



Press Release

From Curating to Creating

Of Winemakers and Winners: The Noble House Uncorks a New Chapter
and Its Restaurants Raise the Glass

THE DANAI
MAY 2026



The Danai & Noble House Vineyard, Greece: Among the 1,700 labels and over 18,000 bottles of The Noble House, Greece's largest private wine collection, a new bottle took its place this season: „Noble Story“, the estate's first own wine, uncorked to mark the reopening of The Danai for the 2026 season. The Noble House is the vinous soul of The Danai's dining venues: The Squirrel was awarded three FNL stars for the tenth consecutive year and Andromeda Restaurant two – until the Michelin Guide extends its assessments to this region of Greece, the FNL Awards* serve as its culinary equivalent.

Greece's Largest Wine Collection Gets Its First Own Label

International fine wines and rare vintages, among them some of the most storied bottles in the world, line the 130-metre vaulted cellar alongside a carefully curated selection of Greek producers. Among them, „Noble Story“ now finds its place: the estate's first own wine, a red that stands for provenance and

craftsmanship, expanding The Noble House concept of wine collection, tasting restaurant and vineyard with a line of its own.

For Head Sommelier Apostolos Plahouras, who has shaped the wine culture at The Danai since 2010, the creation of Noble Story marks a deliberate transition from curator to creator. Planted with heat-resistant varieties such as Grenache, Mourvèdre and a Syrah variant, the vineyard is his first as a winemaker. „When you vinify the first bottle, you don't yet know exactly what the land demands of you. You know neither the flavour potential nor the exact characteristics of the wine, nor the proportions of the grape varieties. The first bottlings reveal what the soil requires to give its very best.”

The estate is a discovery vineyard: guests are invited to experience the agricultural care of the vines firsthand. Tastings take place on The Noble House grounds, in an open-air tasting restaurant with show kitchen, set between the wine cellar and the vineyard, overlooking the sea. The name „Noble Story” reflects the philosophy of The Danai's wine programme: the collection is not an archive, but a living dialogue between sommelier, wine culture and guests. And The Noble House, a centre for Greek hospitality and the joy of wine. Built from warm sandstone and draped in ivy, the architecture draws inspiration from the region's monasteries, lending the space an almost contemplative atmosphere. The 130-metre vaulted cellar stretches into a quiet vanishing point: warm terracotta walls arching overhead, up to 18,000 bottles resting in iron cradles on one side, rare vintages lying in straw-lined wooden cases on the other, the lighting low and deliberate.

The Squirrel: Dining Under the Stars, Three of Them Glittering from the Menu

From the canopies of century-old pine trees, small black squirrels peer down – the namesake inhabitants of the restaurant. Below, the evening unfolds: guests seated in wrought iron chairs, whose backs unfurl like leaves, looking out over the classical white balustrade onto the Aegean. With only five tables, the gourmet restaurant The Squirrel is one of the most sought-after addresses in the country.

Chef Vasilis Mouratidis is multiple-awarded and one of the most recognisable faces of Greek haute cuisine. The menu captivates with delicately prepared cherry tomatoes, Irish langoustines, and the quiet luxury of Ossetra caviar. Each dinner is accompanied by The Danai's sommelier team, awarded Best Wine Program in Greece and Best Sommelier in Greece. The Squirrel has now been recognised with three FNL stars for ten consecutive years – a testament to a kitchen that continues to reinvent itself creatively while remaining absolutely true to its quality.

Andromeda Restaurant, The Danai's fine dining venue with sea views on its iconic marble terrace, was awarded two FNL stars.

*Further information online at **thedanai.com**. The Danai is a member of **The Leading Hotels of the World**.*

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About The Danai

Set above the crystalline waters of the Aegean on Sithonia, one of Halkidiki's three peninsulas, The Danai is a luxury retreat surrounded by lush Mediterranean gardens and a private sandy beach. The family-owned hotel features 56 individually designed suites and villas with sea or vineyard views, created by owner Mrs Danai.

Dining spans three distinct restaurants, including a refined gourmet restaurant set beneath the pine trees, Greek cuisine served by the water, and The Danai Bakery House, where freshly baked breads and pastries are prepared daily. The Noble House & Vineyard is home to Greece's largest wine collection, comprising 1,700 labels, curated and served with expert care. Additional facilities include a private beach with cabanas and attentive service, a Kids Club and Baby Crèche, as well as a sunlit Spa & Fitness area with treatment rooms, indoor pool and modern training equipment. The Danai celebrates 50 years of hospitality and is family owned and run by the Riefenstahl family. For more Information visit: www.thedanai.com

About The Bird Yachting Company

The Bird Yachting Company extends The Danai experience onto the Aegean Sea, offering bespoke yacht journeys along the Halkidiki coastline and to selected Greek islands. The fleet includes three fully serviced luxury motor yachts, an 82-foot Sanlorenzo, a 60-foot Princess and a 48-foot Princess designed for privacy, comfort and refined exploration. For more information visit: www.thebirdyachting.com

About FNL Awards

FNL (The Food & Leisure Guide, www.fnl-guide.com) is Greece's leading gastronomy and lifestyle portal, founded in 2011 by food critic Panos Deligiannis. Through hundreds of signed restaurant reviews across Greece and internationally, FNL has built the authority to evaluate restaurants against a benchmark of global relevance.

Since 2016, the FNL Best Restaurant Awards have consistently mapped Greece's culinary landscape, identifying the restaurants where new gastronomic trends take shape. The awards are the result of countless visits and tastings across the country, conducted by Greece's most experienced and respected panel of food critics.

*The evaluation criteria include the quality of ingredients, the technical mastery of the chef, the coherence of the menu, and the complexity, harmony and creativity of each dish. **Michelin does not assess in the area of Northern Greece yet – therefore the FNL Awards are the highest culinary benchmark of the region***

About The Leading Hotels of the World, Ltd. (LHW)

In 1928, 38 independent hoteliers came together to create LHW which now comprises more than 400 hotels in over 80 countries, making it the largest collection of independent luxury hotels. Since its inception, the Company has carefully curated a selection of distinctive hotels, resorts, inns, chalets, villas, and safari camps, from the snow-capped Alps of Europe to the African veldt, to share them with adventurous souls who seek the remarkably uncommon. The LHW community is made of exceptional individuals, united by a passion for the surprising discoveries and details that come with every travel experience. LHW hoteliers are artisans of hospitality whose expertise, commitment to excellence and individual flair allows them to create story-worthy moments for their guests. It is these authentic, individualized moments, combined with the warm high-touch service these hoteliers and their team provide, that keeps discerning travelers returning again and again. LHW's collection covers the globe and promises a broad range of destinations and unique experiences, enhanced by LHW's tiered guest loyalty program, Leaders Club. From converted former palaces and countryside retreats run by the same families for generations, to gleaming skyscrapers in dynamic urban centers, serene private island escapes, glamorous tented camps – and beyond – travelers are invited to explore, find inspiration, and experience unforgettable travel moments. For more information visit: www.lhw.com.



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