

**Information about the Environment and for travellers in Crete:**

Chapel of the Holy Yakinthos

YAKINTHIA-festivals at Anogia



The Holy Valentine is known in Greek and at Crete the same way as in Central Europe and the Lovers commit this day the way like everywhere else. In *Anogia*, the tradition-rich village in the heart of Crete, people betook that they as Cretans and Greeks can back-look on a long culture history and are not dependent on foreign customs. Their patron is not the Holy Valentine but rather the *Holy Yakinthos*¹⁾. The people of Anogia, known for their sensuality and their ingenuity, chose to honour him a place of silence and build there a church. LUDOVIKOS, a musician from today of Anogia is deemed to be the initiator of this idée.

¹⁾ In Greek mythology *Yakinthos* was a young bonny lad and favourite disciple of the God Apollo. This taught him the secrets of the Gods and instructed him also into the art of the aesthetics and the discus throwing. Zephyros, the wind, was jealous upon this relationship. One day, when *Yakinthos* threw the discus, Zephyros blew that hard, that the discus came back and killed *Yakinthos*. The red blood of *Yakinthos* became a white flower. In 98 AD the 20 year old *Yakinthos* became a martyr for the common belief, his love to God!

LUDOVIKOS decided also, because 1.900 year have passed since the martyr of *Yakinthos*, to praise the “Holy of Love” in poesy and found, together with people of spirit and arts a association which organises festivals which is today known under the name **YAKINTHIA** everywhere on Crete. The YAKINTHIA-festival (with music, art and theatre) happens every year during the 1st week of July (to the names day of the Holy *Yakinthos* on the 3rd of July) at the Chapel (at the Psiloritis Mountain). More information is available at: <http://yakinthia.com>

The Chapel of the Holy Yakinthos is located about 7 and a half mile outside Anogia in the area of Fourni in the Psiloritis Mountain (1.200 m above sea level) and is reached best coming from Anogia. From here follow the signs towards the Idean Cave (in the Ida Mountain; therefore see also the leaflet 17-04/E of the Crete Environment forum). At about “half way” is on the right the branch to a gravel road. You can't miss this point because there is a “stone man” (see fig.) which denotes this branch. Follow the gravel road for another mile through a rugged and barren landscape where you than will find the little oasis on the left within the shadow of trees.

The chapel was established in the form of a Cretan “Mitato”, a circular building from flat stones without use of mortar. The building took place according to the rules of late Minoan architecture as domed structure, whereby the inclination of the dome begins after 2 m height and remains in the centre an opening by 30 cm. The walls are 1.6 m big. Planning and construction supervision had the architect Stavros Vidalis. There is only one icon inside the Chapel. Beside the Chapel is also a small, bordered in stone theatre.





The picture above show a mountain water basin (on top left) at the hill side of the small theatre area; (on top right) the Chapel seen from the entrance (with its courtyard) and (above left) the backside. The headstone for the Chapel was put by the archbishop of Rethymno (Anthymos). The picture above right is showing the construction phase of the Chapel. **Pictures:** *U. Kluge* (2), *H. Eikamp* (3) / 30.12.2004

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Crete-Impressions I:

It was the 12th of May 2005 when in Gouves / North Crete the “red sun sunk into the sea”! The scene of sunset goes very fast around this season; the pictures were made between 7:25 p.m. and 7: 26 p.m.

Pictures: *U.Kluge*

