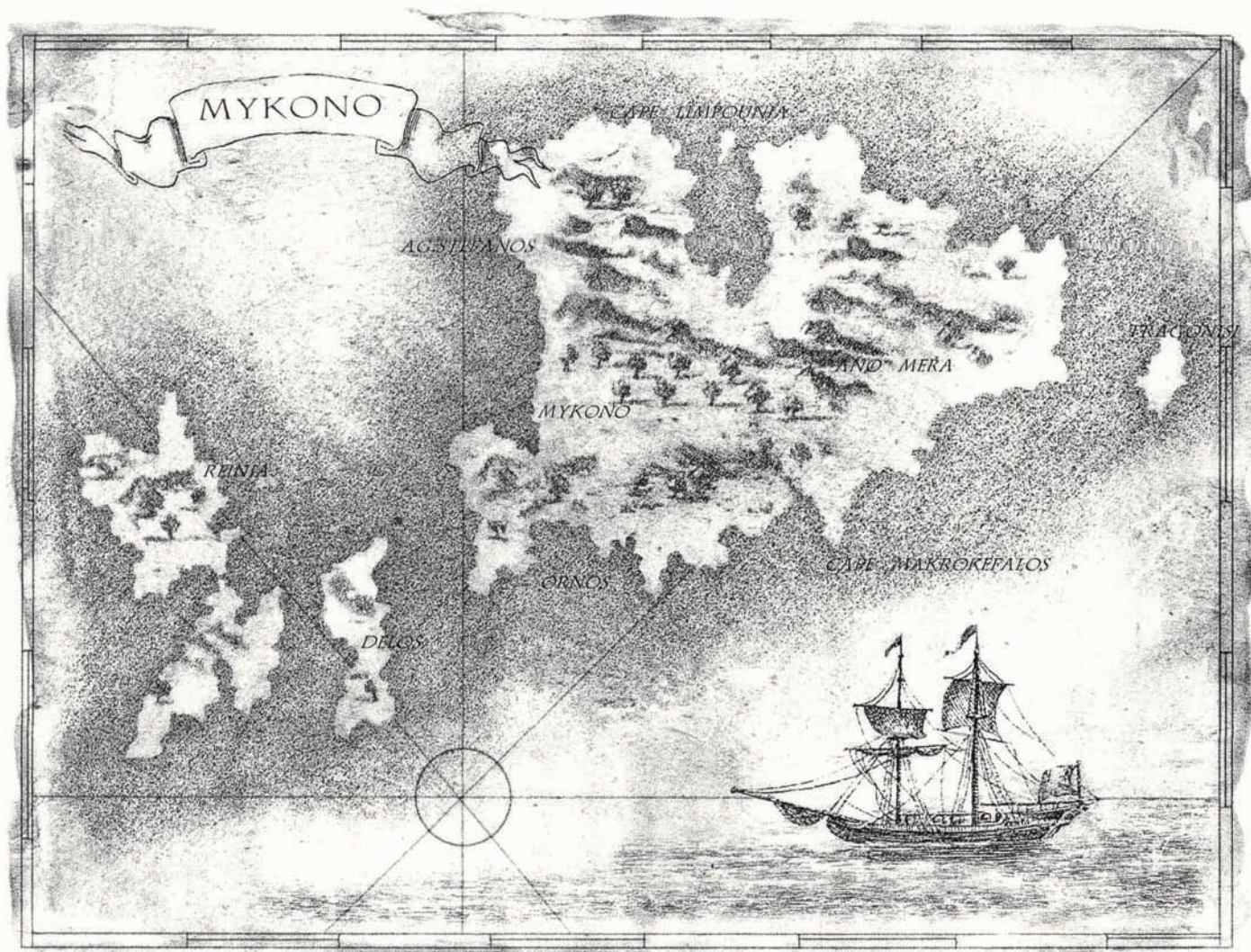
The Gigantomachy, the battle of the giants, was raging and the outcome was uncertain. But Hercules, employing cunning ruses and using his divine powers, managed to defeat them. What was to become of the giants though? The issue was a practical one; the solution direct. According to legend, the giants were buried under immense, imposing rocks, thereby creating the island of Mykonos. The island's name in Greek would appear to indicate something like a pile of rocks, or rocky place. One other tradition has it that the island was associated with the hero, Mykonos, son of the king of Delos, Anios, who was involved in the Trojan saga, who in turn was son of Apollo and the nymph, Rio, a descendant of Dionysus. The Carians and Phoenicians are said to have been the island's first inhabitants, but it is proven fact that Ionians from Athens came to dominate the island around 1000 BC and drove previous inhabitants out. Dionysus, Demeter, Zeus, Apollo, Poseidon and the mythical hero Hercules were all worshipped on the island. He may well have defeated the Giants but he could not turn back the waves of time and history: Romans, Byzantines, Venetians, Ottoman Turks and all manner of pirates left their traces in the time they dominated the island. In the 18th and 19th centuries the island became an important staging post for foreign commercial vessels plying the Mediterranean and became a remarkable naval power. The people of Mykonos were led and inspired by the island's heroine, Mando Mavrogenous, who came from a powerful aristocratic family, during the 1821 Revolution. Just like they had taken part in the Orlov Rebellion earlier, the people of Mykonos took part in the struggle for liberation with four well-armed vessels, two of which appear to have been maintained by Mando herself, who spent her entire inheritance on this. When the Modern Greek state was established, Mykonos began to develop a dynamic bourgeois class actively involved in foreign trade. However, steam power and other historical events at that time resulted in a crisis in traditional maritime activities which forced many of the islanders to seek out a new life abroad.

... the rebirth

Mykonos has changed the picture it presents us many times over the last 3,000 years. The 20th century saw just another historical change. Tourism began to become a major force on the island. Archaeological excavations had been started by the Athens-based French Archaeological School on Delos in 1873 and had placed the area firmly in minds of the elite of the time. From the 1930s on numerous celebrities began to visit the island to discover not just Delos' impressive antiquities, but also Mykonos' own rare delights. From the 1960s onwards Mykonos was 'conquered' by millions of visitors who flocked there from every corner of the planet to experience a unique, international phenomenon. They included princes and magnates, Hollywood stars and world famous politicians, who honoured Mykonos every summer with their presence there. The story goes on...

... the cradle of History

Mykonos' museums invite their visitors to take a look into the past. The extensive collection of pottery-ware on display at the Mykonos Archaeological Museum reflects the glory days of Cycladic ceramics; precious finds such as Hellenistic sculptures and reliefs will certainly impress the visitor. The Folklore Museum will charm fans of local culture. Its six halls host collections comprised of countless items of old furniture and pictures, folk ceramics and mementos, embroidery and traditional weavings. Mykonos has an important naval heritage. A visit to the Naval Museum is a must, taking visitors back to bygone days through an extensive collection of maps and engravings, model ships, ancient coins, amphorae and navigation equipment. At Tourliani Monastery visitors can also find a well-kept collection of ecclesiastical items and votive offerings. However, the island's history is not just restricted to its museums. It can be found just about everywhere: at the prehistoric settlement of Ftelia, the proto-Cycladic acropolis at the picturesque location known as Divounia, and in the Mykonian countryside where the ruins of age-old towers can still be seen. Just a short distance outside the island's capital (Hora in Greek) lies a domed tomb dating from the Mycenaean period which was discovered just a few years ago, indicating that all time periods can exist harmoniously on the island. ●●







Personalities built of sand

Nowhere but Mykonos combines so many different worlds under the glare of the Cycladic sun. The island's golden sand, pebbles, and crystal-clear blue-green waters are just the start. Visitors will soon discover that Mykonos' beaches have a life all of their own, their own memories, and special friends who visit them every single year; yet above all they have their own personality.

Two beaches located close to Hora will take visitors on a distant journey: Agios Stefanos beach which faces Tinos Island, which lies opposite and the islet of Rhineia, and Houlakia beach with its impressive pebbles are bound to bring visitors up close and personal with nature.

Dreamlike destinations await the visitor in the southern part of the island, that can be accessed either by car or boat. Agios Ioannis beach lies 6 km SW of Hora. It's a unique beach, with unparalleled views of Delos island. Next to it is the charming Kapari beach, surrounded by rocks and endowed with waters in various hues of turquoise! Just 4 km from the island's capital is Ornos beach; an ideal spot sheltered from the wind that offers may on-beach amenities. Psarou beach is truly cosmopolitan. It can be found on the road towards Platy Gialos and is bound to steal your heart away. Platy Gialos, with its golden sands, comes a pleasant surprise, offering numerous amenities... One lasting impression it leaves is the quaint sailing boats heading for other beaches. On the east of the island, why not try Paranga beach, with its fine sands; a lively well-organised beach that attracts an international crowd that just loves to dance. Agia Anna beach, nearby but smaller in size, is quieter but just as beautiful. Just 5.5 km from Hora lies Kalamopodi beach, better known nowadays as Paradise Beach with its clear waters; this is the ideal spot for those who love to spend their holidays dancing. And as if one paradise on earth was not enough, the small

boat also sails on to a second one... Plintri beach, better known as Super Paradise Beach, has exotic looking waters and combines music and fun. Agrari beach, is on a different wavelength altogether and is ideal for fans of natural beauty.

With easy road access, the temptation to explore the island's southeastern beaches, starting from the village of Ano Mera, is great indeed. Elia beach, the largest of those beaches, is a case study in just how many different activities can be fitted onto one beach. The journey to the dark-blue waters at Kalo Livadi beach is just 10 km from Hora; and this beach is ideal for relaxation or whatever else your heart longs for. On the SE of the island lies Kalafati beach; innately glamorous and poised to offer fun and games of all sorts in and out of the water. Although remote, Lia beach is situated in the embrace of a charming bay. Here pebbles mix with rough sand making this an ideal spot for you to enjoy both sun and sea.

The island's northern beaches add their own special golden glow to the pallet that is Mykonos. They include wildly beautiful Fokos beach, Agios Sostis beach which is great for exploring, and Panormos and Ftelia beaches. Ftelia beach in particular certainly confirms why the island is known as the 'windy isle' and is a meeting point for surfers from all over the globe.

There is no end to the beaches and natural bays and inlets on the island. What's important on Mykonos though is that each beach is beautiful in its own distinct way meaning that whether you're a nature lover, fan of water sports, sailor on a yacht or modern traveller of any sort, you will be charmed by what the island has to offer. ● ●







Architecture bathed in white

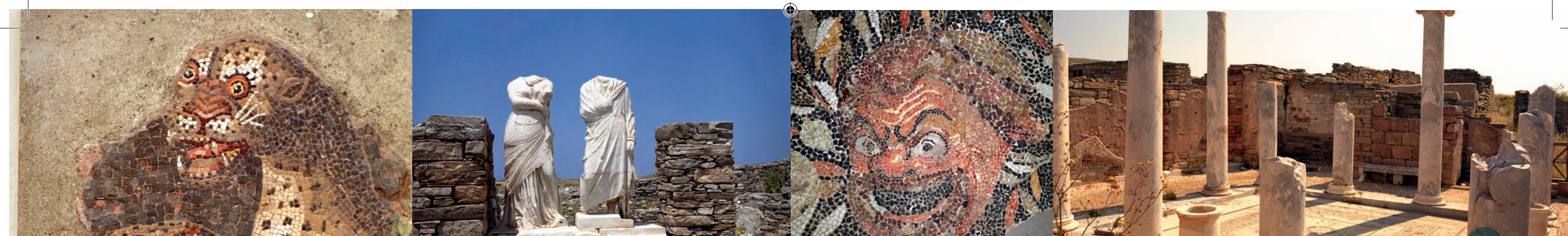
White. In scientific terms, it's the hue which contains all the other colours. When talking about Mykonos, white is intimately bound up with the island's very existence. Mykonians attach importance to strong colours: "the cleaner the white, the more you appreciate the red, blue, or brown next to it", as they commonly say. Anyone looking at Mykonos' capital is bound to be impressed by the sight: hundreds of cube-shaped houses with brightly coloured doors and windows, laid out wisely and in orderly fashion along the length of the countless winding paved lanes. Over the ages, the town's windmills, atop a low hill with their thatched roofs, have stood as vigilant guards looking down on this symphony in white. Staring at all that white, the eye begins to search for some contrast, to achieve some sort of balance, and is drawn to the blue of the sea, where countless caiques, boats and yachts are bobbing around. On Mykonos, Cycladic architecture is special; it is emotion, culture and soul. The sense of peace is a perfect match for the countless churches and chapels scattered over the island. Nowadays they number well over 800. The island's capital offers its visitors a truly unique experience. Little Venice and Paraportiani Church in the castle area (Kastro) are works of art; not sterile artworks, but living breathing ones, packed with people, allowing you to enjoy your own personal experience of the place. Little Venice and the Alevkantra area of the town are the most picturesque and famous on the island. This neighbourhood, where the walls of the houses stand in the very sea, was built between the Middle Ages and the 18th century, with robust, ornate houses that were home to the families of seamen, merchants and captains. The architecture is remarkable with brightly coloured projecting wooden balconies, windows and doors. The waves lap right up against these houses, giving the neighbourhood a real feel of the famous Italian city from whence it takes its name and the air is dense with the smell of salt from the eternal lapping of the waves. Leaving Little Venice behind one

comes to another of the island's trademarks. Paraportiani Church could well be characterised as a small architectural miracle; a complex of structures that not only man, but time has played a part in creating, thanks to the random wear and tear to the built structure, which has created an outstanding end result. Construction work on the church began in the 16th and 17th centuries and the church takes its name from the fact that it was located next to the small NW gate, the side gate or 'paraport' in Greek, in Mykonos' medieval walls. In reality it is a two-floor complex of five churches, four of which are on the lower level and the fifth on the upper level. Its unique shape means that it is now one of the most photographed sites in Greece.

Mykonos is a constant source of pleasant surprises. In the eastern part, experience the authentic feel of the island in Ano Mera, a traditional settlement spread out in the form of small, scattered groups of houses, all located around the historical Panagia Tourliani Monastery. The village's picturesque square is ideal for unwinding over a coffee, ouzo or traditional Mykonian snack (mezes). On 15 August, the feast day of the Virgin Mary, Ano Mera attracts huge crowds to the festival held there, but the locals also keep the Niamera tradition alive, celebrating the Virgin Mary again nine days later on 23 August. Day-to-day life in Ano Mera revolves around Panagia Tourliani Monastery which was founded in 1542. The gilded iconostasis in the monastery's main church was made circa 1775 in Florence and the miraculous icon of the Virgin Mary is said to have been found floating at one of the island's beaches close to Tourlou bay. The icon is said to have been painted by the Apostle Luke himself. North of Ano Mera one comes to Paleokastro Convent dating from the 18th century, and a typical example of Cycladic monastic architecture. The Convent stands next to the medieval castle of Gizi and is built atop ancient ruins. ● ●







Delos, the floating museum

Travel by boat from international Mykonos – home to so many new trends – to international Delos, renowned destination of antiquity, and the birthplace of the sun god Apollo, which perhaps explains why it is one of the brightest places on earth according to scientific measurements. The island's aura is overwhelming. It is, of course, no coincidence that the group of islands in which Mykonos is located is called the Cyclades; the name in Greek comes from the way in which those islands ring or circle the sacred island of Delos.

Sacred island... there is perhaps no other more appropriate term for this island covering 3.4 km² which is home to tens of ancient temples and other buildings such as the agora, palaestra, and theatre and a range of ancient homes and shops from the time of myth and ancient history.

Hercules may well have been said to have buried the Giants under Mykonos; the history of Delos though is just as interesting. Hunted by the wildly jealous goddess Hera, the ill-fated Leto wandered from place to place searching in vain for some place to give birth to the son she was carrying from her union with Zeus, father of the gods. Many islands and cities refused to give her sanctuary, fearful of the revenge that the cheated wife of Zeus would exact on them, and only Delos dared to defy Hera. Delos thus became the official birthplace of Apollo and Artemis.

The island was inhabited for the first time in the 3rd millennium BC, possibly by Carians. At the end of the 6th century BC the Athenians conquered the sacred island. In 478 BC after the end of the Persian Wars, the Delian League of Greek city states was founded, to address future threats. Its seat was on Delos where the huge contributions made by the allied cities were stored in the Treasury there. The island became independent under Alexander the Great. Later, the never-ending struggles of his successors and the constant change in control over the Aegean region, which is so impressively captured in the monuments on Delos, did not have any negative impact on the island's growth and development. In the second half of the 3rd century BC Delos was a major centre for trade in grains and the seat of public and private banks. This economic boom, which continued well into the 2nd century BC, brought merchants from east and west to the island. Romans, Phoenicians, Syrians and Egyptians all established

themselves on the island and left their own traces on its economic and religious life. In 166 BC the Romans declared Delos to be a free port and accorded it important privileges. It is estimated that 75,000 vessels called at the port every year and that it handled 750,000 tons of merchandise. It is clear that Delos had a rich history both in literal and metaphorical terms. Strolling around the archaeological site one comes across Delos' imperious guards, the famed marble lions, a dedicatory offering by the Naxians at the end of the 7th century BC. Lined up in a row they look eastward to the Sacred Lake. Visit the temples of Artemis, Leto, and the Twelve Gods. Higher up lie the small Doric temple of Isis and the sanctuary of the foreign gods. The trip into the past continues with the more favourable of omens with a visit to the temple of Apollo, from where the unwalled city commences; a cosmopolitan centre in the centuries before Christianity and the best preserved ancient city in Greece today. The stunning marketplace, the Agora of the Hermaistai or the Competaliastae, is enchanting, where the marks on the granite slabs in the square stand as testimony to the intense commercial dealings here and the concerns of a past age. Another must is to cross the threshold of one of the luxury residences that have survived in the theatre neighbourhood. These were frequently two-storey structures, with wall paintings and mosaic floors that stand out for their elegance. They are bound to stimulate your interest and perhaps spark off a desire to explore the site in greater detail...

The mosaics found on Delos take us on a trip back in time more than two millennia, recalling the hustle and bustle of day-to-day life then. These mosaics, with their decorative themes which are often geometric, or focused on maritime subjects, the theatre or the god Dionysus, can be seen in situ in the light of day or in the island's museum along with its other unique collections. Statues dating from the 7th century BC to the Roman period, statuettes, jewellery from the 2nd and 1st centuries BC or pottery-ware from the 2nd millennium BC transform the nine rooms at Delos Museum into gateways into the past. This is one of the world's most complete collections, housed in one of the most important museums in Greece on an 'island-museum' of mythical dimensions. Where else but on Delos! ●●







Tradition seen differently

When talking about Mykonos one engages in an interesting game with words. Traditionally speaking Mykonos has been number one when it comes of entertainment and dance. However, tradition on the island also means culture, civilisation and pious dedication to keeping ancient traditions alive. A true manifestation of traditional fun and the generosity of the local people comes in the form of church festivals held outdoors around family chapels on the feast day of saints, attracting pilgrims and others. The family holding the festivities invites friends and relatives. Shortly thereafter the crowd grows as new faces are added; the pace picks up, reaching ecstasy, as the musicians with their traditional instruments such as the bagpipes, drums, dulcimers and violins honour the saint in the most appropriate way, with lively music and dance until the small hours of the morning.

Tourist guides rarely refer to Mykonos in the wintertime. However, if you do visit then, your heart will be filled with warmth. A key event on the alternative Mykonian calendar is the Hirosfagia (pig slaughtering festival), a custom that recalls the ancient mystery rites, held at the start of winter. This involves team spirit, abundant wine, great traditional dishes, endless music, dance and song; forces that purify the body and soul during the symbolic process of 'slaughtering' the animal. The roots of this festival have been lost over the centuries, but one certainly feels that the god Dionysus is watching over the ritual. Pigs were not just any sort of domesticated animal in old Mykonian households. They formed a key part of the diet and ensured survival during the winter months. Pigs are strong animals, and to ensure that the ritual was successfully completed all members of the family had to take part. And that tradition of participation by all is alive and well today; indicating in the mind of Mykonians the need for all of them to join forces to ensure prosperity. When you become close to a place, you begin to relax there and let it generously offer you the very best, the purest things it has to offer. Mykonian kopanisti cheese, a soft, spicy fermented cheese is truly unique. Louza, a special local cold cut, is filleted

meat roasted in the air with spices, and Mykonian sausages are a firm favourite in the list of mezes winter or summer. Delicious onion pie (kremmidopitta), and honey pie (melopitta) made with local cheese and honey can be found at taverns and restaurants all over the island, but be sure before leaving Mykonos to take the best memento with you, its classic, award-winning utterly delicious almond sweets called amygdalota.

Mykonos stands at the crossroads of various trends and ideas and here culture is an important ingredient in the island's make-up. The Municipal welfare venture for cultural development of Mykonos certainly knows the recipe for culture and for many years has been successful in hosting a wide range of activities and developing cultural institutions on the island. The 'Dream Nights' and 'Cultural Summer' events are now firm fixtures of the Mykonian summer, held under the starry sky.

This year's Cultural Summer on Mykonos left the very best memories, just like all previous ones. Pulcinella and the Laughing Forest directed by Thomas Kindynis was great entertainment for kids on the island. Enchanting Delos was used as a backdrop for a concert at which the poet Cavafy's poems were set to music. The set can change at any moment on Mykonos; rock, reggae and pop tunes from Panos Mouziourakis and Leonidas Balafas were followed by the explosive Spanish singer Curra Suarez and later by Encardia with the crowd getting carried away as it learned Italy's oldest dance! Ever popular Greek singers Alkistis Protopsalti and Stefanos Korkolis offered music-lovers imaginative, experimental, nostalgia-filled music one evening in August, when dreams became true!

On Mykonos the number of events is non-stop. As long as the August moon is shining, there'll be inspiration... and the composer, Mimis Plessas, surrounded by great musicians, certainly made the musical event on Delos in the light of the August moon an unforgettable event. ●●





Mykonos' world. Everyone's Mykonos!

Europe, the Mediterranean Sea, Greece, the Aegean Sea, the Cyclades, Mykonos. Mykonos is the meeting place for more than one million visitors a year; an island surrounded by blue-green waters, blessed by favourable winds, bedecked in glowing white Cycladic houses and located close to mythical Delos... above all, though, it is a trendsetter. Having joined its rich past with a different present, Mykonos belongs to the future. Its secret, though, is its people.

'Top secret' articles and scientific studies have dedicated tens of pages to analysing the Mykonos crowd. Their findings can be confirmed by taking a simple stroll: Morning on Mykonos. A family from Japan is enjoying shopping in the Matogianni area of the town, next to a couple from America who just decided to postpone their trip to other islands to spend more time on Mykonos, on the grounds that they got lost in the town's endless winding lanes. Outside Paraportiani church a young British lad looks at the sea then at a group of elderly Spanish and Latin American visitors on a cruise, attempting the capture the church's glory on film forever. 50 to 100 metres further on a newly-wed couple leaves the former Russian consulate housed in Count Voinivic's mansion, which today houses the town hall, with the blessings of the mayor, smiling down warm-heartedly from the red balcony. This island emits nothing but a positive vibe. You'll find out why, when 30 minutes later you arrive at a place where the glorious past, legends and millennia-old secrets are the stars. Return from Delos three hours later and it's as if only a few minutes have passed.

It's already afternoon. The tens of beaches are the ideal place to enjoy Mykonos' crystal clear waters. Walk by the seafront cafes in the main town and you'll soon spot a group of well-known actors enjoying their coffee. Board the local bus as you head to one of the lesser known beaches; where there's just you, the deep blue of the sea, a

hammock and an old man, probably from Northern Europe, playing quietly with his grandchild. The sunset approaches. Your mobile phone rings. Some friends managed to wing two days off work and insist you meet them for a sunset beach party on a nearby beach. It's already getting dark but you don't care. Luckily for you the Dream Nights festival has an amazing play being staged on Delos the next night. You think to yourself you'll have time to see it.

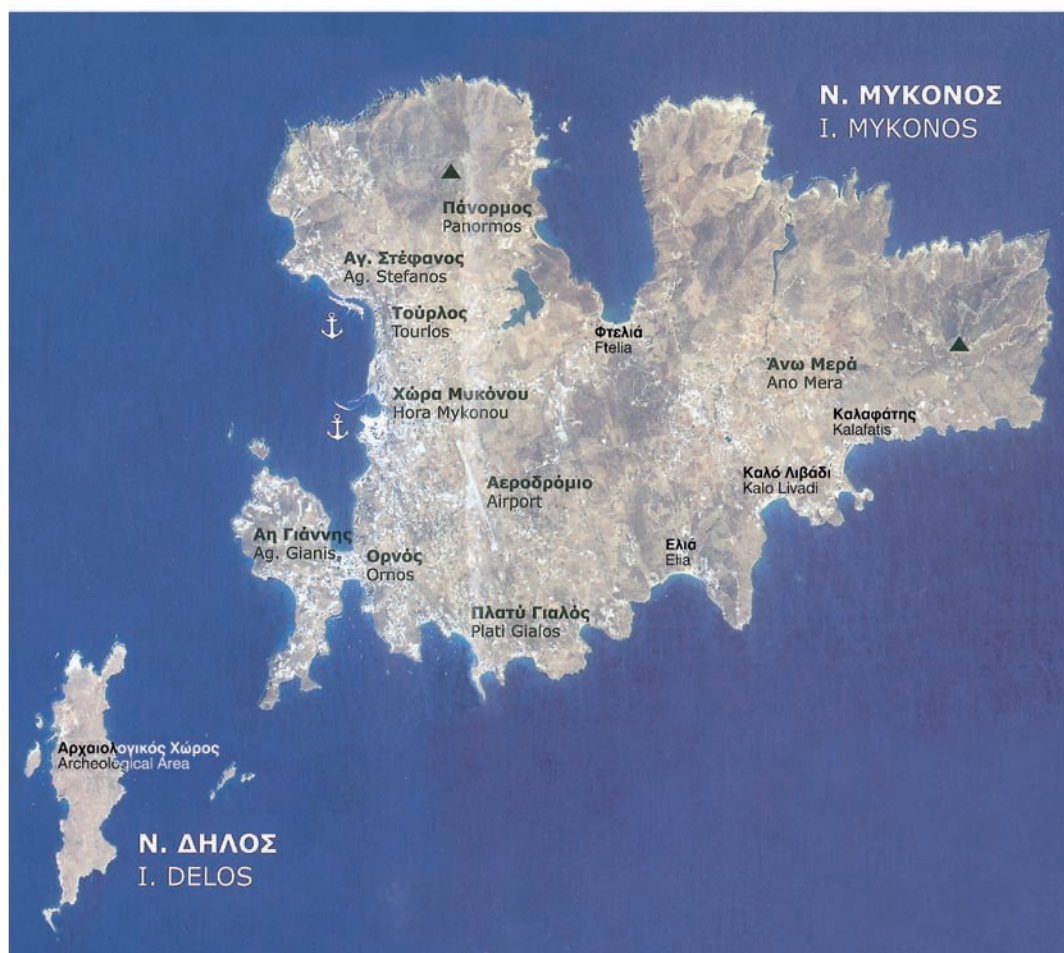
The night belongs to you. Enjoy a dish of black risotto with seafood, and your date for the evening is dining on Mykonian goat roasted in a clay pot. She indicates that you should order traditional onion pie or Mykonian sausages. Cool yourself down with a local Aegean island wine as you make a date for the following afternoon to try ouzo, louza cold cut and kopanisti cheese.

Its nearing midnight and Mykonos' narrow lanes are already packed. You can almost hear what people in the street are thinking... 'Great gallery!'; 'Will he buy me that piece of jewellery?'; 'What? Those shoes are half price?'; 'Amazing, who'd have thought a shop like that would be in a little lane like that. Incredible!'

You take a stroll around Little Venice and end up having a refreshing cocktail at a bar opposite the windmills. The people at the next table suggest Ano Mera for a morning outing. The recommendation comes without reservation. Whether you head to an all-time classic venue or some new trendy venue, the style is great, and the mood unique. You feel that Aristotle Onassis, Jackie Kennedy or Jean Paul Sartre could well have been sitting in the chair you're now sitting in. At the next table it's likely that you'll see famous international designers or Hollywood stars. You feel like a 'King of Mykonos' as the Australians say!

Everyone is here. Personal preferences, age, sex and nationality all blend into one over the summer on this island that's buzzing with life from spring to autumn ●●





Useful Info

Police: +30 22890 22 716, 22 235

Tourist Police: +30 22890 22 482

Municipal Police: +30 22890 28 890

G.N.T.O Information Office: +30 22890 25 250

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Port Authority: +30 22890 22 218

Airport: +30 22890 79 000

KTEL (Bus station): +30 22890 23 360

Taxi Station: +30 22890 23 700, 22 400

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Health Centre: +30 22890 23 994, 23 998

Union of Renting Rooms and Apartments: +30 22890 24 860, 26 860 www.mykonosfamilyhotels.com

Hoteliers Association: +30 22890 24 540, 24 760 www.mha.gr, e-mail: mykhotels@otenet.gr

www.mykonos.gr

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