



The Megistian Aenigma Agon is a Quadruple International Puzzle Competition (Inscription, Illusion, Invention and Interaction). The word Megistian comes from one of the island's name (Megisti), Aenigma means puzzle, and Agon stands for competition. It is a celebration of toys, illusions, and word-games for children from 0 to 150 years old, presenting to the world Greece's leading role in puzzles. As a definition, a Puzzle, an Aenigma or a Brainteaser, is anything which trains our mind.



The prize (Bucla) for the two competitions (blue and red).

EVENTS WHICH MARKED THE 2ND MAA

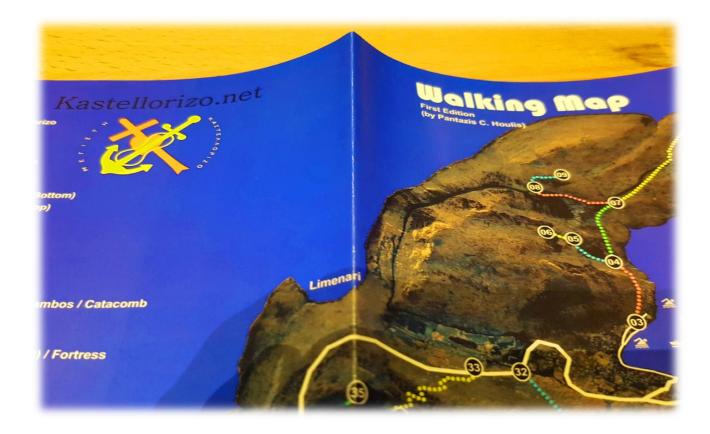
PRESENTATION OF THE NEW WALKING MAP OF KASTELLORIZO

For the first time after many decades, a map showcasing the most important walking paths of Kastellorizo was released by **Pantazis Houlis**, sponsored by **Yiannis Sampsakos**, and promoted by **Kastellorizo.net**. The map contained a plethora of detailed information, such as terrain roughness, distance time, as well as height difference.

Besides designing, exhibiting and collecting puzzles, Pantazis is the only person visiting regularly all the sites of the island's mountains, from north to south and east to west. Being a former academic, it was easy to compile all the **GPS data** into a formidable guide.

The map was welcomed with much anticipation by locals and tourists, and had become fast the most popular item on Kastellorizo in summer and autumn 2018. The feedback was more than encouraging, and there was also a proposition from the best professional map company in Greece to collaborate in the future.

Note that the walking path network of Kastellorizo is extremely vast, and there are long-term plans for this network to be used for treasure hunting or even the creation of labyrinths.



VRILISSOS NATURE GROUP:

Walking tours on the wonderful ancient paths of Kastellorizo. During their stay (17/08/2018 - 31/08/2018), thirty volunteers from the Vrilissos Nature Group assisted in opening new paths with magnificent views. Those paths reinforced the already opened trail network, which is of world class level. The landscape of Kastellorizo Island provides a unique experience, combining mountain and sea.

A puzzle lecture took place in Drasi on the 30th of August, as a huge "Thank You" for the volunteer's help.





Above: Walking through the labyrinth-like paths of the road leading to St. Stephanos. Below: Signs made by the Vrilisson Nature Group, and two of the many nice path views.

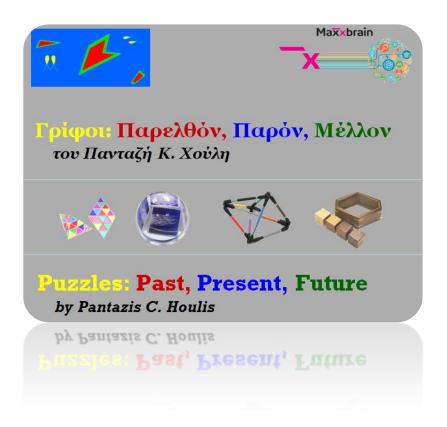






LECTURES:

1. Dr Pantazis Houlis' famous "Puzzles: Past, Present, Future" lecture, which has already been enjoyed by people in four different continents.



2. Another lecture took place in the Agora (where the 4D Red Agon competition took place).



3. Puzzle exhibition at the Drasi office.



4. More than ten presentations with videos from 1983 (Kostas Asvestis archive) and photos from 1969 (Constantine Houlis archive), were shown at the Agora, Alexandra restaurant, Remezzo Cafe, Mikro Parisi, Drasi, and Old Story restaurant).



KASTELLORIZO ENIGMA CONGRESS (KEC, since 2008):

The KEC is a celebration of puzzles for all ages, for experiencing the logic and movement of mechanical puzzles, to exchange ideas and to ignite creativity. Note that the ten years of KEC (2008 to 2018) were marked with live coverage from national channel Alpha. A link with the TV interview is found here:

https://youtu.be/VkT46BJqOc8 (15 minutes)





The event took place inside the wonderful Faros Bar, probably the most beautiful bar in the world! Its location beside the sea, combined with the internal structure of windows, reinforced the success of the event.











A variety of 250 puzzles was exhibited. From logical and mathematical to dexterity and labyrinths, it was the biggest puzzle exhibition of its kind in Kastellorizo.





Educational puzzles were by definition in the list, giving everyone a glimpse of how teaching could become a game for all children.





Even prototypes and board type of puzzles were presented, some planned to be manufactured in the near future.

ART EXHIBITION:

Sculptor Alexandros Zygouris (Atelier Zygouris) is always there for many months to assist cultural events and to showcase his puzzle-like sculptures on the rocks of Kastellorizo island.





YELLOW AGON - 1D COMPETITION

Here, a smart problem (expressed mainly in words and/or numbers) will be awarded a prize.

2018 COMPETITORS (4 ENTRIES)

1.	Puzzle by Nikos Karavelatzis (puzzle is in Greek)
	ΕΛΛΑΣ
	^
	^
	A
	Σ
	Κάντε αναγραμματισμούς της λέξης ΕΛΛΑΣ, χρησιμοποιώντας ως πρώτο γράμμα όλα τα γράμματα της ίδιας λέξης. Υπάρχουν λέξεις-λύσεις για όλα τα γράμματα, μπορείτε να τις βρείτε; (Γρίφος του Νίκου Καραβέλατζη 2018 - ορισμός πλήρους λέξεως)
2.	Puzzle by Michael Stoukas (Change of initial consonant, "X" and "Z" symbolize the letters of each word that is sought out)
	I XXXX the ZXXX stands (hint: The box is too heavy to lift)
3.	Puzzle by Michael Stoukas (Change of initial letter)
	I've XXX frequent ZXX dreams since the accident (hint: I suffer from nightmares)
4	
4.	Puzzle by Michale Stoukas (Change of last vowel)
	I could XXX the XXZ clearly (hint: Her balcony view was great!)

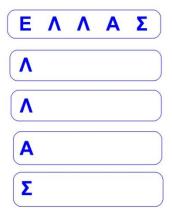
PRIZE: "MEGISTEUS" BEST OF THE BEST PUZZLE AWARD (YELLOW AGON): Nikos Karavelatzis



"Sphinx" Award (1D): Nikos Karavelatzis



This puzzle was very surprising and interesting. It actually helped us to define a (probably) new class of words, the "complete" words, i.e. any anagram that begins from any of its letters is another valid word.



Κάντε αναγραμματισμούς της λέξης ΕΛΛΑΣ, χρησιμοποιώντας ως πρώτο γράμμα όλα τα γράμματα της ίδιας λέξης. Υπάρχουν λέξεις-λύσεις για όλα τα γράμματα, μπορείτε να τις βρείτε;

(Γρίφος του Νίκου Καραβέλατζη 2018 - ορισμός πλήρους λέξεως)

GREEN AGON - 2D COMPETITION

Here, a smart problem mainly expressed in a puzzling picture will be awarded a prize.

2018 COMPETITORS (3 ENTRIES)

1. Puzzle by Ali Kilic.

Equalize by adding 4 blue dots.



2. Puzzle by Mustafa Boga. Find the message of the painting



3. Puzzle by Emrehan Halici

Move two matches to correct the equation

PRIZE: "MEGISTEUS" BEST OF THE BEST PUZZLE AWARD (GREEN AGON) Emrehan Halici

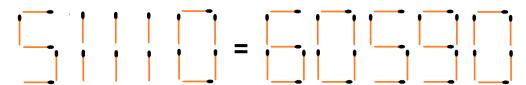


"Daedalus" Award (2D): Emrehan Halici



There were two other worthy competitors, but the moves which were required for this puzzle were very satisfying. It may have other "near" solutions, but the correct solution had completely surprised us.

Move two matches to correct the equation



http://www.puzzleup.com

BLUE AGON - 3D COMPETITION

Here, the best scientific and /or mechanical 3d puzzle (in the form of a toy or a gadget), is awarded.

The puzzle types are defined by the "puzzlification" dynamic puzzle database made by Pantazis Houlis: www.houlis.com/database txt

2018 COMPETITORS (9 ENTRIES)

3 PIECES 9 SYMMETRIC SHAPESManufactured and designed in 2017 by Emrehan Halici.



Goal: Use the three pieces to make a symmetric shape (there are nine solutions) http://www.puzzleup.com
Email: emrehan@halici.com.tr

Puzzle type: MC, PL.

E & HManufactured and designed in 2017 by Constantine Bovalis



Goal: Open the lock and free the coin subject to certain rules.

Email: *Costa@bovalis.net*Puzzle type: PL, MT, LO, GS.

E & HManufactured and designed in 2013 by Emrehan Halici



Goal: Use the pieces to make the letter E or use the pieces to make the letter H. http://www.puzzleup.com

Email: emrehan@halici.com.tr

Puzzle Type: MC, PL.

GYROTWISTY

Manufactured and designed in 2018 by Diniar Namdarian.



Goal: Take apart puzzle.

Email: d.namdarian@hotmail.com

Puzzle Type: PL, DI.

ELLZUP 2

Manufactured and designed in 2018 by Mike Toulouzas



Goal: Slide the pieces to form the words

GRIFOS or PUZZLE.

http://www.puzzzlevision.com Email: mpuzzlemaker@yahoo.gr

Puzzle Type: MC, PL.

OCHOMINOES

Manufactured and designed in 2016 by Dan Klarskov and Kate Jones.



Goal: Match the pieces.

http://www.gamepuzzles.com/ Email: kadon@gamepuzzles.com

Puzzle Type: MC, PL.

SEWING BOX

Manufactured and designed in 2016 by Diniar Namdarian.



Goal: Take apart puzzle

Email: d.namdarian@hotmail.com

Puzzle Type: PL, DI.

THABIT IBN QURRA

Manufactured and designed in 2018 by Yavuz Demirhan and Hüseyin Aksu.



Goal: Verify the Pythagorean Theorem. Email: yavuzdemirhan@hotmail.com Puzzle Type: PL, WD, FR, MC, ED.

SYMMETRIC SHAPE

Manufactured and designed in 2014 by Emrehan Halici.



Goal: Make a symmetric shape http://www.puzzleup.com Email: emrehan@halici.com.tr Puzzle Type: MC, PL.

BLUE COMPETITION JUDGING PARAMETERS:

Originality/creativity. How new, unusual, non-repetitive and original is the puzzle compared to past ones? Can its creativity actually redefine a new category or is it a new branch of a known idea? (Odysseus Award)

Mechanism/Impression. Does it have the right geometry to move robust and slick? Is it simple AND hard? Is it complex AND easy? If there is a mechanism, is it precise? Does its movement impress? (Euclid Award)

Playability/Longevity. Is it logical, playable and addictive enough to inspire the mind? Is the depth of this puzzle enough to keep coming back for more for a long time with different ranges of difficulty? (Archimedes Award)

Research/Experience. Besides the physical structure, how well thought, effective and understandable is the puzzle's theme? How much experience was needed to make it? Can it be used in education? (Prometheus Award)

Beauty/Deluxing. Does it look artistic, attractive or classy as if it was a deluxe masterpiece? Does it have appropriate colors matching the design throughout? Is it presented well as a whole? (Apollo Award)

Quality/Aesthetics. Does it feel pleasing in terms of material? Can it be a fair challenge? Does it break easily? Is it aesthetically well made? (hand-made puzzles feel better, 3D prints vary in quality). (Hephaestus Award)

Solvability/Unpredictability. How intense, unpredictable and surprising are its "wow" or "aha" moments before, during or after finding the solution? Is it inviting enough to solve it again? (Pandora Award)

Decisions are made by three judges, experts in puzzles and/or mathematics. A puzzle with the best score in one of the above categories wins an electronic award (stated in brackets). The overall score determines the Megisteus Award winner.

The diversity nature of the parameters is such that it is extremely hard (or even impossible) for any competitor to win in two categories. This allows a more balanced distribution of the electronic awards.

There are also some extra comments provided for every competing puzzle. Scale of grades can change from year to year, as original designs of one year are not original in the next year.

PRIZE: "MEGISTEUS" BEST OF THE BEST PUZZLE AWARD (BLUE AGON):



OCHOMINOES

by Dan Klarskov & Kate Jones

(Winner receives a copy of the island's precious dressing symbol, the Bucla)



ALL 2018 BLUE AGON AWARDS AND GRADING





Originality/Creativity	68%
Mechanism/Impression	84%
Playability/Longevity	76%
Research/Experience	82%
Beauty/Deluxing	93%
Quality/Aesthetics	96%
Solvability/Unpredictability	70%
OVERALL	81.3%

"Apollo" Attractive Puzzle Award: ELLZUP 2 (by Mike Toulouzas)

Comments: Fitting both English and Greek parts in this frame had a remarkable result. A challenging enough puzzle to attract all types of solvers. Its quality is a huge plus.





Originality/Creativity	75%
Mechanism/Impression	80%
Playability/Longevity	98%
Research/Experience	95%
Beauty/Deluxing	92%
Quality/Aesthetics	91%
Solvability/Unpredictability	66%
OVERALL	85.3%

"Archimedes" Logical Puzzle Award: OCHOMINOES (by Dan Klarskov & Kate Jones)

Comment: A phenomenon of a puzzle, where the pieces add a new impressive complete set of multi-polyforms with myriads of challenges. We were "fighting" to be the next to play with this puzzle!





36% 79% 85%
79%
36%
55%
85%
33%

"Euclid" Geometrical Puzzle Award: BOVALIS LOCK (by Constantine Bovalis)

This puzzle is as impressive as it looks. It has a marvelous and delicate mechanism, requiring a lot of imagination for it to be solved within a given set of rules.





Originality/Creativity	70%
Mechanism/Impression	82%
Playability/Longevity	61%
Research/Experience	85%
Beauty/Deluxing	92%
Quality/Aesthetics	97%
Solvability/Unpredictability	79%
OVERALL	80.9%

"Hephaestus" Quality Puzzle Award: THABIT IBN QUORRA (by Yavuz Demirhan)

The feeling when playing this puzzle with its huge frame and its educational value is the same when holding a masterpiece. It is a surprising dissection adding enjoyment to a classic problem.





Originality/Creativity	93%
Mechanism/Impression	81%
Playability/Longevity	70%
Research/Experience	91%
Beauty/Deluxing	76%
Quality/Aesthetics	82%
Solvability/Unpredictability	78%
OVERALL	81.6%

"Odysseus" Creative Puzzle Award: SEWING BOX (by Diniar Namdarian)

The idea behind the Sewing Box is exactly what any puzzler would want. Novel, curious, and well made. It has a mechanism never seen before, surprisingly satisfying and colorful.





Originality/Creativity	63%
Mechanism/Impression	76%
Playability/Longevity	63%
Research/Experience	68%
Beauty/Deluxing	67%
Quality/Aesthetics	78%
Solvability/Unpredictability	83%
OVERALL	71.1%

"Pandora" Unpredictable Puzzle Award: GYROTWISTY (by Diniar Namdarian)

If a puzzle's solution is found while synchronising the positions of its pieces, it can prove to be addictive. A nice puzzle requiring patience until those right positions reveal the degrees of separation.

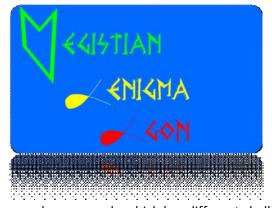




Originality/Creativity	58%
Mechanism/Impression	63%
Playability/Longevity	79%
Research/Experience	97%
Beauty/Deluxing	60%
Quality/Aesthetics	62%
Solvability/Unpredictability	82%
OVERALL	71.6%

"Prometheus" Well Thought Puzzle Award: E & H (by Emrehan Halici)

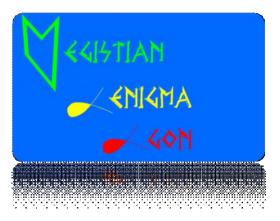
Thinking out of the box to solve a puzzle is one of the characteristics we seek, usually made by experienced designers. And here we have more than one such solution!





Originality/Creativity	58%
Mechanism/Impression	63%
Playability/Longevity	75%
Research/Experience	81%
Beauty/Deluxing	60%
Quality/Aesthetics	62%
Solvability/Unpredictability	66%
OVERALL	66.4%

Here we have a puzzle which has different challenges. It is a well known type of a puzzle.





Originality/Creativity	58%
Mechanism/Impression	63%
Playability/Longevity	65%
Research/Experience	78%
Beauty/Deluxing	60%
Quality/Aesthetics	62%
Solvability/Unpredictability	66%
OVERALL	64.6%

Here we have a puzzle which requires some extra skill. It is a well known type of a puzzle.

RED AGON - 4D COMPETITION

This is a speed solving competition. The Red Agon took place at the Agora on the $2^{\rm nd}$ of September.

2018 COMPETITORS (12 PARTICIPANTS)

The Semifinalists.





The Finalists.





ALL COMPETITORS & COMPETITION FORMAT:

Twelve competitors were divided into four groups of three.

The goal of each game was to solve faster a gravity puzzle where a random two digit number had to be traced inside the transparent sphere.

A victory was achieved by the first person winning two games. The first two competitors of each group qualified based on victories. If they had equal number of victories, then a better game difference counted more.

The remaining eight competitors continued to the quarterfinals, then the semifinals, and then the final.

In the final, the victory was achieved by the first person winning three games.

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PTS DIFF
   ZAHARENIA HOULI 2 - 0 LEFTERIS M. PAPOUTSIS
                                                    1. LEFTERIS K. PAPOUTSIS
                                                                           2
                                                                              +4
LEFTERIS M. PAPOUTSIS 0 - 2 LEFTERIS K. PAPOUTSIS
                                                    2. ZAHARENIA HOULI
                                                                           1
                                                                              +0
                                                    3. LEFTERIS M. PAPOUTSIS O
                                                                              -4
LEFTERIS K. PAPOUTSIS 2 - 0 ZAHARENIA HOULI
                                                                          PTS DIFF
ANASTASIA KALOMIROU 2-1 ELENI KARAMICHALI
                                                    1. ANASTASIA KALOMIROU 2
                                                                              +3
  ELENI KARAMICHALI 1-2 MARIA KARAVELATZI
                                                    2. MARIA KARAVELATZI
                                                                               -1
                                                                           1
 MARIA KARAVELATZI O - 2 ANASTASIA KALOMIROU
                                                    3. ELENI KARAMICHALI
                                                                               -2
                                                                          PTS DIFF
     NIKOS PAPOUTSIS 2-1 DIMITRIS PAPOUTSIS
                                                    1. NIKOS PAPOUTSIS
                                                                              +3
                                                                           2
   DIMITRIS PAPOUTSIS 2 - 0 STAMATIA ACHLADIOTI
                                                    2. DIMITRIS PAPOUTSIS
                                                                           1 +1
                                                    3. STAMATIA ACHLADIOTI 0 -4
 STAMATIA ACHLADIOTI O - 2 NIKOS PAPOUTSIS
                                                                          PTS DIFF
  GIORGOS KALOMIROS 2-1 EFRAIMA HARALAMPAKI
                                                    1. EFRAIMA HARALAMPAKI 1 +1
                                                    2. SPYROS HOULIS
                                                                           1 +0
EFRAIMA HARALAMPAKI 2 - 0 SPYROS HOULIS
                                                    3. GIORGOS KALOMIROS 1 -1
       SPYROS HOULIS 2 - O GIORGOS KALOMIROS
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MARIA KARAVELATZI 1 - 2 NIKOS PAPOUTSIS

ANASTASIA KALOMIROU 2 - 1 LEFTERIS K. PAPOUTSIS

EFRAIMA HARALAMPAKI 2 - 0 DIMITRIS PAPOUTSIS

ZAHARENIA HOULI 2 - 1 SPYROS HOULIS
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NIKOS PAPOUTSIS 1 - 2 ANASTASIA KALOMIROU
EFRAIMA HARALAMPAKI 2 - 1 ZAHARENIA HOULI
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ANASTASIA KALOMIROU 3-1 EFRAIMA HARALAMPAKI

"MEGISTEUS" BEST OF THE BEST PUZZLE AWARD (RED AGON):

Anastasia Kalomirou

(Winner receives a small copy of the island's precious dressing symbol, the Bucla)





"Hermes" Fastest Solver Award: Anastasia Kalomirou

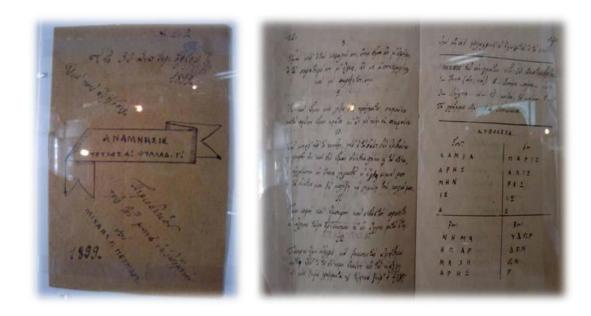


"Achilles" Hero Solver Award (Finalist): Efraima Charalampaki



WHY KASTELLORIZO? The reasons for the existence of the MAA:

Kastellorizo has a long history in puzzles. In the past, there were plenty of puzzle magazines circulated on the island. A good example is the 19th century magazine "Anamniseis" by Michael Petridou, which can be found at the Megisti museum.



2. Two of the three internationally known Greek mechanical puzzle designers (*Michael Toulouzas* and *Pantazis Houlis*) have origins from Kastellorizo Island.



3. Kastellorizo's isolated geographical position and beautiful landscape provides the perfect place for mind concentration and inspiration, especially for puzzles.

The MAA in the news.

This year the KEC was shown live on the national channel Alpha (https://youtu.be/VkT46BJqOc8) with well known journalist Nikos Manesis interviewing the organizer, Pantazis Houlis.



There has also been coverage of the MAA by newspapers. Just like last year, after the MAA event had ended (and before the MAA 2018 booklet was published), popular newspapers outside Greece such as the Turkish Hurriyet, had included the international competitions of the MAA in their cover page.





The 2018 MEGISTIAN AENIGMA AGON would like to thank:

- Yiannis Sampsakos, Anna Sampsakou, Nikitas Sampsakos, Antonis Sampsakos, ,Michalis Hatzigiakomis, Garifalia Koti and Thanasis Kotis. It is not an exaggeration to state that this MAA took place thanks to their invaluable help in many levels.
- 2. Stephanos Bouhounas, Eleni Bouhouna, Athena Bouhouna, Giannis Stamatiou, Christos S. Bouhounas, Kaiti Bouhouna, Nora Bouhouna, and Sandy (their help in Rhodes was critical).
- 3. Sponsors Christos Psarris, Stefan Raabe, Roger Stace, Christos Houlis, G.M, and Christos J. Bouhounas.
- Drasi for providing to us the usage of the key to the Drasi office. Special thanks to Robbie,
 Margarita Cannis and Veronica Stathos.
- 5. Dimitris Kampouris, Helene Pappas and Constantina Agapitou Crowley.
- 6. David Koutsoukis, Alekos Zygouris, Jonathan Stefanou, George Lazarakis and George Karagiannis.
- 7. The Aquarium Cafe in Kastellorizo, more specifically, Nikitas Martalas and Ilias Martalas.
- 8. Stefanos Skopelitis.
- 9. The Municipality of Megisti.
- 10. *Pantazis C. Houlis* for exhibiting and providing hands-on his prototypes and vast puzzle collection (which contains expensive, impressive, rare, and one of a kind designs).
- 11. *Gabriel Fernandes'* Puzzle Collection blog (http://mypuzzlecollection.blogspot.com), for promoting the MAA.
- 12. http://www.kastellorizo.org and http://www.kastellorizo.org and http://www.kastellorizo.net for promoting the MAA.
- 13. The support of people related to the prestigious *International Puzzle Party*.
- 14. The participation of world famous puzzle designers (who also provided extremely positive and encouraging feedback) and the unexpected high quality of the competition puzzles.
- 15. All participants in all competitions. Without them, there would be no MAA.
- 16. Professor *Michael Lambrou* from the University of Crete, the main organiser in Greece of the international Kangaroo competition (http://www.kangaroo.gr).
- 17. The existence of judges with immense experience in puzzles (collecting and designing) and puzzle competitions (Australia, Greece, Singapore, India, Turkey).
- 18. The support of *Giannis Liatsos* and *Vassilis Staurou* of the Greek escape rooms "*Great Escape*" (http://www.greatescape.gr).
- 19. The effort of the organisers to minimize the cost to allow global participation (only the postage of physical puzzles in the blue competition was needed).
- 20. The hospitality of the local people nicely combined with Kastellorizo's puzzle tradition.
- 21. The presence of the impressive **Vrilissos Nature Group** helping with opening new paths to ancient Greek monuments, which blended perfectly with all the puzzle events.
- 22. The organisers' choice of the beautiful surroundings and location of Kastellorizo, with so much to offer to anyone who stayed for a few days (crystal clear water, mountain paths with amazing views, the blue cave, the excellent local food and sweets, etc).
- 23. Channel Alpha and newspaper Hurriyet for promoting the island of Kastellorizo and the importance of puzzles.
- 24. **Maxxbrain,** the company which will bring a revolution to education.
- 25. And most importantly, the... *Puzzle Ninja*, who helped us to protect the puzzles and stop people from cheating at the competitions.







A Kastellorizian traditional door looking like a labyrinth and an illusion



The palindrome found at the church of St. Constantine and Helene (protectors of Kastellorizo) stating: **NIΨON ANOMHMATA MH MONAN OΨIN** (translation: "Wash the sins, not only the face")



The Pounentis Ball. At the extreme south point of Kastellorizo, there is an amazingly smooth ball (opening and closing a hole where the sea comes through) among rocks which are sharp like knives. A puzzling contrast...

