



*The*  
*Cyprus Wine*  
*Story*



A romantic Past - An exciting Present - A golden Future



*Cyprus Wine*  
4000 YEARS OF HISTORY



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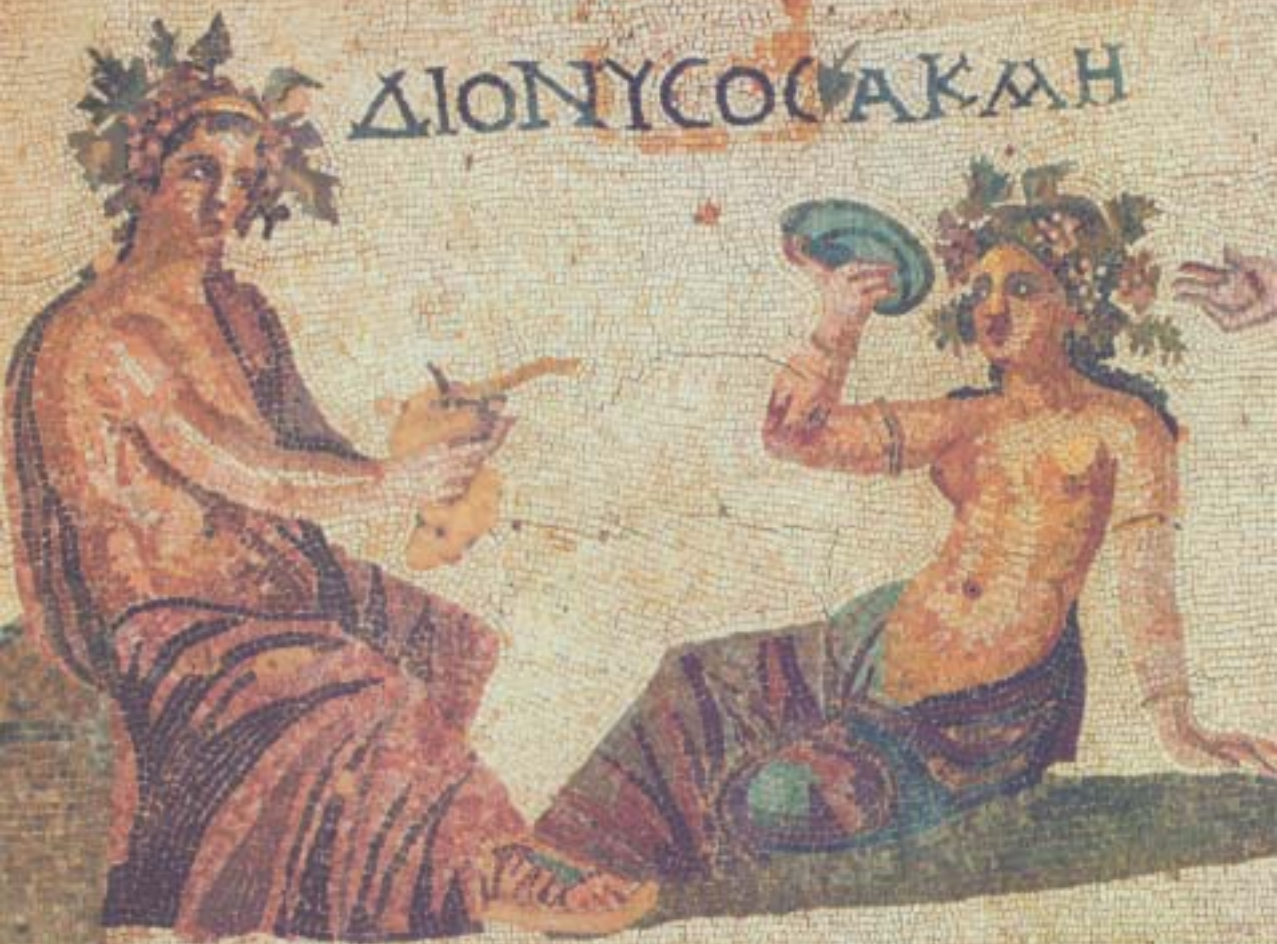
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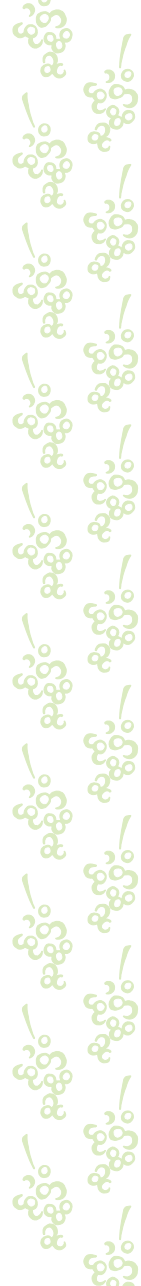




The cultivation of vines for dessert fruit and wine is relatively recent, the grape first having been cultivated in the Black Sea area around 8,000 years ago. From there it spread slowly south-eastwards to Mesopotamia, Syria and Egypt, from where it travelled across the Mediterranean to Greece, on to Italy, and so on. 4,000 years ago settlers from the mainland coast to the east came to Cyprus and, although there is no firm evidence to prove it, it is virtually certain they would have brought their wine-producing vines with them. When the Greeks

settled in Cyprus around 1200 B.C., it is likely they would have found wine already here, but of a very different style to the wines they were accustomed to. Thus, it is likely that there has been a wine industry in Cyprus continuously longer than anywhere else in the world.

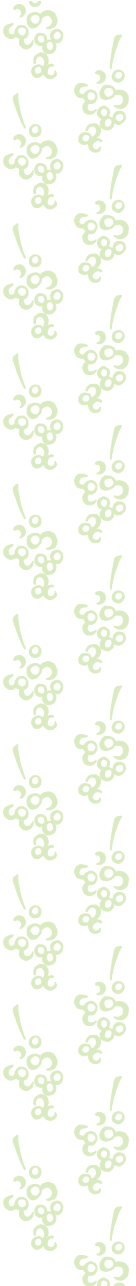
Facts are supported by legend and ancient history. The Song of Solomon praises Cyprus wines. In 800 B.C., Hesiodos described the making of Cyprus wines. The Greek poet Euripides writes of vast pilgrimages to Cyprus to taste the wine, or as it was then known "Cyprus Nama". Legend has it that the first mortal to be taught to make wine was Ikarios, whose teacher was Dionysos, the god of wine himself. The scene is, in fact, depicted in a mosaic in the House of Dionysos at Pafos in the Pafos Archaeological Park where other vinous scenes are also to be viewed. As well as this, fascinating archaeological evidence of vine culture and wine-making is to be seen in museums and other places.







Because of problems with sealing vessels to protect the wine from oxidation from the air, most early wines would have been sweet and the tradition of such wines in Cyprus was born. Sweet wines not only oxidise more slowly, but they travel better than dry wines. So callers to the Cyprus of old would have stocked their boats with its sweet wines. Little historical evidence exists to describe the wines of Cyprus between the Greco-Roman periods and the Middle ages, when the island endured drought, pestilence and regular wars, invasions and incursions. In the 11th century, when the Crusades commenced, from the sojourns here of Richard the Lionheart and those of the various Orders of Knights, came the generic description of the sweet wines of Cyprus: "Commandaria". In 1363 no less than five Kings met with the Mayor of London, in the building that today houses the Vintners' Society, to talk of various matters, such as the Crusades and wine. The wines served were in fact from Cyprus and were highly praised. Writers, priests, explorers, soldiers and rulers delighted in the Cyprus "sweeties"; bought them, shipped them, drank them. Their renown spread throughout the civilised world. But for Cyprus, invasion followed invasion. Three hundred years of Lusignan rule, ending in 1489, were followed by the Venetians (1489-1571), The Ottomans invaded in 1571 and stayed until 1878, when they ceded the island to Britain. In all this

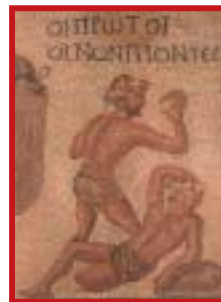






period little was done to help the vine-growers, especially under the Turks, who extracted iniquitous triple taxes from them and the wine-makers. Sadly, the Cyprus wines had waned and lost their fame. Then the 19th Century saw the birth of the modern wine industry. The House of Haggipavlu was founded in 1844, when the company exported wine in barrels all over the eastern Mediterranean. In 1893, Haggipavlu, by then making spirits as well as wines, built the first modern winery, in Zanatzia in the Lemesos district, with proper presses and fermentation tanks of stone. ETKO, which is part of the Haggipavlu group of companies is now a public company. Around the same time, an English family, the Chaplins, built a large wine-making plant at Pera Pedi, just below Platres and started making wine in fairly large quantities. In 1927, KEO Ltd. was formed and bought the Pera Pedi winery from the Chaplins.

The third of the "Big Four", LOEL formed in 1943, is a public company which was to develop big business with the countries of the Eastern Bloc. The fourth company, SODAP is also a co-operative, founded in 1947 by the vine-growers themselves. These "Big Four" Cypriot companies met the needs of the world - fortified wines for Northern Europe, from the 1940's onwards, bulk table wines for the partygoers of the 1960's and all kinds of grape products for markets all over the world.







In the early 1980's the Cyprus government encouraged small enterprises to establish and operate wineries of 50,000 to 300,000 bottles-a-year capacity, in the hill villages of the grape growing regions. The first of these was at Chrysorrogiatissa Monastery in the Pafos District. Today there are more than 20 registered regional wineries. Their contribution to the diversification of style and development of new wines has been immense. Each year brings advances in quality and the introduction of exciting new wines using local as well as famous international varieties of grapes.

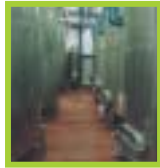
During this time the Big Four have also been very active.

They have developed new vineyards, of their own and through purchase. They have planted hundreds of thousands of new vines of well known varieties and re-discovered old Cyprus types. They have built new or restored old wineries in the hills, and enhanced their plants in Lemesos. Their laboratories have researched new production techniques and their oenologists have introduced new styles and new brands.

The combined talents of the large companies and the smaller regional wineries are giving the Cyprus industry bright prospects for the future, especially when the country joins the European Union in the near future.







## THE VINES, VINEYARDS AND WINES OF TODAY

The two main vine-growing regions are on the southern slopes of the Troodos in the Lemesos district and the south-western, in the Pafos district. The visitor may make enchanting tours, ranging from half a day to a week, or longer. There are many wineries open to the public, where wine may be tasted and purchased, tavernas in which to eat the traditional regional food and places to stay, from simple village-style to five-star.

Then, of course, everywhere you go you will see vineyards,

thousands upon thousands of them, with, according to the season, all kinds of work in progress, often carried out in ways that have not changed for centuries. Everywhere, you will be welcome.

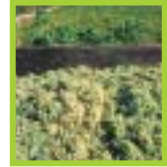
If you have visited vineyards in other countries, even the largest in Cyprus will seem relatively small, which adds to their charm. Even today, many are inaccessible to tractors and machinery and donkeys are widely used to take equipment into the vineyards and to bring out

the grapes. In some places donkeys and oxen may still be seen ploughing the vineyards.

Where possible, vineyards are being enlarged, especially by the big producers and mechanical methods of cultivation and harvesting introduced. As the demand for higher quality wines increases so the degree of care and attention the vines and grapes receive, grows too. Many old vines are now being removed and the vineyards replanted.

There are a few simple things





to remember when your journey into the wines of Cyprus begins. The most significant fact about today's Cyprus wines is that they are unique. Firstly, Cyprus has never been subjected to the predations of the Phylloxera beetle, as has every other wine-growing country in Europe.

Secondly, the vast majority of wine-grapes grown on the island are indigenous varieties, whose origins are, literally, lost in the mists of time. Indeed, several of these have only been re-discovered in recent years, nurtured and

replanted.

Most white wine is a 100% varietal of the Xynisteri grape, which makes a fresh white wine that is best drunk young. It can be light or bold, laid-back or fruity, according



to the wine-maker. It does not have the big nose and attack of Sauvignon Blanc, or the fat, fruitiness of Chardonnay. It is, well, Xynisteri, the white grape of Cyprus. Nicely chilled, it can easily captivate you.

Chardonnay, Riesling, Semillon and Sauvignon Blanc are grown in small quantities and have a characteristic that is essentially Cyprus.

Of the red grapes varieties, the unique-to-Cyprus Mavro is a low-acid variety that unusually also serves as a table grape. Some of our wine makers are making fresh,



young wine from 100% Mavro, which should be drunk within a year of bottling.

It is at its best when blended with 20% or thereabouts of higher-acid grapes, such as Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Grenache, Carignan Noir, Mataro or the local varieties Maratheftiko and Ophthalmo. There is a good selection from which to choose. The latest techniques and technologies are in use to produce mature wines that may be drunk young, whilst the more traditional methods of ageing in oak casks remain



for many of the vintage wines.

There is more variation in red wines than in white, because of the number of varieties available for blending and the fact that these do not grow in every region. A selection of varieties is available, from both small and large producers - made from Cabernet Sauvignon, Grenache, Maratheftiko and Mataro.

Nearly all the wineries in Cyprus make a selection of wines - red, rosé and white (often making dry, medium and sweet types).







"Commandaria", the "traditional" wine of the Crusaders is made largely by specialists, from grapes grown in strictly controlled "Appellation of Origin" areas. The grapes for this unique wine are laid out to partially dry in the sun before pressing and fermenting into the dark, sweet, treacly wine that has been so popular for centuries.

Cyprus fortified wines are immensely popular and extremely good value. They range from exceptional dryness, through dry and medium-sweet to very sweet

and are excellent before and after meals or as a mid-morning refresher. It should be remembered that the Cyprus industry is built not just on wine but on products which range from grape juice and concentrated grape must (which are exported in large quantities), through every type of wine to liqueurs and distillates of all kinds, including the famous "Zivania". These products are marketed, literally, all over the world.

And so, the wine lover visiting Cyprus has a whole new world of wine to sample

- there is literally a wine for every taste, for every occasion and every food. For wine tourists, the pleasures are considerable, because you may view very large plants dealing in millions upon millions of litres, where every type of wine is made and there are distilleries, too, to quite small village wineries making, say, 20,000 bottles a year. So, whether it is by organised tour, a small group, or on your own, a tour of the wine regions and the winemakers of Cyprus will be interesting, and rewarding.

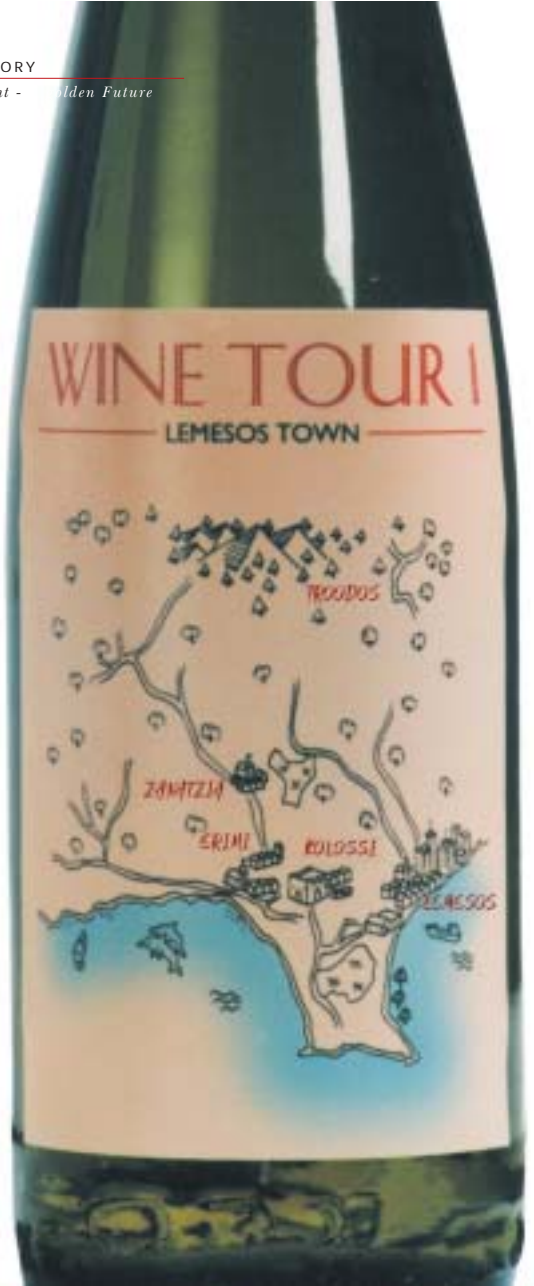




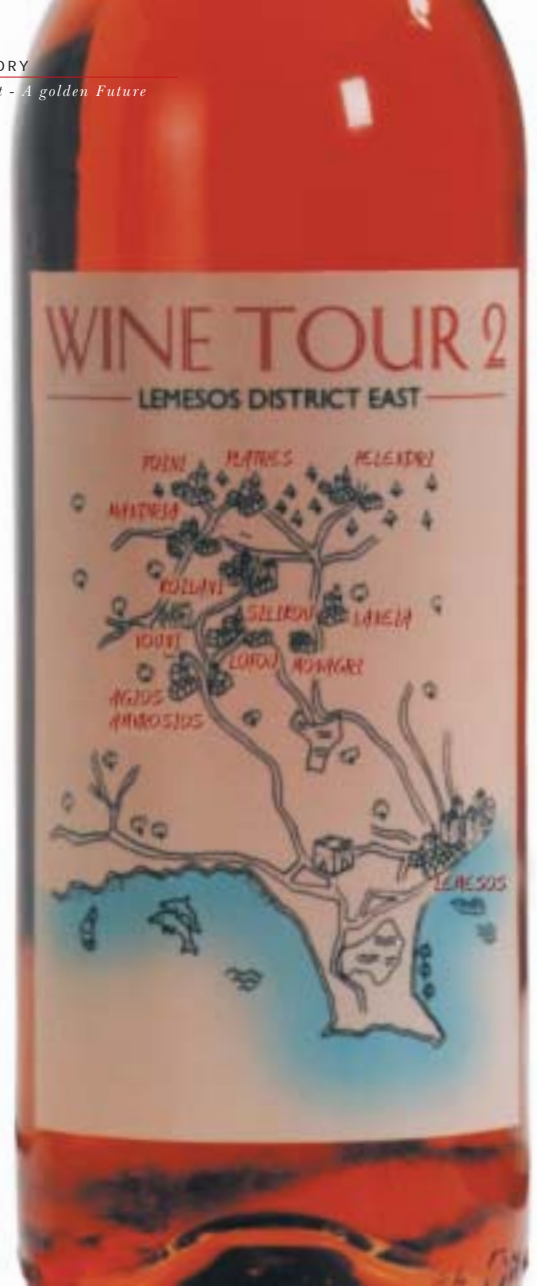
Within a few hundred metres, you may visit the four largest wine companies in Cyprus. From the Old Port of Lemesos they are within walking distance, to which bus services come from the tourist area and further afield. Obviously, there are some similarities between the four, because they make similar ranges of products from grapes grown in the hills, but for the wine taster a visit to each one is worth while in order to see the differences in style. All have tasting rooms and shops where the products may be purchased. You may make your own way there, or join an organised group leaving from the main hotels.



Every year in September, the Municipality of Lemesos organises a wine festival at the Municipal Gardens, when over 100,000 people enjoy more than a week of wine and food festivities. By 2001 a Museum of Wine will be open at Erimi Village, where the history and present day activities of the Cyprus wine industry will be graphically presented and wines of all kinds tasted and purchased.



Go up country on the Troodos road (B8) from Lemesos to the lovely Kourris valley with its pretty villages, countless orchards and vineyards and several winemakers. Divert to the charming village of Laneia, perhaps, with its flower-decorated, restored streets, craft shops and art galleries, before cutting down to Monagri, where you may see the modern Amasgos winery and the restored monastery, now a modern arts centre. In the area there are super tavernas at Lofou and Sylikou. Further up in the hills outside Pelendri is the pine-forested location of Pytsilia winery, a splendid place for a tasting. In Pelendri village one can visit the 14th century church of Timiou Stavrou. Platres is a delightful hill resort, with excellent hotels, restaurants and tavernas, walks, hikes and hill climbs, as well as sporting facilities. Naturally, Cyprus wine is available in the restaurants and hotels. Down past Kato Platres, you can detour to another hill village, Foini, famous for its pottery and Loukoumi sweets. Then, to Mandria, and the hidden away home of Antoniadades wines, and Koilani, where the Ayia Mavri winery is a charming Alpine style building. The village has a small but fascinating Vine museum and good traditional tavernas. You should also visit the Ecclesiastical Museum and the restored olive press. Every autumn the village holds the "Afamia" wine festival. After this, past the unspoilt village of Vouni, and some of Cyprus's best red grape vineyards and home of the Cyprus donkey sanctuary, down to Agios Amvrosios, the Ecological Winery, which now has several organic wines, and the road to the Lemesos-Pafos motorway.



Taking the E601 road from Erimi and Kantou towards Omodos you can call at Agios Amvrosios to start, if you haven't visited the winery on the main road on the previous tour. A few kilometres further on, cut off left to see the impressive new vineyards of KEO and its restored, state-of-the-art winery at Malia, and then travel on to Arsos, (a pretty village nestled in the hills) where there are the small bijou Nicolettino and the KEO-owned "Laona" wineries. There is a Folk Art museum here, too, which is worth a visit. Every autumn the village holds the "Palouze" festival. Back-track to the main road and travel on to Omodos, where there are three wineries (ETKO's Olympus on the northern side and, Marion and Linos on the road out of the village southwards. At all of these



there are excellent tasting facilities). There are other smaller winemakers, tavernas, shops and an attractive monastery. Village walks are extremely attractive, and the vast traditional wine press, just off the village square, should not be missed.

Heading south, turn off to Pachna and the family-run and welcoming Yiaskouris winery, as well as several tavernas. Take the country road on to Anogyra to the impressive "Chateau la Noyere". Anogyra is not far from the Pafos-Lemesos motorway.

**Visiting Kykko Monastery.** From Pafos you may come through the hills and forests, taking in the spectacular Cedar Valley along the way. From other directions it is best to take the road from Troodos, passing Pedoulas.

## WINE TOUR 3

### LEMESOS DISTRICT WEST





SODAP's sea-side winery can be the target for a morning visit and tasting, an excellent prelude to lunch at one of the many restaurants in Pafos. For a longer tour head northwards, taking the Polis road, to the Mesogi Industrial Estate, which is clearly signposted on the left side. The Fikardos winery, on this industrial estate is modern and functional, the welcome warm and the range of wines worth the journey. Kathikas, with several excellent eating places, has two wineries, K and K Vasilikon and the Sterna winery. At Statos, you may visit the Avakas winery and Amforeas Winery to look, taste and buy. Like most other wineries, here you may choose from a range of dry to medium red, white and rosé wines. Further into the hills, the winery at Vouni - Panagia is impressively sited and its cellars and tasting facilities are impressive, too. Nearby is the lovely Chrysorrogiatissa monastery, which makes a delightful visit, where you may also look at the winemaking plant, which is the oldest regional winery. In Pafos region you may also visit Lagria winery in Salamiou village and Nelion winery in Pretori village.



Wherever you travel there are coffee shops with a warm welcome, refreshments and, very, very often a complimentary glass of the wine either made by the proprietor or in the village. There are eating places ranging from the very simple taverna where charcoal grilled meat is the staple dish, to restaurants catering for every taste. And everywhere, there is wine, enabling you to get the real taste of Cyprus.

## WINE TOUR 4

PAFOS DISTRICT



## WINERIES IN LEMESOS TOWN

**ETKO Ltd** P O Box 50261, 3602 Lemesos, Tel: 25573391, Fax: 25573338, 25567424

Open to the public: Mon. – Fri. 8.00 a.m. to 2.30 p.m., etko@swaypage.com

**KEO Ltd** P O Box 50209, 3602 Lemesos, Tel: 25362053, Fax: 25578868, Open to the public: Organised groups, by arrangement, Monday to Friday - 8.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m., Individual visitors: Monday to Friday - 10.00 a.m. only

**LOEL Ltd** P O Box 50139, 3601 Lemesos, Tel: 25579344, Fax: 25877228

Open to the public: Mon. – Fri. 08.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.

**SODAP Ltd** P O Box 56314, 3306 Lemesos, Tel: 25564605, Fax: 25564013, Open to the public: Mon. – Fri. 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m., (Pafos winery also open at the same hours. Phone: 26932553, Fax: 26964553)

These companies are the largest producers in Cyprus. All make a wide range of table and premium wines, as well as fortified wines, aperitifs, Cyprus brandy, ouzo and other distilled products. The "Big Four", as they are known, are unique in the world, because of the range of grape products they make. They have built and maintained their businesses by travelling the world and supplying the needs of the markets. Today they are concentrating increasingly on building a Cyprus wine industry in which Cyprus-bottled quality wine is the most important part.

## LEMESOS DISTRICT REGIONAL WINERIES

**Amasgo Winery** 4746 Monagri or PO Box 50445, 3605 Lemesos, Tel: 25360612, Fax: 25356893

Open to the public: by arrangement, Contact Mr Soti Siakalli or Tonis Antoniou

**M. Antoniadis Winery** 4778 Mandria, or 16 Kritis, 3087 Lemesos, Tel: 25422638, 25384121, Fax: 25384121

Open to the public: please contact Mr M. Antoniadis, Mon. - Sun. after 3.00 p.m or Sat. morning

**Ayia Mavri Winery** P O Box 50527, 3606 Lemesos, or 4776 Koilani, Tel: 25370777, 25470225, Fax: 25365233

Open to the public: daily please contact Ms Yiannoula Ioannidou.

**Christoforos Tsolakis Winery** Anapavseos 12, 4860 Agros, Tel: 99699954, 25521893, Open every day: 08.00-19.00

**Ecological Winery of Ayios Amvrosios** 4710 Agios Amvrosios, Lemesos District, Tel: 25243981, Fax: 25243982

Open to the public: Mon.– Fri., 8.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m., Call George or Joanna Yiallourous in advance.

**Kapouralis Winery**, Agios Demetrios, 4842 Lemesos, Tel: 22489702, Opening hours: Contact: Mr Giorgos Panagides

**Konstantinou Winery**, Pera Pedi 4779 Lemesos, Tel: 99681341, Please contact Mr Kostas Konstantinou

Open to the public: every day 08.00 a.m.–2.00 p.m.

**Kostas N. Erimoudis**, Koilani, 4776 Lemesos, Tel: 99625826, 25334305, For visits please contact: Mr Kostas Erimoudis

**Lambouris Winery** 4820 Platres, Tel: 99440048, Please contact Mr Chr. Lambouris

**Laona Arsos Model Winery (KEO Ltd)** Arsos Village, 4770 Lemesos District, Tel: 25943200

Visits: Monday to Friday mornings.

**La Noyere Winery**, 4603 Anogira or 24 Feidiou, 3075 Lemesos, Tel. and fax: 25221709, Contact Mr Nicos Nicolaidis,

Open to the public: Mon. – Fri. 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

**Linos Winery**, 4750 Omodos, Tel: 25422700, 25366987, Fax: 25421354, Open to the public, every day.

Contact: Mr Herodotos Herodotou



**Marion Winery**, 4760 Omodos, Tel: 25421797, 99556630, Fax: 25421660

Open to the public: every day, Contact: Mr Marios Ioannides

**Marki Ltd**, 4776 Koilani, Tel: 25368630, 25470216, contact: Ms Magda Anthousi

**Menargos Winery Ltd**, 4746 Monagri, Tel: 99478279, 25433674, for visits please contact: Mr Nicos Aristidou

**Nikolettino Winery**, 4770 Arsos, or P.O. Box 6350, 3306 Lemesos, Tel: 99437137, Fax: 25576508,

Open to the public: 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Monday to Friday. Contact: Mr Yiannakis Achilleos

**Olympus Winery Ltd. (ETKO)**, 4760 Omodos or P.O BOX 50261, 3602 Lemesos, Tel: 25422380, 25573391,

Fax: 25573338, Open to the public: Monday-Friday 09.00-08.00p.m., Saturday 09.00 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.

**Tsiakkas Winery (Pitsilia Winery)**, Georgiou Sourri 2, 3027 Lemesos, Tel: 25991080, 99624449, 99567898,

Fax: 25344683, Open to the public: every day. Contact Mr Kostas & Marina Tsiakka

**Yiaskouris Winery**, 4700 Pachna, Tel: 25374082, 99633730 or 25351662, Open to the public,

please contact Mr Christakis Yiaskouris, Mon. - Fri. After 3.30p.m or Sat. all day

**Vlasides Winery**, 4776 Koilani, Tel: 99441574, 25471482, Please contact Mr Sofoklis Vlasides

**Zinon Winery**, 4760 Omodos, Tel: 99492979, 25421781, Opening hours. Contact Mr Zinonas Zinonos

## PAFOS DISTRICT REGIONAL WINERIES

**Amforeas Winery** Statos - Ay. Fotios, 8651 Pafos, Tel: 99479330, 26724090, Fax: 26232123

Open to the public: 08.00 a.m.-1.30 p.m., 2.30 p.m.-07.00 p.m., Contact Mr Marios Kolios

**Avakas Winery**, 8651 Pafos District, Statos, Tel: 26245792, 99632562, Fax: 26722425

Open to the public: Monday to Friday, working hours, but first contact Mr Giannakis Efstathiou

**Fikardos Winery**, 8280 Mesogi, P.O.Box 62200, 8061 Pafos, Tel: 26249814, Fax: 26238517,

Open to the public: 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m., Monday - Saturday, Contact Mr Theodoros Fikardos

**K & K Vasilikon Winery**, 8573 Kathikas, Tel: 26632520, 99466960, Fax: 26633500

Open to the public: 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m., Monday - Friday, Contact Mr Yiannos Kyriakidis

**Lagria Winery**, Salamiou, 8620 Pafos, Tel. 26442279, 99425273, 99346990

Visiting hours: 10.00 a.m.-1.00 p.m. Contact: Mr Kostakis Avgousti

**Monte Royia Winery**, Chrysorrogiatissa monastery, 8649 Pafos, Tel. 26722455, 99626642, Fax. 26722819

Open to the public: Monday to Friday, Contact Mr Andreas Fetta

**Nelion Winery**, Pretori, 8630 Pafos, Tel: 25442445, 99666414, Visiting hours: 10.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m.,

Contact: Mr Neophytos Ioannou



## PAFOS DISTRICT REGIONAL WINERIES

**Shoufas Winery Ltd** Koillineia 2, 8646 Pafos, Tel: 99435436, 26933316, Open: Every day, 10.00-19.00

**Sterna Winery**, 8573 Kathikas, Tel. and fax: 99699082, Open to the public: every day from 9.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

Contact Mr Savvas Chrysanthou

**Vouni Panayia Winery**, 8640 Panagia, Pafos District, Tel: 26722770, 26722878 , Fax: 26722 879, Open to the public: every day, from 08.00 a.m to 05.30 p.m, Contact Mr Andreas Kyriakides

## LEFKOSIA DISTRICT REGIONAL WINERIES

**Aes Ambelis Winery** Kalo Chorio Orinis, P.O.Box 16131, 2086 Lefkosia, Open to the public: , please contact Mr Savvas Fakoukakis, Tel. 99635469, 22991500, Fax: 22491945

**Krelan Winery** Dali 2540 Lefkosia, Tel: 22610015, 99663577, 99813075, Visiting hours: every day, Contact: Mrs Alexia Christoudiou

**Kykkos Winery**, P.O.Box 24850, Kykkos Monastery, 1304 Lefkosia, Tel: 22942729, 99621368, Fax: 22942730, Open to the public: 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

### **Note for visitors**

*It should be remembered that many of the regional wineries are relatively small enterprises, where the contact name is the proprietor/winemaker himself. Therefore, in order to avoid disappointment, it is recommended that when you are planning your visit (unless you are going in an organised pre-arranged group) you should telephone the day before to see if the winery will be open.*

### **CYPRUS TOURISM ORGANISATION** (Head Office)

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Tel. 22691100, telefax: 22331644

E-mail: [cytour@cto.org.cy](mailto:cytour@cto.org.cy)

Web-site: [//www.visitcyprus.org.cy](http://www.visitcyprus.org.cy)

### **Lefkosia (Nicosia)**

Aristokyprou 11

Laiki Geitonia (East of Plateia Eleftherias)

CY 1011, Lefkosia, Tel: 22674264

### **Lemesos (Limassol)**

Spyrou Araouzou 115 A'

CY 3036 Lemesos, Tel. 25362756

### **Germasogeia**

Georgiou A', 22

CY 4047 Lemesos, Potamos tis Germasogeias

Tel. 25323211

### **Lemesos Harbour**

Tel. 25571868

### **Larnaka**

Plateia Vasileos Pavlou

CY 6023 Larnaka,

Tel. 24654322

### **Larnaka International Airport**

CY 7130 Larnaka,

Tel. 24643576

### **Pafos**

a) Gladstonos 3

CY 8046, Pafos

Tel. 26932841

b) Leoforos Poseidonos 63A

CY 8042 Kato Pafos, Tel 26930521

### **Pafos International Airport**

CY 8320, Pafos, Tel. 26423161

### **Polis**

Vasileos Stasioikou A' 2

CY 8820 Polis Chrysochous,

Tel. 26322468

### **Paralimni - Protaras**

Leoforos Protara - Kavos Gkreko 356

CY 5296 Protaras - Paralimni

Tel. 23832865

### **Agia Napa**

Leoforos Kryou Nerou 12

CY 5330 Agia Napa, Tel. 23721796

### **Platres**

CY 4820, Platres, Tel. 25421316

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CYPRUS TOURISM ORGANISATION