



«To Aloni» in the main street

There's been a settlement at **Kardamili** since ancient times and it's easy to see why. Even taking into account the historical change in our perception of mountains from something terrible to something sublime (thank you, Romantic Movement) the location of Kardamili is nigh on scenically perfect. Charles Cockerell an English visitor in 1812 described it as, "indescribably picturesque", which with a pinch of English irony one could construe as 'English understatement'. Burdened with flowers, lapped by the sea, surrounded by olive groves and clumps of cypress trees, overhung by cliffs and escarpments on which perch tiny domed chapels and above those the dramatic sweep of the bare slopes of the high Taygetus reaching up to the lofty summit of Profitis Ilias at over 2000 metres. Throw in a number of more than pleasant eating and drinking places, a welcome lack of discos and Club 18-30 facilities and if you want a reasonably genteel Greek experience in Elysian surroundings this is the place. Source: *John Chapman, Mani: A guide and history*.