



**'The Spirit of Democracy Weekend' returns to Costa Navarino, Greece**

- Guest speakers include Ai Weiwei, historian Bettany Hughes, authors Elif Shafak and Maria Ressa, former Director-General of UNESCO Irina Bokova
- The speakers will explore the importance of embracing the cultural differences of East and West to bring greater democracy to nations
  - The weekend will take place from 1-3 October 2021

**Costa Navarino** - the prime sustainable destination in the Mediterranean, located in Greece's southwest Peloponnese - will welcome **world-acclaimed artists, authors and speakers** to lead a series of discussions and debates during **'The Spirit of Democracy Weekend'** taking place from **1 to 3 October 2021**. The annual weekend on democracy, returns for its sixth edition in partnership with the **Athens Democracy Forum**. The three-day event aims to explore how the Eastern and Western approaches to achieving a nobility of spirit -and embracing the differences and commonalities of various cultures- have the capacity to inform, refresh and even help heal democracy. By revisiting the ancients and exploring their philosophies, we can build resilience from within to create more resilient democracies.

In-person and virtual talks will be held by inspiring and innovative thinkers including artist **Ai Weiwei**, historian **Bettany Hughes**, authors **Elif Shafak** and **Maria Ressa**, and former Director-General of UNESCO **Irina Bokova**, who will lead attendees through a series of debates and discussions, moderated by **Patrick Healy**, Deputy Opinion Editor and **Steven Erlanger**, Chief European Diplomatic Correspondent at The New York Times.

The memorable weekend will take place at **The Romanos, a Luxury Collection Resort**. In addition to the series of talks and book readings, Costa Navarino has curated cultural experiences for guests to enjoy, including philosophy walks with academics discussing modern-day ethics through the lens of ancient Greek philosophers, during a leisurely stroll through the idyllic Messinian countryside. Guests will also be able to take full advantage of the unparalleled coastal setting of Costa Navarino and enjoy swimming in the Ionian Sea, kite-surfing, diving or sailing, among other water sports, benefit from wellness-inspired activities, including outdoor yoga and signature oleotherapy® treatments at the

Anazoe Spa, or explore the lush surroundings through outdoor sports including a round at the destination's awarded golf courses, hiking, biking and more.

The [Athens Democracy Forum](#) in association with The New York Times, now in its ninth year, is organized by the Democracy and Culture Foundation and will take place on September 29 -October 1, 2021 in Athens, Greece. The Forum is under the Patronage of H.E. the President of the Hellenic Republic and is proud to have the endorsement of the United Nations Secretary General. The Athens Democracy Forum will convene leaders from government, business, civic society and the nonprofit sector to explore real solutions to the most pressing issues facing democracy.

For more information about The Spirit of Democracy Weekend, visit [here](#).

For more information on accommodation options or to book, please visit [here](#) or call +30 2723 096000.

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### **COSTA NAVARINO**

Costa Navarino is the prime, sustainable destination in the Mediterranean, located in the Greek region of Messinia in the southwest Peloponnese. One of the most unspoiled and breathtaking seaside Mediterranean landscapes, this area has been shaped by 4,500 years of history.

Its philosophy is driven by a genuine desire to promote Messinia, while protecting and preserving its natural beauty and heritage. It will comprise a number of distinct sites featuring five-star deluxe hotels, luxury private residences, conference facilities, spa and thalassotherapy centres, signature golf courses, as well as a wide range of unique year-round activities for adults and children.

Navarino Dunes, the first area, is home to two luxury five-star hotels, The Romanos, a Luxury Collection Resort, and The Westin Resort Costa Navarino; Navarino Residences, a collection of luxury villas for private ownership; and The Residences at The Westin Resort Costa Navarino – fully furnished resort apartments for sale; the signature golf course The Dunes Course; Anazoe Spa, a 4,000m2 spa and thalassotherapy centre; the state-of-the-art conference centre House of Events; specially designed facilities for children; and a variety of gastronomy venues, sports, outdoor and cultural activities.

Navarino Bay, the second area, is home to the signature golf course, The Bay Course and to the earth-sheltered Bay Clubhouse, while an ultra-luxury, all suite and pool villas resort is currently under construction, alongside an upscale, vibrant, lifestyle resort at the nearby site Navarino Waterfront.

At Navarino Hills, two new 18-hole signature golf courses are also being constructed.

[www.costanavarino.com](http://www.costanavarino.com)

### **ATHENS DEMOCRACY FORUM**

The Athens Democracy Forum (ADF) is an international conference held annually in September or October that explores the evolving state of democracy. It has taken place in Athens, Greece since 2013. ADF brings together international business leaders, academics, policy makers and experts to discuss and focus on new solutions to the most pressing issues facing democracy. Key events include the Aristotle Address, the City of Athens Democracy Award and the Ancient Agora Global Conversation.

[www.athensdemocracyforum.com](http://www.athensdemocracyforum.com)

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