

The Romanos, a Luxury Collection Resort at Costa Navarino receives international recognition for its environmental sustainability

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The Romanos, a Luxury Collection Resort, at Costa Navarino, is the latest hotel to become Travelife Gold-certified, in recognition of its sustainability credentials.

Travelife is an international sustainability certification scheme designed by the travel industry for hotels and helps its members to improve their environmental, social and economic impact, by adopting a series of sustainability criteria in all aspects of their operation.

Costa Navarino has been developed with the vision to place Messinia on the world tourism map, by introducing a new, sustainable tourism development model that contributes to the welfare of the local community while protecting and promoting the natural beauty and heritage of the area.

The Romanos Resort, including the House of Events Conference Centre and Anazoe Spa, was certified following an extensive on-site audit to verify the strict sustainability criteria required to achieve the Travelife Gold certification. According to Travelife, so far only 800 hotels all over the world have been awarded with Travelife Gold.

Sustainability is embedded in the development concept of Costa Navarino, as a fundamental design factor and as a guiding principle that determines our actions from the planning phase, to the construction and operation of the new sustainable destination. The new Travelife Gold certification is a reassurance of Costa Navarino's commitment to sustainability.

Below are some facts and figures which demonstrate what Costa Navarino has achieved so far:

- The impact of Costa Navarino investment on the local economy since construction began is estimated at over €1 billion (Source: Regional Development Institute, Study Jan. 2015)
- The secondary impact for Messinia, from the revenues of Costa Navarino in 2014, totalled €117.4 million (Source : Center of Planning & Economic Research, 2015)
- 1,200 new jobs created in high season / 800 jobs in low season
- 0.8 additional jobs have been created in the region for each new job at Costa Navarino (total 2,160 jobs; Source: Regional Development Institute, Jan. 2015)
- More than 70% of the employees are from the local area
- 60% of Costa Navarino's supplies are provided by local producers and companies- More than 80% of Messinian residents recognise the contribution of Costa Navarino in the development of the wider area, whilst 70% of Greek society is aware of the positive impact of the development (QED survey, ALCO survey)
- The investment in increasing accessibility of the Peloponnese region resulted in an 80% increase in visitor numbers to the area in 2015
- More than 10% of the €580 million budget of the first development phase of Costa Navarino is allocated to the necessary infrastructure for sustainable operation
- More than 90% of Costa Navarino's total land surface remains unbuilt, used primarily as natural or landscaped green areas
- Implementation of a sustainable water resources management program
- A 12 MWp photovoltaic park meets current and future electricity needs
- Environmental actions, collaborations and initiatives to protect Messinia's biodiversity and rare flora/fauna, such as the Gialova Lagoon, the African Chameleon, and the loggerhead sea turtles
- Establishment of Navarino Environmental Observatory dedicated to the study of Climate Change, in cooperation with the Academy of Athens and Stockholm University
- Navarino Natura Hall (Environmental education museum), already visited by 3,700 local school children
- TEMES S.A is the 1st organization within tourism industry in Greece that will publish a Sustainability Report according to the requirements of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI4)

On the importance of sustainability, Mr. Stephanos Theodorides, Managing Director and Vice Chairman of, TEMES SA – Costa Navarino stated: “Environmental and social responsibility is embedded in Costa Navarino's philosophy. It is our priority to follow a sustainable tourism model that allows financial development to go hand in hand with respect of the environment and social responsibility. Receiving accolades such as Travelife Gold Certification is a great honor and increases our responsibility to do even more.”

According to Nikki White, Managing Director Travelife for Hotels & Accommodations: “Costa Navarino has played a significant role in helping to develop and promote the whole of the Peloponnese region. It has helped drive local investment, infrastructure and visitor numbers at a time when Greece has struggled economically. And at the same time Costa Navarino has led the way in terms of supporting local people, local businesses and protecting the local environment.”