



Athens Democracy Forum

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
The New York Times

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NAVARINO

Join internationally acclaimed speakers for the 'Democracy & Spirituality Weekend' at Costa Navarino this October

"Can spiritual energy enhance democratic governance?"

Internationally acclaimed speakers, key opinion leaders and influencers, will explore the intriguing relationship between democracy and spirituality, at [Costa Navarino](#), 11-13 October 2019. The annual weekend on democracy, returns for its fifth edition in partnership with the [Athens Democracy Forum](#).

Guest speakers **Brunello Cucinelli**, Chairman and CEO of Brunello Cucinelli S.p.A., **Prof. Angie Hobbs**, Professor of the Public Understanding of Philosophy at the University of Sheffield and **Bernard-Henri Lévy**, philosopher, filmmaker and activist, will engage in insightful discussions, moderated by **Serge Schmemmann**, Member of the Editorial Board, Chairman and Athens Democracy Forum Program Director, and **Katrin Bennhold**, Berlin Bureau Chief of The New York Times.



In recent decades, the structures of democracy have come under increasing threat from radicalism, populism and polarization. But for all its flaws and problems, democracy is still the most widely accepted form of governance. Despite the different approaches to spirituality in East and West, many artists and thinkers have asserted the need for a greater level of spirituality in democracy. At the very least, spirituality – not in a narrow religious sense but as a positive transformative personal experience – has the capacity to inform, refresh and even help heal democracy.

The insightful weekend is hosted at [The Romanos, a Luxury Collection Resort](#) and will feature book readings, yoga, and a series of curated cultural experiences including philosophy walks, olive oil tasting, art tours, as well as encouraging further interaction with the speakers.

The pristine seaside location provides an ideal autumn getaway with mild temperatures for swimming, enjoying



outdoor activities or a round at the destination's awarded golf courses The Dunes Course and The Bay Course.

Participants can book their accommodation [online](#) or by contacting Reservations at The Romanos, a Luxury Collection Resort (tel. +30 2723 096000, reservations.romanos@costanavarino.com and mentioning the promotional code LPR).

Now in its seventh edition, the '[Athens Democracy Forum](#)' held in association with The New York Times, will take place 9-11 October in the Greek capital, bringing together international business leaders, policy makers, and a broad variety of experts to discuss the state of democracy and what action it requires in the face of mounting challenges.

Information about Speakers and Moderators

Brunello Cucinelli is chairman and C.E.O. of Brunello Cucinelli S.p.A., an Italian fashion house active in the top-end luxury products sector and specializing in cashmere. Over the years, the company has become one of the most exclusive brands globally in the informal luxury ready-to-wear sector. Mr. Cucinelli's lifelong dream has focused on making human work more humane, instilling a sense of moral and economic dignity in his work. His aim has always been to combine profit, gifts and stewardship to create a sort of "contemporary humanist capitalism." Mr. Cucinelli is the recipient of myriad national and international honors and awards acknowledging his "neohumanistic capitalism." Among his distinguished accomplishments, he was appointed Cavaliere del Lavoro, or Knight of Industry, by the president of the Italian Republic, and the University of Perugia conferred upon him an honorary degree in philosophy and ethics of human relations. He was awarded the Global Economy Prize by the eminent Kiel Institute for the World Economy in Germany, with the noble mention that he "personifies perfectly the figure of the honorable merchant." Mr. Cucinelli was also appointed a Cavaliere di Gran Croce, or Knight Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic.

Prof. Angie Hobbs gained a first-class degree in Classics and a Ph.D. in ancient philosophy at the University of Cambridge. After undertaking a research fellowship at Christ's College, Cambridge, she moved to the Department of Philosophy at the University of Warwick. In 2012 she was appointed professor of the public understanding of philosophy at the University of Sheffield, a position created for her. Professor Hobbs's chief interests are in ancient philosophy and literature, and ethics and political theory. She has published widely in these areas, including authoring a book, "Plato and the Hero: Courage, Manliness and the Impersonal Good," published by Cambridge University Press in 2000. She contributes regularly to radio and TV programs and other media. She has spoken at the World Economic Forum at Davos, the Houses of Parliament, the Scottish Parliament and Westminster Abbey, alongside featuring as a guest on "Desert Island Discs," "Private Passions" and "Test Match Special" on BBC Radio. Professor Hobbs was a judge of the Man Booker International Prize 2019, and was nominated to serve as a member of the World Economic Forum Global Future Council on Values, Ethics and Innovation for the 2018-2019 term.

Bernard-Henri Lévy is a French philosopher, filmmaker and activist, and the author of over 30 books, including "The Empire and the Five Kings: America's Abdication and the

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Fate of the World" (2019), "The Genius of Judaism" (2017), "Left in Dark Times: A Stand Against the New Barbarism" (2008), "American Vertigo: Traveling America in the Footsteps of Tocqueville" (2006), and "Who Killed Daniel Pearl?" (2003). Mr. Lévy's 1977 book, "Barbarism with a Human Face," launched an unprecedented controversy over the European left's complicity with totalitarianism. His firsthand account of the fall of Muammar el-Qaddafi in Libya appeared in the form of a writer's journal "La Guerre sans l'aimer: Journal d'un écrivain au cœur du printemps libyen," published in 2012, and a film, "The Oath of Tobruk, which was showcased in the official selection of the Cannes Film Festival in the same year. In 2016, Mr. Lévy's documentary, "Peshmerga," which followed the thousand-kilometer-long frontier separating the Iraqi Kurds from the forces of the Islamic State, premiered at Cannes. His second documentary on the Kurdistan region of Iraq, "The Battle of Mosul" (2017), explored the fight to retake the city of Mosul from the Islamic State. Earlier documentaries include "Bosna!", a cri de coeur about the carnage in Sarajevo during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina between 1992 and 1995, was published in 1994. In Spring 2019, Mr. Lévy toured the theaters of Europe with his one-man show "Looking for Europe," a call of alarm and resistance against the rise of fascism and populism facing the continent. His writing has appeared extensively in publications throughout Europe and the United States. Mr. Lévy is co-founder of the French antiracism organization SOS Racisme and has served on diplomatic missions on behalf of the French government.

Katrin Bennhold, the Berlin bureau chief, has been a correspondent for The New York Times since 2004. Based first in France and then in Britain, she has been writing on a range of topics from European politics and terrorism to gender and immigration. Ms. Bennhold was a Nieman fellow at Harvard University in 2012 and 2013. Born in Germany, she lives with her husband and three children in Berlin.

Serge Schmemmann is a member of the editorial board of The New York Times focusing on international issues. Before that he was the editorial page editor of the International Herald Tribune in Paris for 10 years, joining shortly after the IHT became a part of The New York Times. Mr. Schmemmann joined The Times in December 1980 after eight years with The Associated Press and worked for many years as a correspondent and bureau chief in Johannesburg, Moscow, Bonn, Jerusalem and the United Nations. He was deputy foreign editor of The New York Times from 1999 to 2001. Mr. Schmemmann was awarded a Pulitzer Prize in 1991 for his coverage of the reunification of Germany, and an Emmy in 2003 for his work on a television documentary about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He is a graduate of Harvard College and holds an M.A. from Columbia University, as well as an honorary doctorate from Middlebury College, Vermont. Mr. Schmemmann is the author of "Echoes of a Native Land: Two Centuries of a Russian Village," and another, intended for high school students, "When the Wall Came Down: The Berlin Wall and the Fall of Communism," as well as numerous articles and reviews. Mr. Schmemmann resides with his wife in Paris.

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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.

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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; 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; as well as 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.

Navarino Hills, with two 18-hole golf courses, is currently under construction, and there are two further sites underway.

www.costanavarino.com

Athens Democracy Forum

The Athens Democracy Forum, now in its seventh year, will be held under the auspices of H.E. the President of the Hellenic Republic Mr. Prokopios Pavlopoulos and in cooperation with the United Nations Democracy Fund and the City of Athens. Staged among some of the Greek capital's historic landmarks, the Forum brings senior New York Times journalists together with international business leaders, policy makers, academics and experts to discuss the state of democracy and what action it requires in the face of mounting challenges. The Athens Democracy Forum is attended by over 400 international delegates from more than 30 countries.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.athensdemocracy.org>