

Chios

Overwhelming the senses

Even its name sounds aromatic". This phrase sealed the visit to the island of one of the most renowned travellers of the 18th century, Frenchman Pierre Augustin Guys, who was enraptured by the medieval villages, dozens of caves and unique culture of Chios. Chios could be considered unique just for its mastic trees. A strictly endemic species, the famous *Pistacia Lentiscus* grow only here – in fact, not even throughout Chios, but only in a specific location of the island. The beneficial properties of mastic, known since antiquity, have been extensively studied at international biochemical laboratories and have been continuously worshipped by healthy nutrition fans

Knowledgeable visitors come to the island in late summer in order to witness the mastic production process up close and participate in the harvest of the valuable 'tears'. This is the best time to walk around Chios. There are many ways to become acquainted with the island, but in order to experience its virgin beauty, you must leave your car behind and satisfy all your senses by seeing, hearing and smelling...

Chios overwhelms the senses. Maybe with its wine, known since antiquity as 'Arioussios Wine', maybe with its raki, tsipouro or souma, made of fig distillate, maybe with the light scent of mastic bushes and citrus trees or the lights of Turkey that can be clearly seen across the sea at night – maybe with the energy that the island itself, with its millennia-long history and passion, imbues into visitors. And

if you, as a visitor, manage to feel all this within a few days, imagine what Chios people, who have lived here all their life, are made of.

Like the scents of the tiny blossoms of the citrus trees mingle in the atmosphere, the images of old and new, of magnificent and humble co-exist peacefully on Chios. In order to get to know the island in depth, one has to walk throughout the refugee settlement of the city, with its lilac houses and colorful flowers. And in order to bid farewell to the day with due respect, one must walk up to the abandoned village of Anavato or the medieval village of Avgonimi to witness the most mystical sunset they will ever see

The Medieval Festival of Chios, to be held September 3-5, 2022 is being established for the first time on the fragrant island, organised under the auspices of the Greek National Tourism Organisation (EOT). The Festival will present a series of original artistic events -not history lessons- that aim to inspire, entertain and, above all, to unite eras, landscapes, memories in a way that only art knows and can.

