







## Rethymno, Crete Backing Greece

## WHY GO NOW?

Despite the economic turmoil, the beautiful Greek island of Crete should still feature prominently on your summer break wish list, if only because the crowds will have been thinned by the crisis (see p32). Rethymo is the historic town at its heart – a maze of Venetian-Ottoman lanes with wood-balconied houses draped in flowers and one of the best stretches of Caribbean-esque beach on the island. Just outside of town is

Agreco, a working farm with a traditional olive press, water-powered flour mill and wine press. Each evening, the hillside taverna, surrounded by olive groves, serves up a traditional Cretan menu with ingredients grown here: curd cheese, wild artichokes and stuffed courgette flowers are specialities. On Sundays, you can take part in the farm's daily activities, such as baking bread, pressing olives and crushing wheat at the mill.

## HOW DO I MAKE IT HAPPEN?

\* Agreco Farm opens daily for dinner at 6pm. On Sundays, the farm opens at 11am, and visitors can get involved in day-to-day operations (Adele Village; grecotel.com/crete/agreco). Show this page when you visit to claim free organic produce up to the value of €5 (£4).

\* Casa Vitae Hotel is a renovated Venetian 17th-century house close to Rethynmo's old town. Many of its traditional stone-walled rooms face on to a wonderful courtyard (from £45; casa-vitae.gr).

\* Fly to Heraklion International airport from most regional UK airports with easyJet, Monarch and Thomas Cook (from £155; monarch.co.uk). Buses to Rethynmo leave every hour, the journey taking 90 minutes (tickets £6; bus-service-crete-ktel.com).