

YOUR HOLIDAY & CRUISE MAGAZINE

Bringing Your Holiday Ideas To Life

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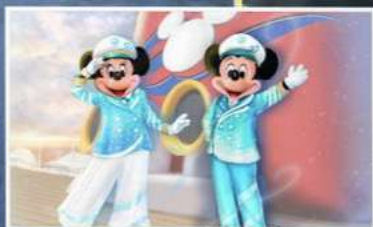
Main picture: P&O Cruises. Sailing through the Norwegian Fjords onboard Iona.



COCKTAILS AT THE DILLY



THE ITALIAN JOB RETURNS



DISNEY CRUISE LINE



PIRAEUS, ATHENS



Gateway to the islands

Piraeus, Athens is known as being the gateway to the islands of the Aegean but don't scoot through too fast – it's worth stopping to explore and get to know this buzzing and vibrant neighbourhood which, over recent years, has undergone a revival and has seen numerous and hot hotels, restaurants and galleries open. In historical times, Piraeus and Athens were seen as two separate places but in recent

years, the areas have blended, and Piraeus has gained its own identity and sense of place within the city.

The Alex, part of the revered Santikos Collection, is located in Piraeus and is a boutique hotel (34 rooms & suites) with the USP being their rooftop restaurant NEST offering stunning and far-reaching views of the city and the Acropolis.

The hotel is perched on Kastella's Hill and overlooks the little harbour of Microlimano, lined with fishing boats, yachts and a host of bars and restaurants including the Michelin-starred Varoulko.

The Alex and Nest share the same modern, minimal, fresh and innovative philosophy and have successfully brought an exciting new vibe to the Kastella



neighbourhood of Piraeus with its understated yet sophisticated space. A creative hub by day and bustling urban retreat by night, Nest offers unrivalled panoramic views of the Acropolis, Niarchos Cultural Centre, Faliron Bay, the Saronic Gulf and Mount Parnitha.

Trendy dining outlets, with many located on the water in charming little bays, including Mira Piraeus, Zefiros & Dourampeis (all within walking distance of The Alex) make the city

and its Riviera coastline the ideal spot for a long 'Greekend' escape twinned with exploring galleries such as The Intermission and Rodeo Gallery – both of which have opened in the last few years and of which are popular with the Athens crowd.

Piraeus is one of the oldest parts of Attica and back in the day, it was a favourite spot for people like Onassis, Kallas, Niarchos, and Kennedy and the dream of late shipping magnate Aristotelis

Onassis, to create 'Monte Kastella' an international business & tourism centre, is finally becoming a reality. The area was also the inspiration for some of the most famous Greek artists including Tsarouchis, Eggonopoulos, Grammatopoulos & Fasianos.

For more information on The Alex visit www.santikoscollection.com/thealex

