



View of Patras from the sea | Old fishing harbour in Rethymnon, Crete | Olive Tree, Crete
 Venetian lighthouse in Rethymnon, Crete | Domed church on island of Santorini | Greek island coves and beaches mirroring the sea

ODE TO GREECE!

GREECE CONTINUES TO BE A SPARKLING DESTINATION FOR SUN AND CULTURE SEEKERS ALIKE!

This year Patras is host to the European Capital of Culture. Located at the western part of Greece's mainland on the north-west coast of Peloponnesus, Patras is the third largest city of Greece. Patras is strategically sited

right in the heart of an illusory triangle formed by three locations of major archeological importance: the Ancient Delphi in the north, Epidaurus in the southeast and Olympia in the southwest.

COSMOPOLITAN FLAVOUR

Patras' roads all lead to the sea with the city's commercial port still playing an important role in its economy. Housing some impressive neo-classic buildings, the city exhibits a very strong artistic and philosophical life. Some of its most tempting sights worth checking out include the Fortress of Patras, which

was built during the 6th century and its Roman Odeum.

IONIAN INK

Aside from the more well known destinations of Athens, Crete, Rhodes and Patras, Greece is incredibly alluring for its abundance of remote and breathtaking islands. We check out some of the varied visages the islands of Greece have to offer for those who want to immerse themselves in the outdoor life in some of Greece's most lush and diverse vegetation. **ie**



“ SURFING OFF I-YANNIS BEACH, ISLAND OF LEFKADA ”

SUMMER FESTS

Athens Festival
 → Athens Atticus Odeon Theatre
 June to October 2006
 → Preservation of ancient Greek heritage and promotion of Modern Greek achievements

Peloponnesus
 → 11th International Festival of Patras
 July to September 2006
 → Drama, Music, Dance, Plastic Arts

Western Greece: Ioannina
 → Epirus Festival and Ancient Theatre of Dodoni
 July to August 2006

Macedonia: Kavala
 → Festival of Philippi and Thassos
 July to August 2006

ISLAND ODYSSEY

PERCHED ALONG THE IONIAN SEA, SEVEN MAJOR ISLANDS COMPRISE THE IONIAN ISLANDS.

→ These include Corfu, Paxi, Lefkada, Ithaca, Kefalonia, Zakynthos and Kythira.

ITHACA

→ Known as the home of Odysseus, Ithaca is a small mountainous island with beautiful coves and shorelines.

KYTHIRA

→ Poised at the foot of the Peloponnese between the Ionian and Aegean Sea, the island of Kythira is historically known as the isle of the Goddess of Love, Aphrodite.

ZAKYNTHOS

→ Also known as Zante, Zakynthos is the most southern island of the Ionian group. Famous for its unspoiled natural environment, the island has rich, dense vegetation.

For further information on any of the above Ionian islands contact your local travel operator or visit www.greeka.com

THE GODFATHER

TRUE TO ITS ITALIAN TRADITIONS THE ALFA 159 CHARACTERISES A WINNING ATTEMPT TO COMBINE DASHING GOOD LOOKS AND COMFORT IN A MODERN-DAY SALOON. **ROMIL TIMBADIA** REPORTS.

Much like when Michael Corleone took over from his father, Don Vito Corleone's successful position at the helm of the family's business operations in *The Godfather*, the Alfa Romeo 159 is firmly establishing its position as heir to the previously triumphant 156.

While the newcomer has taken all the strengths and visual appeal from 156's original design, legendary designer Giorgetto Giugiaro has gracefully perked it up with more interior space, technological advancements and a much-needed extra 'presence.'

Oh yes. It is a looker. And with the majority of cars on the streets nowadays resembling metal bathtubs on wheels, the 159 only stands out more.

FUEL ECONOMY

But the best news comes from the thinktanks at Alfa Romeo whose decision was to apply the same price to both the diesel and petrol options. This has obviously been well-received by motoring enthusiasts and distributors alike.

The petrol engines are made of aluminium with JTS direct injection and twin phaser technology (double variable valve timing), while the second-generation common rail turbodiesel engines come with variable geometry turbos and particulate trap (DPF) as standard.

This new breed of Alfa with its spaciousness, performance, safety and quality of interiors positions itself in the 'D Premium' segment along with the BMW 3-Series, Mercedes C, Volvo S60 and Audi A4.

SAFE AND SOUND

Also like *The Godfather*, the Alfa 159 provides great protection. It is built on a brand new platform and has a best-in-class bodyshell rigidity of over 180,000 daNm/rad.

In terms of safety it has nothing to fear from the competition and has achieved a top five-star rating

| Model | Price | Horsepower |
|---------------------------|-----------|------------|
| 1.9 JT S Turismo | € 3 6.550 | 160bhp |
| 1.9 J TDM 8v Turismo | € 3 6.550 | 120bhp |
| 1.9 J TDM 16v Turismo | € 3 9.050 | 150bhp |
| 1.9 JT S Sportivo | € 3 8.300 | 160bhp |
| 1.9 J TDM Sportivo | € 3 8.300 | 120bhp |
| 2.2 JT S Sportivo | € 4 1.300 | 185bhp |
| 1.9 J TDM 16 v Sportivo | € 4 0.800 | 160bhp |
| 3.2 JT S V 6 4x4 Sportivo | € 4 9.300 | 260bhp |
| 2.4 J TDM 2.0V Sportivo | € 4 4.800 | 200bhp |



attractive and well laid out. It is also equipped with front and rear parking sensors, a satellite navigator with maps, voice controls and a built-in GSM hands-free telephone.

On the whole, the 159 feels like an expensive and resourceful car with electronic programmes to correct slides and improve traction and emergency braking. And through a sensational body along with triple front lights and polished-blade door handles, the Alfa 159 exudes confidence and extreme road presence.

WELL DONE

The 159 also markets itself for the executive market in Ireland with great performance, astounding looks and keen pricing. The three petrol and three diesel engines all come with a 6-speed gearbox to maximise performance and optimise

consumption. A three-year planned maintenance service programme and two years of AA membership proves Alfa Romeo's commitment to its customers. With prices beginning at €36550, the 159 is geared up to compete strongly in the 'D Segment.' **ie**



GOOD LOOKING

Inside, the driving position is good with lots of leg and headroom. The standard seats are comfortable with decent adjustability and the main part of the facade is



“ THE DIESEL IS SIMILARLY PRICED TO THE PETROL OPTION. ”