

SANTORINI IMEROVIGLI

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- | | | | |
|----|-------------|-----|-------------|
| 1. | IA | 10. | VOTHONAS |
| 2. | FINIKIA | 11. | PYRGOS |
| 3. | IMEROVIGLI | 12. | EXO GONIA |
| 4. | VOURVOULOS | 13. | MESA GONIA |
| 5. | FIROSTEFANI | 14. | MEGALOCHORI |
| 6. | FIRA | 15. | EMBORIO |
| 7. | KONDOHORI | 16. | AKROTIRI |
| 8. | KARTERADOS | | |
| 9. | MESSARIA | | |

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VILLAGES

IA & FINIKIA

Ia is the northernmost village on Santorini. In previous centuries the village was also one of the two port towns of the island. The first settlers are estimated to have arrived in the early 1300's.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- The remains of the castle walls • Architecture of the ship owners & captains mansions in Ia (restored after the earthquake of '56) & the rural village homes in the village of Finikia • Two small capes - Armeni, Amoudi • Museums

IMEROVIGLI & VOORVOULOS

Imerovigli is perched on the rim of the caldera at 350mt above sea level & is the highest inhabited village on the island & was first settled in the early 1100's.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- The pyramid shaped peninsula of Skaros & the few remains of the Venetian castle (once capital of the island) • The architecture of the peasants' homes in the community of Vourvoulos (on the eastern side of Imerovigli) • The Monastery of St. Nicholas & the church of Virgin Mary of Malteza & St. George

FIROSTEFANI

Firostefani is located between Imerovigli & Fira (the capital of the island). The name means the crown of Fira, due to its close proximity to Fira.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The Orthodox church of Ag. Gerasimos & the Catholic church of Panagia of Ag. Theodoron

FIRA- KONDOHORI – KARTERADOS

Situated on the rim of the caldera at 250mt above sea level, Fira is the present day capital of Santorini. The village was first settled in 1650 by the inhabitation of Skaros (Imerovigli).

HIGHLIGHTS:

• Orthodox Metropolitan church Panagia Ypapanti • Catholic Quarters & Metropolitan church St. John's • Museums, exhibition centers • The rural cave homes in Kondohori & Karterados (partly dug into the volcanic rock)

MESSARIA-VOTHONAS

Messaria is a village located almost at the center of the island and in previous centuries was the main commercial district.

HIGHLIGHTS:

• Remnants of exquisite neoclassic captains' merchants' or ship-owners' homes built in previous centuries (restored after the earthquake of '56)
• The old Markezini sock & yarn factory • The architecture of the rural homes (partly dug into the volcanic rock) in the residential area of Vothonas

PYRGOS - EXO & MESA GONIA

Pyrgos is an inland village that was built at the foot of the slopes of Mesa Vouno (altitude 330mt).

HIGHLIGHTS:

• Architecture of the community which reveals Pyrgos' fortified past for example narrow walkways, small entrances etc., remnants of the Venetian period • Monastery of Prophitis Elias & the church of Ag. Nikolaos Theotokaki • Wineries • The residential areas of Exo and Mesa Gonia with the rural cave homes (partly dug into the volcanic rock) • The church of Episkopi.

MEGALOHORI

Megalochori is also an inland village, with marvelously restored & preserved traditional architecture, ideal for leisurely strolls.

HIGHLIGHTS:

• Churches • Restaurants & a few coffee shops • Wineries

EMBORIO

The village of Emborio was settled in the early 1400's & is one of the most impressive fortresses that has survived to the present day. The fact it was the most geographically exposed & least strategically sound settlements, due to the proximity of the beach & lack of visibility, inspired the original inhabitation to create a very tightknit structure with an elaborate system of stairs and passages.

HIGHLIGHTS:

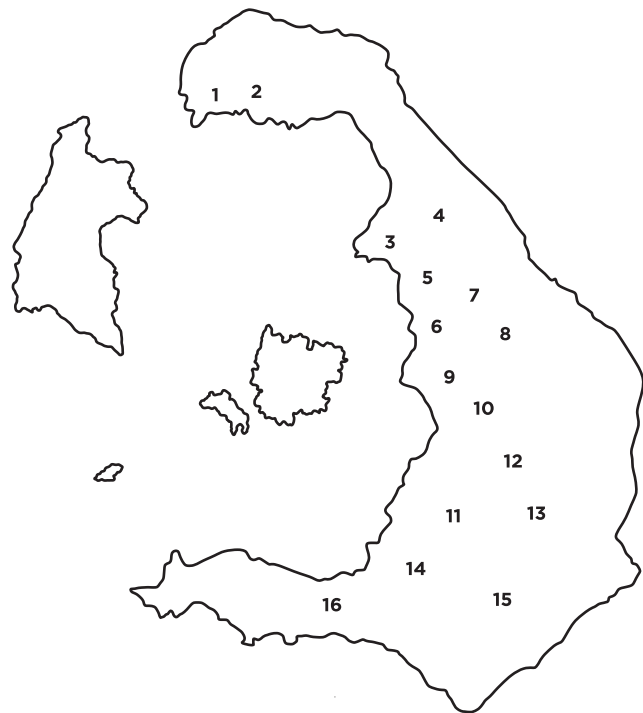
• The architecture inside the castle • At the entrance of Emborio outside of the main castle walls • The square fortress - Goulas • The unique square shaped Orthodox church of Ag. Nikolaos Marmaritis which was a 3rd century B.C. tomb made of marble (converted to a church during the Byzantine Era)

AKROTIRI

Akrotiri even today remains a fairly remote village. It is nestled in the remains of the fortified village of the Venetian period. However, the first inhabitation in the area date back to 4000 B.C. the trading & port community of ancient Akrotiri which is located at a few km distance on the coast.

HIGHLIGHTS:

• The ancient site of Akrotiri • Venetian Castle • Greek bagpipe exhibit • the lighthouse built in 1892



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORIC SITES

Santorini's history begins around 4000 B.C. From prehistoric times to the present the island has experienced impressive cycles of cultural, technological & economic development. A few of these periods are represented in Akrotiri (buried city), ancient Thera & Venetian castles.

AKROTIRI - THE BURIED CITY

Location: Akrotiri

Visitors have the unique opportunity to walk through the prehistoric village of which only a fraction has been unearthed. The site was first settled between 4,000 - 3,500 B.C. (mid-Neolithic period). By the 2,000 B.C. the once small village had developed into a highly advanced & of great strategic importance merchant harbor. During the mid-Cycladic period (2,000 - 1,650 B.C.), Akrotiri was one of the most prominent harbors in the southern Mediterranean connecting the mid-east / Africa & continental Greece, thus, aiding not only in the development of economic growth & trade, but in the exchange of ideas & technologies. The islanders' lives were changed forever after the catastrophic eruption of the volcano that took place in 1650 B.C. Testament to the true level of technology & artistry of this 4000+ year old civilization are the multilevel buildings, the intricate plumbing systems, the cobble stone streets, the squares, the murals, the weapons, pottery etc. that were saved under meters of pumice & can be seen by today's visitors.

ANCIENT THIRA

Location: Mesa Vouno

The settlement is strategically situated at the very peak of Mesa Vouno (369mt altitude). This naturally isolated spot was ideal for the Spartans, led by king Thiras, who arrived & settled the area around 900 B.C. The construction of this settlement is truly impressive as it follows the slopes of the mountain. The architecture of the site is robust and ridged, true to Spartan style. Impressive structures include the amphitheater, the burial grounds, baths, gymnasiums & the complex sewage system. It is advised to have a guide book with you because organized tours are difficult to find.

SKAROS

Location: Imerovigli (Ask for trail details)

Skaros or "Roka" served as the capital of the island for several centuries (1100AD - 1700A.D.). As noted in travel logs & engravings by early European travelers, explorers & adventurers from 1400's, the castle on Skaros was located on the top of the rock formation while the community that developed on the slopes extended almost to sea level. The village was autonomous comprised primarily of Venetians but also Greek inhabitation of every trade: merchants, servants, barbers & shops, churches etc. This type of castle & village construction survived as a prototype for the castles that would follow. The geography of the area provided perfect fortification that can be seen even by today's visitors. Today, only ruins remain, you must look carefully to identify portions of the old roads, walls, & buildings. Caution, also must be taken given that the paths are narrow.

IMEROVIGLI - SKAROS
castle

Built between
1100 - 1230

AKROTIRI
castle

Built between
1250 - 1336

IA - AG. NIKOLAOS
castle

Built between
1300 - 1450

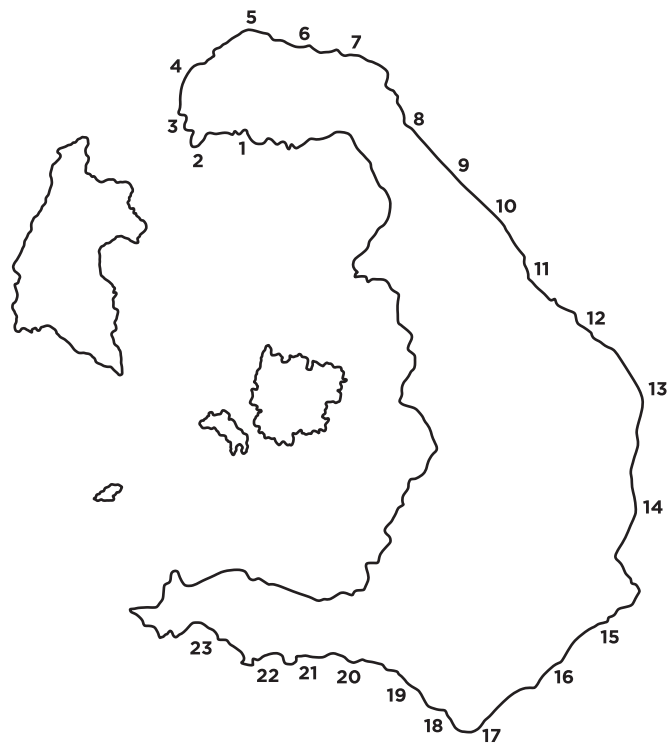
EMBORIO
castle

Built between
1300 - 1450

PYRGOS
castle

Built between
1400 - 1584

All five castles of Santorini's were constructed & used during the Venetian occupation of the island (1100's - 1600's). These fortified villages protected the Venetian's & local population against raids from Franks, pirates & Ottomans.



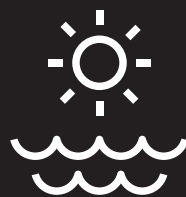
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|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. ARMENI | 13. AVIS |
| 2. AG. NIKOLAOS | 14. KAMARI |
| 3. AMOUDI | 15. PERISSA |
| 4. KATHAROS | 16. PERIVOLOS |
| 5. BAXEDES | 17. EXOMITIS |
| 6. PARADISE | 18. VLICHADA |
| 7. KOLUMBOS | 19. ALMIRA |
| 8. PORI | 20. RED BEACH |
| 9. XIROPIGADO | 21. KAMBIA |
| 10. VOURVOULOS | 22. WHITE BEACH |
| 11. EXO GIALOS | 23. MESA PIGADIA |
| 12. MONOLITHOS | |

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BEACHES

ARMENI

Dark gray/black boulders

 NW near Ia  FROM IA FOLLOW THE COBBLE STONE STEPS DOWN TO CAPE

AG. NIKOLAOS

Dark gray/black boulders

 NW near Ia  MAIN ASPHALT TO AMOUDI & THEN FOLLOW A PATH

AMOUDI

Dark gray/black pebbles and rounded stones

 NW near Ia  MAIN ASPHALT

KATHAROS

Dark gray/black sand alternating with large rounded stones

 NW near Ia  MAIN ASPHALT
0.2km DIRT ROAD

BAXEDES

Dark gray/black sand alternating with large rounded stones



PARADISE

Primarily dark gray/black sand and some large rounded stones



KOLOUBOS

Dark gray/black fine pebbles, long stretch



PORI

Dark gray/black very fine pebble next to a small marina



XIROPIGADO

Dark gray sand and large rounded stones



VOURVOULOS

Dark gray/black small pebbles



EXO GIALOS

Dark gray/black small pebbles



MONOLITHOS

Dark gray/black fine black sand, long stretch



AVIS

Dark gray/black small pebbles



KAMARI

Dark gray/black small pebbles



PERISSA

Dark gray/black fine sand



PERIVOLOS

Dark gray/black very fine sand



EXOMITIS

Dark gray/black fine sand



VLIHADA & EROS

Dark gray/black very fine sand cliffs of pumice rock



ALMIRA

Dark gray/black small pebbles and sand



RED BEACH

Brick red pumice rock and red sand



KAMBIA

Dark gray/black small pebbles and sand



WHITE BEACH

White sand beach

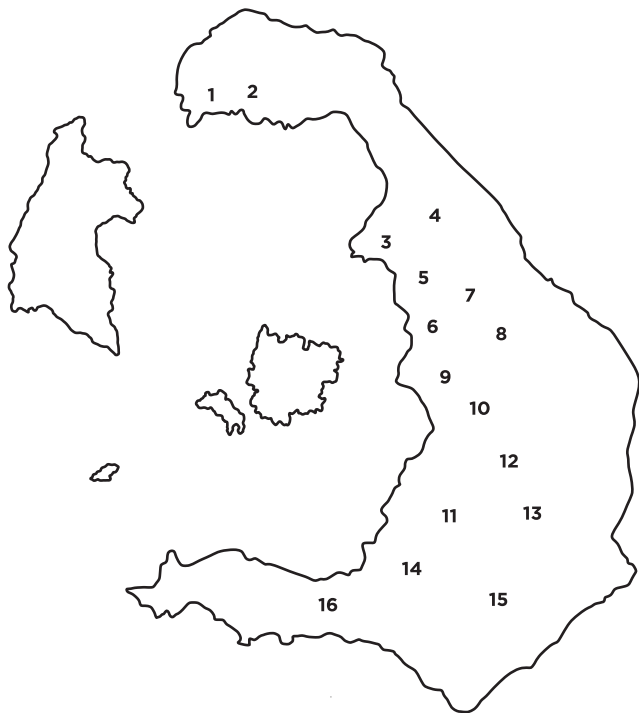


MESA PIGADIA

Dark gray/black small pebbles and sand



*The northern & southern beaches are more secluded and not that extensively commercialized. Beaches on the eastern & southeastern part of the island are highly organized offering visitors a variety of activities in which to take part.



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MUSEUMS & EXHIBITS

 **LOCATION:** FIRA

PREHISTORIC MUSEUM

Built in the 1990's the prehistoric museum hosts a collection of antiquities such as prehistoric plant fossils, Neolithic pottery work, early Cycladic marble idols, middle Cycladic pottery work & items from the archaeological site of Akrotiri such as jewelry, clay tablets with Linear A writing & replicas of furniture.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

Antiquities from the early Cycladic/archaic to the Roman periods may be viewed in this older yet very pleasant museum layout. Some items that stand out are: a collection of burial items from tombs in ancient Thira & burial amphorae with geometric designs 7th century B.C.

SANTOZEUM

The center hosts a variety of rotating scientific & cultural exhibits. Also, visitors may see entire collection of full scale replicas of the murals found in Akrotiri (1,500 B.C.).

GYZI MEGARON CULTURAL CENTER

Situated in the Catholic quarter of Fira the Cultural Center is found in a renovated mansion from previous centuries & showcases: engravings from the 16th to the 19th century depicting local dress, landscapes, & maps. Other displays include old photographs (prior to 1956 earthquake) & manuscripts & collections of works from various Greek artists who worked on the island. Also, during the summer season the visitors can enjoy art exhibitions, theatrical performances, lectures, traditional dance & music recitals etc.

 **LOCATION:** IA

MARITIME MUSEUM

The museum outlines the maritime history of the island with a collection nautical object from previous centuries in a beautifully restored neoclassic captain's home.

TRADITIONAL WEAVING MILL EXHIBIT

In this unique exhibit visitors may see weaving mills in full operation creating works of art in a rainbow of colors such as: throw rugs, linen, table cloths, cushion covers.

 **LOCATION:** PYRGOS

VANISHING VILLAGE EXHIBIT

The exhibit is nostalgically displayed in an old wine pressing cellar "canava" and showcases images of Santorini's distant & recent past.

ICONS & RELICS COLLECTION

In the Church of Agia Triada visitors have a unique opportunity to see hagiographies, wooden sculptures, metal artworks & other items of ecclesiastic use that date back to the 1500's.

 **LOCATION:** KONDOHORI

FOLKLORE MUSEUM

The building that hosts the folklore collection was originally constructed as a family home in 1861. Here visitors have a chance to see a typical rural island home along with a traditional carpenter's & blacksmith's workshops.

 **LOCATION:** VOTHONAS

VULCAN WINE MUSEUM

The wine museum presents the integral role that wine making had in the lives of the inhabitants of the island (particularly between the years 1660 - 1950). Also, visitors are introduced to the unique farming & harvesting techniques of the local vineyards & have the opportunity to walk through caves & tunnels of the underground wine cellars.

 **LOCATION:** EXO GONIA

ART SPACE

Art Space is found in an old winery of the 1800's & is both a museum & an art exhibition center. The small museum is dedicated to the art of making the liqueur Raki & wine production while the exhibition center is devoted to contemporary Greek art – paintings sculptures.

 **LOCATION:** PERISSA

MINERALS & FOSSILS MUSEUM

This museum is home to a variety of fossils & minerals that have been uncovered in the layers of ash on Santorini for example: petrified olive branches, fish etc. Also, visitors may see fossilized items from other parts of Greece. It is worth noting that the oldest item in the museum is 1.5 billion years old & the youngest is 50 thousand years old.

 **LOCATION:** VLICHADA

SANTORINI ART FACTORY

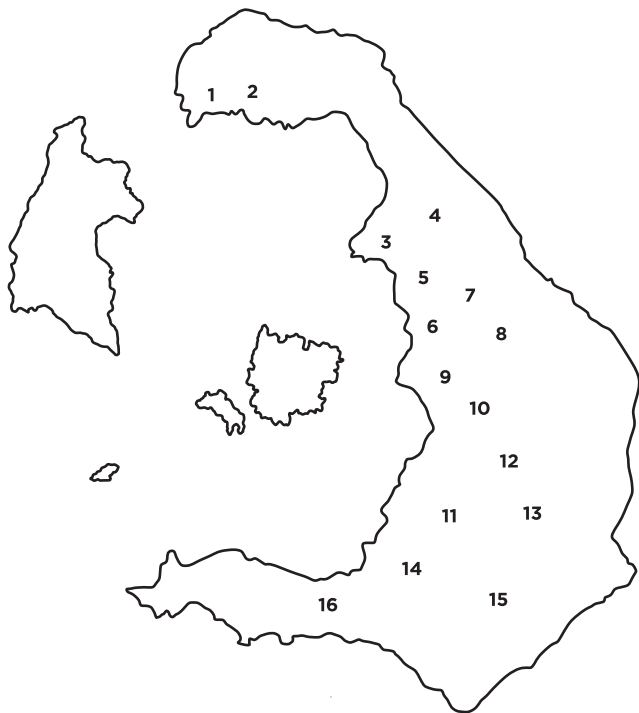
The Art factory was once a tomato processing plant of the Nomikos family that has now been transformed into a museum dedicated to the industrial past of Santorini particularly in the production & processing of the local flavorful arid tomato. The factory also serves as a cultural center presenting art exhibitions, theatrical presentations, & music & dance recitals.

 **LOCATION:** AKROTIRI

LA PONTA - Greek bagpipe exhibition - workshop

The workshop is nestled in the tower of the 13th century Venetian castle of Akrotiri. Daily guided tours allow visitors to explore & learn the history of the tower & gain an understanding & appreciation for traditional Greek musical instruments. You may also enjoy concerts with traditional instrument – daily 45min performances / Concerts Tuesday & Friday evenings.

* we advise you to confirm the visiting hours & days on-line, with us or at any travel agency prior to your visit



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 **LOCATION:** PYRGOS

SANTO WINES

Santo Wines is a farmers' co-op established in 1947. The co-op is active in the processing & the promotion of a variety of local products such as capers, Fava beans, tomatoes & wine. The winery is one of the few facilities on the Caldera above Athinos Port.

HATZIDAKIS WINERY

Hatzidakis Winery is one of the smaller wineries on the island with some of the highest awarded wines in Greece! This is a lesser marketing oriented outfit rich in genuine hospitality & love for their craft. Hatzidakis family was one of the first to revive the cultivation of forgotten grapes & almost extinct local grape varieties.



WINERIES & MICROBREWERIES

 **LOCATION:** MESA GONIA / EPISKOPI

CANAVA ARGYROS

The Argyros family established the winery in 1903. As is true with most wine making families on the island, the Argiros family, originally produced wine for private consumption & slowly evolved into an award winning vineyard.

CANAVA ROUSSOS

The Roussos family started their production and trade in 1836. Visitors have a unique opportunity to walk through the original wine pressing cellar or Canava.

SANTORINI BREWING COMPANY

The brewery is the first microbrewery on the island. The business was established & is run by a multicultural group of entrepreneurs, oenologists, brewers - a Greek, a Serbian, an Englishman & an American. The company's production includes 3 excellent varieties of beers - lager, red & its limited edition IPA.

 **LOCATION:** EXO GONIA

ARTEMIS KARAMOLEGOS WINERY

Artemis Karamolegou estate is another strictly family owned winery. The family uses traditional techniques combined with the latest technological equipment to produce highly acclaimed wines in limited quantities.

 **LOCATION:** MEGALOHORI

BOUTARI WINERY

Boutaris is one of the largest wine producing families in Greece. The winery opened on Santorini in 1990. The large & modern facilities allow the family to produce extensive quantities & varieties of locally produced wines.

GAVALAS VINEYARDS

The family began its production in the 1700's. The present day owners have dedicated their efforts to reviving the cultivation of nearly extinct types of grapes.

VENETSANOU WINERY

The winery dates back to 1947 & was the first winery to use industrial machinery on the island. The winery is also one of the few facilities on the Caldera above Athinos Port.

 **LOCATION:** VOTHONAS / KAMARI

KOUTSOGIANNOPOULOS WINERY

Koutsogianopoulos family established its production in 1870. The family has also created a wine museum in the vineyard. Various tours & festivities are organized throughout the summer season.

 **LOCATION:** KAMARI / MONOLITHOS

GAIA WINEMAKERS

The owners transformed an old tomato factory into a winery in the mid 90's. In addition to wine, Gaia, also produces an exceptional aged vinegar from the variety of grapes called Assyrtiko.

 **LOCATION:** VOURVOULOS

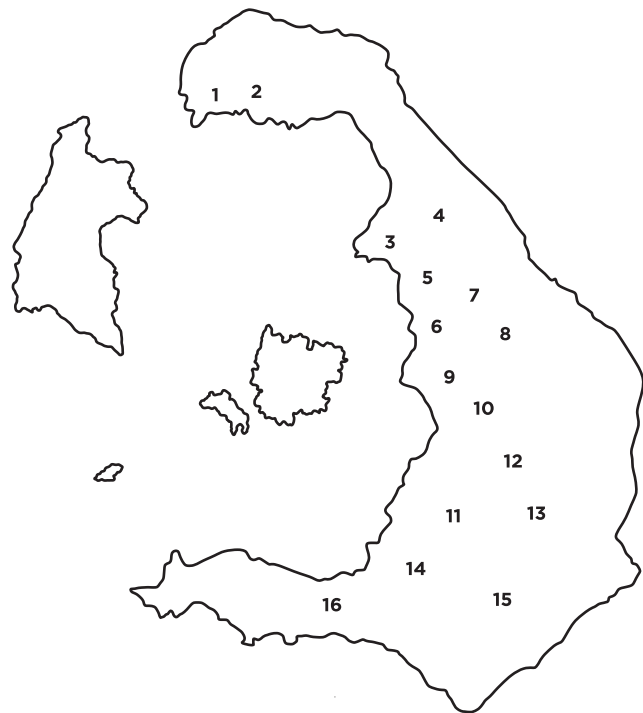
VASSALTIS WINERY

The newest winery, Vassaltis Winery, on the island opened in June 2016 & is one of the most contemporary wineries on the island. However, the goal of the owners is to introduce & promote the beauty of the indigenous varieties of grapes & the unique cultivating methods that have been practiced throughout the centuries till today.

 **LOCATION:** BAXEDES

SIGALAS ESTATE

This vineyard is located near the northern village of Finikia in the coastal area of Baxedes. This winery began as a hobby that slowly turned into a family business.



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CHURCHES

Santorini has an impressive number of churches - slightly over 300. The majority of these churches along with the greater part of the population are Greek Orthodox (from as early as 1100 A.D). However, during the Venetian occupation of the island Catholic churches were also constructed & are still active today.

Note* visitors are kindly asked to be modestly dressed - (knee length Bermuda's or skirts, capri or pants, covered neck lines, shoulders & backs are acceptable)

 **LOCATION:** IMEROVIGLI  1651 AD

AGIOS NIKOLAOS MONASTERY

The convent was originally built on Skaros in the 1200's. Following the destructive earthquake of 1650 the inhabitation of Skaros relocated to Imerovigli where they built the new Ag. Nikolaos Monastery.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Intricately carved wood iconostasi created in the 1200's, byzantine icons & relics & wonderful chats with the nuns.

 **LOCATION:** FIRA  1827

ORTHODOX METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL - PANAGIA YPAPANTI

The original building sustained extensive damage after the earthquake of 1956 & could not be repaired. The Cathedral that we see today was rebuilt & funded by the Orthodox Church & donations by local families.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The iconography painted by local artist Christophoros Assimis.

 **LOCATION:** FIRA  1823

CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

The church is a perfect example of how local & Italian architectural styles & techniques were combined during the Venetian occupation.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Architecture of the church & surrounding buildings in the catholic quarter, engravings & relics.

 **LOCATION:** MESA GONIA  1100 AD

PANAGIA EPISKOPI

The church was commissioned by the Byzantine emperor Alexios Komninos, on the ruins of an early Christian basilica. Panagia Episkopi was the Cathedral for the Orthodox Church & was later used by the Catholic Church during the Venetian occupation. After the occupation the church was reunited with the Greek Orthodox Church.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The marble iconostasi & iconography dating back to 1,100 A.D.

 **LOCATION:** KAMARI  1400's

ZODOHO PIGI

The tiny church was built at the entrance of a 25mt cave 200mt above sea level. Inside this cave visitors will see a small natural spring that trickles through the lime stone & flows to a small rock basin. This stream has been flowing from antiquity. It is for this reason that the early Christians built the tiny church & gave it the name Zoodoho Pigi - means - Life-giving fountain.

 **LOCATION:** PYRGOS  1700's

PROPHET ELIAS MONASTERY

The Greek Orthodox monastery is located at the peak of the mountain Mesa Vouno & was built in the 18th century. It is still inhabited by monks. Liturgies & services are conducted.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Relics, rare handwritten books and icons.

 **LOCATION:** PERISSA  1530

PANAGIA KATEFIANI

The church is located on the southern face of Mesa Vouno at 200mt altitude & is dedicated to the birth of the Virgin Mary but it is also known as Panagia Katefiani or the "Virgin Mary of refuge". The islanders would take cover in the small church during time of "great evil" i.e. the eruption of Kolumbo in 1650, or during pirate sieges or battles between Venetians & the Ottomans.



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1. NEA KAMENI
2. PALIA KAMENI
3. ASPRONISI
4. THIRASIA
5. THIRA

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EARTHQUAKES & ERUPTIONS

Santorini is a playground for scientists due to the island's active volcanos & rich fault lines. From prehistoric times to the present the social, the economic, the religious & technological development of the island's inhabitation along with the morphology of Santorini have been directly influenced & affected by its geological activity.

Today, the volcanic area of Santorini is still active & highly monitored by local & international research centers. Santorini has been categorized as a hyper or super volcano which has given the 3rd most violent eruption in human history.

The volcanic area of Santorini is still active & is highly monitored by scientists from all over the world. It is consisted a hyper or super volcano.

1600 B.C.
MINOAN ERUPTION

This explosion is believed to have contributed to the demise of the Minoan civilization. The volcano exploded & imploded creating a gigantic ring of land with sea in the center similar to what we see today. Evidence suggests that the eruption caused a volcanic winter – lowering the earth's temperature by 4C degrees. Massive tsunamis hit neighboring islands, Crete, the coast of Athens, Asia Minor & the northern coasts of Africa.

198 B.C.
EARTHQUAKE

A destructive 6.0 magnitude earthquake caused major damages & changes to the islands landscape.

197 B.C.
ERUPTION

Greek & Roman writers described fire coming from the sea inside the caldera for four days & later a small land mass is formed. The locals called the new islet Hieria (the holy one) & on it built a small temple dedicated to Poseidon. Later seismic & volcanic activity caused the island to disappear in the depths of the caldera.

46 A.D.
ERUPTION

Once again one of the craters inside the caldera exploded & the sediment that was released created another island - Thea (now known as Palia Kameni). The eruption was followed by yet another catastrophic earthquake 6.0 in magnitude. Detailed accounts of these events were recorded by Roman historians.

726 A.D.
ERUPTION

A massive eruption form the crater of Palia Kameni destroyed the island once again. Palia Kameni increased in mass while layers of sediment & pumice blanketed Santorini & a vast area from the southern Aegean to the northern shores of the Greek state of Macedonia & east to Asia Minor. These events were recorded in Byzantine documents.

1570
ERUPTION

The violent explosion created the islet of Mikri Kameni "small burnt land".

1650
VIOLENT EARTHQUAKES & KOLUMBO VOLCANO ERUPTION

A series of violent earthquakes shook the island once again – evidence indicates the largest was a 7.0 magnitude. At the same time the underwater crater of Koloumbos erupted & released large quantities of ash & pumice that covered the island & the sea. The toxic gasses that were emitted caused the death of several islanders. Massive tsunamis hit Santorini, neighboring islands & the coast of Attica. Witness to these events was a French diplomat who was stationed on the island at the time.

1707 - 1711
VIOLENT EARTHQUAKES & ERUPTION

After over a little more than 50 years of hibernation a series of destructive earthquakes (the strongest of which was 6.0 Richter) shook the island. Another violent explosion accompanied by strong gas emission led to the creation of Nea Kameni "new burnt land", more layers of ash settled on Santorini, & the cost line shifted.

1866 - 1870
VIOLENT EARTHQUAKES & ERUPTIONS

Over a period of a few months the fault lines became active again the largest quake was 6.1 Richter. Explosions from Nea Kameni & the new crater Aphroessa combined with the new sediment that was emitted increased the land mass of Nea Kameni.

1911 - 1956
VIOLENT EARTHQUAKES & ERUPTIONS

The volcano erupted again in 1925-26 & 28, 1939-41 & for the last time in 1950. Each eruption added new sediment to the island & the domes. Through the first half of the 20th century violent earthquakes rock the island. The final & most devastating tremor took place in July of 1956. The island was hit twice the first was a 7.5 magnitude followed by a 6.9 magnitude aftershock, over 120 people died 2000 homes were destroyed huge tsunamis hit Amorgos & other neighboring islands. Tsunamis were also observed from Faliro & Piraeus all the way to Rhodes & Astipalea.