

WINE TOUR OF GREECE



GREECE: SHORT INTRODUCTION

Greece is the southernmost country on the European mainland. A land of which the red soil is sown with stones and rocky mountains, but also with such a rich and unceasing variety in scenery. Greece, a land that has brought forth gods and heroes, philosophers, literature, architecture and art, all of a supreme quality.

Greece, being the cradle of western civilisation, has had a long and eventful history. It was part of each of the great empires – the Roman, the Byzantine and the Ottoman - that ruled the region. The country has strong historical ties with south-eastern and western Europe, Asia and Africa. At the crossroads of so many civilisations, it is gifted with a rich and fascinating cultural heritage.

Greece's geopolitical position as well as the country's rich historical and cultural past makes it a country with distinct and favourable prospects in attracting business and convention tourism.

Greece is undoubtedly proclaimed "by nature and position" as a privileged location for this specific type of events. World-renowned beauty spots, ideal climatic conditions throughout the year, constant succession of natural sites, accessibility, traditional and architectural treasures, interspersed ancient monuments, all these elements are harmoniously combined in these contemporary European country!

Excellent tourist infrastructure, new airports, luxurious hotels, exhibition and congress centers, delicious and healthy cuisine enhanced by the people who resume their old skills and traditions, under the guidance of the "father of Gods" Zeus, the patron of hospitality! History and values of an ancient civilization inviting to return to the sources for a more profound approach to the substance of great ideals, such as **peace, science and Olympic spirit!**

As the north of Greece borders with other countries its inhabitants have adopted an attitude of constant cultural exchange, even with the remotest places, it is this endless give and take mentality that has shaped the modern profile of Greece as a non biased, open-hearted and hospitable country.



ATHENS

For thousands of years the Acropolis has been the symbol of Athens, the sacred rock, the link that connects the magnificent ancient civilization with the modern.

Modern Olympic Athens is a vibrant city with great appeal and charm. It is still one of the safest and most affordable cities in the world, as well as one of the most beautiful, hospitable and exciting ones.

Have a stroll in Plaka, Athens oldest and most picturesque neighborhood with its stone paved, narrow streets. You will be delighted by the beauty of the neo - classical colors of its houses, their architecture, their little gardens and the total atmosphere of the area.



WINING IN GREECE!

Dear clients,


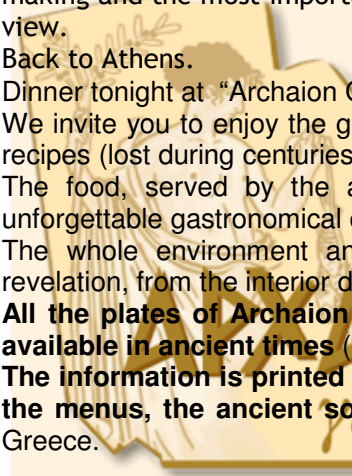

Wine tasting in Greece used to mean trotting down to a guy in your neighborhood who had a few barrels of Retsina in his basement or storage room.









Sometimes you could even choose between retsina, unresinated white wine and kokkinelli (a rose wine). Lots of this Hima (unbottled) wine was very good and Chardonnay or Cabernet Sauvignon was far from our minds!



Nowadays, it looks as though Attica's retsina does not exist anymore! Young men and women, most of them educated abroad, have transformed their family press into a state-of-the-art winery with the latest equipment.

This tour will give the client a good insight into the modern wine industry of Greece.

10-DAY-PROGRAM

Day 1,	<p>Arrival in Athens and transfer to the hotel. Depending on flight, free for the rest of the day. Get to know this magic city and its turbulent life, which never seems to stop! In the late afternoon, we will have our first experience with a visit of the Megapanos winery. Mr. Megapanos, one of the leading experts and president of the Attica Winemakers Association, will give a lecture about what you will be visiting the next coming days and about wine producing in Greece in general. Dinner will be in a local restaurant – taverna : “To Chani tou Skorda” Return to the hotel and overnight.</p>
Day 2,	<p>Breakfast at the hotel. We will start the day with a ½ day city tour of Athens with professional English speaking guide, including a panoramic tour of Athens (Constitution Square, the House of Parliament, the Memorial of the unknown Soldier, the National Library, the Presidential Palace, the Panathenaic Stadium) and visit to the Acropolis, with the most famous monuments such as the Temple of Nike, the Erechtheion, the Parthenon and the Museum.</p>  <p>Free lunch in Plaka.</p>  <p>After lunch, we will continue the tour with a visit of the Semeli-Kokotos estate. Mrs. Anne Kokotos (British) will introduce you into the wine making and the most important products. The estate is as well renowned for its marvelous view.</p>  <p>Back to Athens. Dinner tonight at “Archaion Gevseis” : We invite you to enjoy the gastronomical preferences of our ancestors with old recipes (lost during centuries). The food, served by the ancient way, is surprising and very healthy, an unforgettable gastronomical experience. The whole environment and organization of the restaurant is a complete revelation, from the interior design until the dresses of the waiters.</p>  <p>All the plates of Archaion Gevseis are based on ancient recipes and with whatever was available in ancient times (no forks are used!). The information is printed as a newspaper “The Ancient news”, in which the client can find the menus, the ancient sources and stories as well concerning the daily life in classical Greece.</p> <p>Return to the hotel and overnight</p>

<p>Day 3,</p>	<p>Breakfast at the hotel. Today, we will explore Attica. Together with our guide, we will drive through the mainland (inner road) in order to arrive at Ktima Vassiliou. This third generation of wine makers has accomplished to produce very good wines and you will be able to taste them. The visitors' program includes: guided tour of the winery and the cava, slide show with explanation of the production, lunch in the winery together with the tasting of 4 different wine products.</p>   <p>After this, we will slowly proceed to Cape Sounion, one of the most visited spots of the Attic mainland, for a guided visit of the Poseidon temple. Return to Athens and dinner on the road in one of the famous fish taverns of Palaia Phokaia or at Kastellorizo in Varkiza. Overnight at the hotel.</p>
<p>Day 4,</p>	<p>Breakfast at the hotel. Departure for a tour of the Peloponnese with our professional English speaking guide. We will leave Athens by the coastal road to the Corinth canal (short stop for photo's and coffee). Continue to Nemea, the region known for its quite heavy red wines (once known as Hercules' Blood). Visit of the Skouras estate, producer of the finest wines. Lunch on the road.</p>   <p>Continue to Epidauros (best preserved ancient theatre of the ancient world) and Mycenae (Cyclopic walls, lions' gate) for a guided visit of these 2 archaeological sites. Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Nafplio.</p>
<p>Day 5,</p>	<p>Breakfast at the hotel.</p>  <p>In the morning we will visit the region of Mantinea, another interesting wine region. 2 estates are on the program: Spyropoulos and Tselepos Estate, 2 old mansions transformed into modern wineries.</p>  <p>Lunch in local taverna. After lunch, we will continue. On the road to Olympia, we will visit the archaeological site of Bassae with the temple of Apollon Epikourios, one of Greece's best preserved shrines. Overnight and dinner at the hotel in Olympia.</p> 
<p>Day 6,</p>	<p>Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning, visit of the archaeological site of Ancient Olympia, the cradle of the Olympic Games (the temple of Olympian Zeus and the museum). Lunch on the road After the guided visit, we will continue to the Mercouri estate, a beautiful</p> 

	<p>villa with gardens, tastefully preserved and stunningly landscaped. The owners are very intelligent people and fine experts in their field. Dinner and overnight at Porto Rio Resort, not far away from Patras.</p>
Day 7,	<p>Breakfast at the hotel. We will continue our exploration, driving to the Oenoforos estate, where we will taste one of the white wines, originating from the slopes of the mountains facing north towards the Gulf of Corinth (this region has a unique microclimate advantageous for grape growing). After the visit we will continue to Diakofto, where we will take the famous cog-wheel train, which will bring us through the Boraic gorge to reach Kalavryta. Lunch in Kalavryta and free time (or visit to the “Cave of Lakes”). Return to Patras, dinner and overnight at the hotel.</p>
Day 8,	<p>Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning, visit of the Achaia Claus winery, one of the most important Greek wineries. After lunch, we will cross the newly built bridge from Rio to Antirrio and climb up to Delphi with a visit of the archaeological site and its museum with the famous bronze statue of the charioteer. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.</p> 
Day 9,	 <p>Breakfast at the hotel. After breakfast, we will leave for the Hadzimichalis estate. The owner played an important role in altering the face of the Greek wine industry in the early 1980's. Now, Hadjimichalis has become a household name in Greece and producers of some of the most remarkable wines. Lunch on the road. Return to Athens and overnight at the hotel.</p>
Day 10,	<p>Breakfast at the hotel. Free until transfer to the airport.</p>