



Ergon

SHOP

The city's main pedestrian shopping street, Ermou, runs about a mile, from Syntagma to Monastiraki Square, which features a tiny, perfect Byzantine church as well as small stands selling artisanal items and flea market finds. The street itself hosts homegrown fast-fashion store **Celestino** and landmark, neoclassical **Fokas**. For all the flavors of Greece, head to the newly opened **Ergon** (like a Greek version of Eataly), where you'll find fresh food from across the country: local microbrews, wines, fish on ice, a butcher counter, endless rows of olive oil and more.

EAT

After shopping up an appetite, walk up the flanks of Mount Lycabettus a bit to **Zinglee**, where the décor and jazz soundtrack celebrate the 1930s and the menu specializes in beef and béarnaise (a neighborhood classic), with meat and veg sourced from nearby farms. Or, back down the hill, try **Barbadimos Syntagma**, which gets nostalgic about the 1950s and '60s—and has excellent dry-aged steaks—or **Nice n Easy** for fresh, organic dishes at sidewalk tables.

DRINK

After dinner, take a little tour of the wine bars that have been popping up around Syntagma. Stop into **By the Glass**, offering more than 500 wines, including some rare Greek finds, or **Vintage Wine Bar & Bistro**. If you're in the mood for a little *opai!*, pull up a chair at the backlit bar at **Brettos**, the oldest distillery in the city.

DANCE

Athens is the real city that never sleeps. With dinner usually continuing till midnight, the bars and clubs stay open until dawn. Kick up your heels at **Baba Au Rum**, where the party sometimes spills out onto the street, or at **The Clumsies**, which thumps long into the night; bartenders will mix you a special cocktail to match your mood.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Hadrian's Library and the Acropolis; The bar at Brettos; Cabbage rolls at Barbadimos Syntagma; A meal at Zinglee; By the Glass; Cocktails at Baba Au Rum.

ATH

ATHENS

You've got an extra day to check out the birthplace of democracy. Here's what you do. **BY TIM JOHNSON**

ANCIENT, COMPLEX AND OCCASIONALLY crazy-making, Athens is a city that inundates—in all the best ways. Here, 3,400 years of history wash over you, whether you're at the top of the Acropolis or joining the crowds on the cobblestones in old Plaka on a Saturday afternoon. Recently rattled by crises and protests, today the Greek capital is back—a city on the rise—with a whole range of new spots popping up. Sometimes bypassed altogether by those eager to hop on a ferry at Piraeus port and steam south for island sun and sand, Athens is a destination unto itself. These days, it's worth taking some time to tarry and become part of this Greek revival.