

## BLUE PALACE RESORT & SPA LAUNCHES INSPIRING CULINARY CONCEPT ACROSS THE RESORT

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STANDALONE RESTAURANTS GIVEN DISTINCT DINING CONCEPTS WITH BRAND NEW CULINARY OFFERINGS



As the award-winning Blue Palace Resort & Spa in Crete opens its doors for the 2017 season, guests will be able to delight in the five-star property's brand new culinary concept led by a trio of inspirational and accomplished Greek chefs. Curated by the newly-appointed **Creative Consultant chef Athinagoras Kostakos** and **Chef a La Carte Komninos Mouflouzelis** in collaboration with **Blue Palace's Executive Chef Alexandros Lefkaditis**, the culinary concept features distinct dining concepts - from Mediterranean favorites to creative twists on Greek classics - in each of the resort's five stand-alone restaurants.

Destined to strengthen its position as a dining destination, and with a mission statement to deliver a culinary experience that focuses on purity, authenticity and freshness, together the chefs are set to cook up a storm across the Cretan resort's kitchens.

Bringing to the fore a culinary attitude that showcases the trio's vision for quality food, excellent hospitality and a laid-back style to resonate with the surroundings, Chef Kostakos has created menus inspired by the unique characteristics of the surrounding area, fusing together a stylish food aesthetic with healthy, local dishes with a nod to international flavors and cultures.

• **Isola Restaurant:** Italian simplicity with a Cretan twist, Isola offers a seasonal feast of vibrant summery salads, fresh seafood and contemporary dishes using locally sourced ingredients. Isola is ideal for enjoying long leisurely lunches with postcard views amidst refreshing sea breezes. Signature dishes include: *Sea Bass Carpaccio with pepper, tomato*

*and passion fruit salsa; Seasonal Salad with Figs and Soft Goat Cheese Caprino; Naan Pizza Avocado with Cottage Cheese and Rocket Leaves; Beef Tagliata over a bed of rocket salad and parmesan potatoes; and a selection of fresh fish filets.*

- **Isola Beach Club:** Set amongst olive trees and overlooking the shore, the Isola Beach Bar offers a relaxed bohemian ambiance paired with light and refreshing beachside dishes created from locally-sourced produce as well as vegetables and herbs grown in the resort's garden. Stand-out menu items include: *The Isola Beach Club Greek Salad, with caper leaves and cherry tomatoes; Hummus with homemade crunchy pita bread; Chicken Souvlaki with yoghurt sauce and mint; and a refreshing variety of Greek Yoghurt and toppings for a sweet ending.*
- **Asia Blue:** Fusion cuisine at its best. Drawing on elements of Thai, Chinese, Japanese, and Polynesian cuisine, the celebrated team at Blue Asia creates dishes like Tahiti curry beef, which are served alongside traditional favourites at the sushi bar. Showcasing a range of Asian cuisine, beloved dishes include: *Vietnamese Paradise Shrimp in Mandarin Sauce; Thai Mango Salad with Shrimp and Lime-Chili Dressing; and Chinese Ginger Lobster (500g) with Spring Onion.*
- **Blue Door Taverna:** Traditional Cretan cuisine truly shines at Blue Door Taverna, a lovingly restored fisherman's house where the catch of the day is cooked over an open grill. It's just a stroll along the beach, with an enchanting atmosphere and spectacular views. Guests are invited to select Meze Starters from the signature Blue Door Tray, with jars of Tzatziki with fresh mint, garlic and grated courgette; Grilled Aubergine with molasses, pine nuts, parsley and soft feta cheese; and Marinated Anchovies with herbs, olive oil and local vinegar, among other Cretan delights. Other highlights of the authentic menu include: *Rocket Salad with Cretan Apaki, honey beech and spicy Cretan Gruyere cheese; Grilled Sundried Octopus with olive oil and vinegar sauce; Shrimps Saganaki with tomato sauce, ouzo and feta cheese and many other classic Greek and Cretan dishes with a contemporary twist.*
- **Flame:** Overlooking the Bay of Elounda and extensive kitchen garden, Flame is a Cretan restaurant featuring international dishes, with a focus on steaks cooked to perfection. Highlighting Cretan producers, the menu features steaks and seafood from the area, cheese from local farms and herbs and vegetables from the resort's own gardens. Feature menu items include: *Tuna Ceviche; Lentil Salad with sun dried tomato, herbs and local Apaki ham, Chateaubriand Black Angus Beef Filet; Slow Cooked Tomahawk Steak with peppers; Chicken leg with herbs cooked in the Jospier Oven; and Salmon Steak cooked in red wine sauce.*



With expert backgrounds, the team of talented chefs are well placed to deliver an exceptional dining experience across the resort.

Blue Palace **Executive Chef Alexandros Lefkaditis** joined the team ahead of the resort opening in 2002. Since then, he has been instrumental in delivering a world class dining experience to Blue Palace guests, winning many awards along the way. Prior to Blue Palace, Chef Lefkaditis served as Executive Chef at Elounda Beach.

Celebrated Greek **Chef Athinagoras Kostakos** has created award-winning culinary concepts for numerous internationally renowned restaurants, including Bill & Coo Boutique Hotel, Mykonos; Mazi, London; La Granja, Ibiza; San Giorgio, Mykonos; and Scorpios, Mykonos among others. In 2014, he was awarded the Toque D'Or for Greek cuisine and become a household name in Greece following his victory on Greek Top Chef, the Greek version of the hugely successful American reality TV series.

Chef a La Carte Komninos Mouflouzelis has over 20 years' experience at Athens' top restaurants, including three with Michelin Stars. Prior to Blue Palace, he served as head chef at Varoulko Restaurant in Athens and 1800 Restaurant in Santorini.

Commenting on the new concept, **Blue Palace General Manager Sotiris Kremastiotis** said: *"We are delighted to collaborate with two wonderfully talented chefs to create these new inspiring menus. Bringing together home-grown talent and produce to create and deliver a varied yet refined selection of dishes, we are highlighting the best of Greek cuisine and truly elevating the guest experience."*

A Luxury Collection Resort, Blue Palace Resort & Spa blends beautiful architecture, incredible views and a private beach dotted with daybeds and private decks alongside the clear azure waters of the Aegean Sea. The stylishly-designed suites and bungalows combine contemporary décor and flawless finishing touches, each one the ultimate in comfort and luxury, taking in uninterrupted views over Spinalonga Island.

The property boasts numerous amenities and activities such as the chic Isola Beach Club with stunning vistas and a relaxed bohemian vibe or The Elounda Spa & Thalassotherapy which provides a heavenly spa escape. Ideally located on the island of Crete, there is plenty to explore on or off property including the charming town of Plaka, an idyllic fishing village within walking distance that offers traditional tavernas with Spinalonga views and delightful gift shops.

For more information, visit [www.bluepalace.gr](http://www.bluepalace.gr)