



CYPRUS
WINE
ROUTES

route **6**
Pitsilia

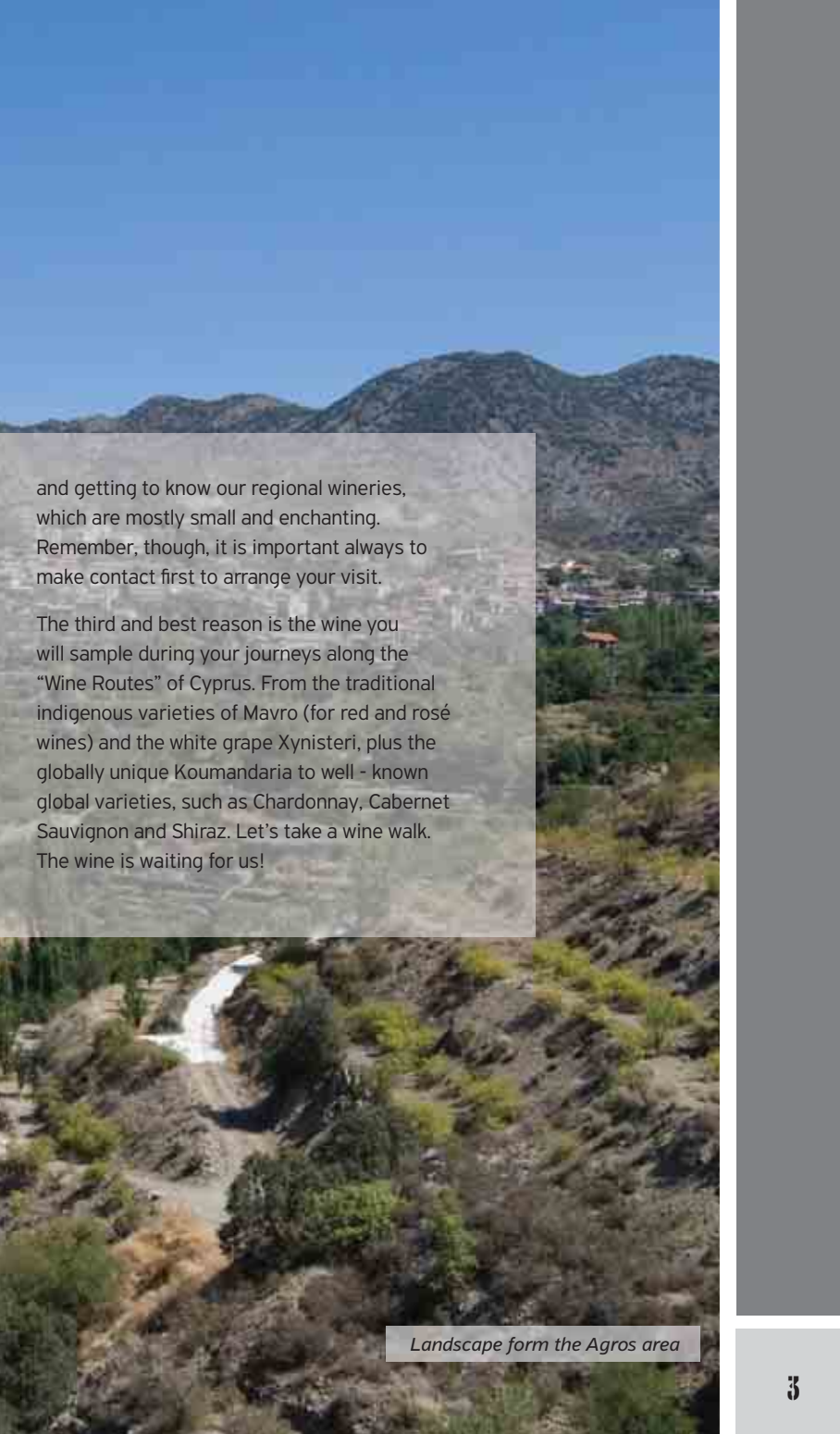
cheers along!



**Come -tour, taste
and enjoy!**

Wine is not a new story for Cyprus. Recent archaeological excavations which have been undertaken on the island have confirmed the thinking that this small tranche of earth has been producing wine for almost 5000 years. The discoveries testify that Cyprus may well be the cradle of wine development in the entire Mediterranean basin, from Greece, to Italy and France.

This historic panorama of continuous wine history that the island possesses is just one of the reasons that make a trip to the wine villages such a fascinating prospect. A second important reason is the wines of today -finding



and getting to know our regional wineries, which are mostly small and enchanting. Remember, though, it is important always to make contact first to arrange your visit.

The third and best reason is the wine you will sample during your journeys along the “Wine Routes” of Cyprus. From the traditional indigenous varieties of Mavro (for red and rosé wines) and the white grape Xynisteri, plus the globally unique Koumandaria to well - known global varieties, such as Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz. Let’s take a wine walk. The wine is waiting for us!

Landscape form the Agros area

route 6

Pitsilia

Lemesos, Agia Fyla, Palodeia, Alassa, Trimiklini, Pelendri, Potamitissa, Dymes, Kyperouna, Chandria, Polystypos, Alona, Agros, Agios Ioannis, Agios Theodoros

Here the wine tourist will find a wonderful mountain environment for the growing of grapes in small family-owned vineyards, for the area's wineries





Traditional house at Saranti

WILD... AND BEAUTIFUL

This route takes us through the eastern aspects of the Troodos Mountains. It is called Pitsilia, and the tourist comes upon 14 villages involved in vine growing or winemaking in one way or another.

The road twists upwards and round the steep hills and villages are dramatically revealed as we round the bends. The peaks of Troodos look down on the vineyards, the highest, Olympus, at 1952 m, followed by Madari at 1672 m and Papoutsas at 1530 m.

In this almost wild landscape, cultivated land clings to the steep slopes, a tribute to man's determination. Trees abound, in orchards, gardens, streets and yards. But the loveliest array of greenery is that of the vineyards. Their produce supplies the two wineries we can visit on this itinerary.

Rural life in Cyprus has always been hard. People's lives were related to the land and geared to the seasons and the moon's phases. Many growers still plan their pruning and other aspects of the vine year by the moon's positions -which some modern organic winemakers are returning to. For the wine-lover each season brings something different: the cold winter lull in vine growth and vine pruning... Spring, and the warming of the air bringing shoots of new growth. Then, summer and the watch to ensure healthy vines and grapes. And, finally, as the hot months fade into autumn, the making of the year's wine. Vine leaves turn gold, red and dark and then fall -their greenery replaced by new grass and plant growth following the autumn and winter rains.

general characteristics



"Mavro", a common grape variety of the area

Plenty goes on in Pitsilia villages, quite a lot of it to do with food and wine. The area is surrounded by four forests: Troodos forest in the west, Machairas forest in east, the Adelfoi Forest in the north, and Lemesos forest to the south. It is dominated by the peak of Madari (1,672 m). Generally, there is ample rainfall here.

Noted for its scenery and its many activities, the Pitsilia area is also well known for the friendliness and hospitality of its residents. Two wineries lie before us to look at, taste and enjoy...

- **Climate:** This is pleasant light Alpine -winters can be fresh and cold, with frosts and snowfalls. Summers are warm and pleasant with the altitude to temper the sun's heat,
- **Terrain:** The region is mountainous, but there are substantial cultivated areas that co-exist with the natural vegetation and woodlands. The soil is usually grey in colour, as befits a limestone area, with some sandy constituents.
- **Vineyards:** 32 villages of the region are included in the area of production of "Controlled Denomination of Origin" (WCNO) "Pitsilia". Apart from local Mavro and Xynisteri, 11 other varieties of vines are cultivated.
- **Red Varieties:** Othhalmo, Maratheftiko, Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Mataro, Mavro, Shiraz, Lefkada.
- **White Varieties:** Xynisteri, Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Malaga.



A vineyards vista around the Chandria area



the route



We leave the A1 Motorway and take the B8 road towards Troodos. It is a wide road and we can make speedy progress upwards. After a few kilometres we drop down into a valley which opens into the largest Reservoir in Cyprus, Kouris, whilst on our right is Alassa village. Motoring further north we come to Trimiklini village which constitutes the lower boundary of the Pitsilia area.

Strung along either side its newly re-built main road, Trimiklini preserves its village identity. It's worth a stop for the shops, coffee shops and places to eat. Year-round there are stalls selling local fruits, preserves and other food products. In the village, too, there are good places to buy basketwear and pottery. Truly a modern Cypriot village!

A little northwards, we turn right on the E806 to Pelendri village. The road takes a spectacular climb, with scenery marked by rocky outcrops and pine trees. Sadly, areas here have been decimated by recent fires, leaving a moonscape rather than the greenery we are accustomed to. Incredibly good fortune stalled the fires at the gates of our first wine stop: up a winding track

deep in what was the forest is "TSIAKKAS WINERY", a ten year old family business, whose founder gave up banking to start the winery. Even after the fires this is a spectacular location to taste Cyprus wines.

Costas and Marina Tsiakkas make wines from both indigenous and international grape varieties. They strive to enhance quality with the help of specialised oenologists and are achieving success. Their team is passionately dedicated and their enthusiasm charms visitors. You may try whites made from Chardonnay, Xynisteri and Sauvignon Blanc, and their red Cabernet Sauvignon is also praised.

Group visits are preferred, by prior appointment. There are facilities for tastings and sales, snacks and picnics.

We leave the winery and re-join the E806, turning left towards Pelendri. This is semi-circularly located in the hillsides overlooking the River Limnatis Valley. There is old and new here, as befits a village with its own businesses and agricultural activities, with recently built homes side by side with old.



Typical "Wine Routes" sign



“Soudjoukos”, a traditional Cyprus sweet

The bustling main street of Pelendri can be quite testing for the driver, but it is only a couple of minutes before we are through and on our way to Potamitissa (3 km), and, a little further on, Dymes village. Though these hamlets do have some permanent residents, many houses are weekend places for city dwellers. Those who do live here have some lovely homes, with shaded courtyards.

We pass through Dymes and head for Kyperounta village, four km away. This is one of the larger villages of Pitsilia and continues to grow. It is a green patchwork of dwellings, smallholdings and vineyards, very near to the forest. Our second wine port-of-call is just outside, on the way to Handria.

“KYPEROUNTA” Winery is accommodated in modern, purpose-built premises, with pleasant views down the slopes. This is a medium sized winery with annual production rising beyond 300,000 bottles. It is owned by the Photos Photiades group, notable for their Carlsberg Cyprus Brewery. They have utilised the expertise of Greece’s largest wine producer, Boutari, to develop this winery.

As a result the range of the wines, produced by skilled oenologists, is achieving deserved success. Try the white “Petritis” Xynisteri and Chardonnay; the red blend “Andessitis” as well as the Cabernet Sauvignon.

Visits are by arrangement. The conducted tour has English and Greek commentaries and there are facilities for tasting and buying the wines.

Close by, we find Chandria village. Here the altitude is around 1300 m, with Madari peak 300 metres higher. On its south side, with pine trees prominent, the Mavro and Xynisteri grapes grow in little, utterly timeless vineyards. No mechanical cultivation or harvesting here!

Lagoudera, the next village, is a pretty little settlement built in amphitheatric style on the northern side of Madari, maintains its traditional character. Higher than Lagoudera, in a north-westerly direction, we move on to Saranti village, where we may visit the Virgin Mary of Arakas Monastery. It is a typical 12th century provincial church with wooden roof adapted to the mountainous areas.



Traditional wine-storage jars



It is included in UNESCO's list of World Cultural Heritage monuments.

From Lagoudera our road moves south taking us to Polystypos at an altitude of 1 150 m. It's a lovely little place, rich in almond, walnut and cherry trees, surrounded by vineyards of our own Cyprus grapes.

From here turn eastwards awhile to Alona village, about four kilometres. At the entry to the village lies the fountain "I Vrisi ton Poulion", which is quite hidden. Best to get out and find it on foot. It is an isolated place, cool and silent, but in a way full of life! Colours and aromas assail one's senses. And then down into the village, with tree shaded streets and stone steps to take us around.

Our next stop is Agros, south-west of Alona, a distance of a little more than 15 km. The first half of the way is rural and packed with mostly "Mavro" grapes. There's a wild beauty here, the trademark of the Pitsilia area! In the second half of the way we pick up the E903 road that runs down from Palaichori.



A flowering almond tree at Agros



"Ofthalmo", one of the grape varieties here

At an altitude of 1 100 m Agros is the heart of the Pitsilia area. It is a large place, and a tourist centre for locals and foreigners alike, with good accommodation, and related services. Local Industries include rose and flower waters, bottled water, wine, flowers, honey and preserves.

The village streets demonstrate architecture of many generations -and virtually every house has its balconies with attendant flowers in hanging pots. Agros is vibrant!

Now we drive south and after three kilometres reach Agios Ioannis, a picturesque village. Its immediate neighbour is Agios Theodoros, our last stop before returning to Lemesos. It used to be called Eptalofos, meaning Seven Hills. It is a village with a unique character, with a seldom-seen harmony of people and nature. Streets planted with pines take your eye to the forest, to the fields and vineyards. Various trees mingle with each other, and all seem to embrace the entire village.

And so we say Farewell to the Pitsilia area. Descending southwards, we pass Zoopigi, Gerasa and Paramytha (the home village

of Cyprus's tennis star Marcos Bagdatis). Finally we pass the hospitable Palodia village, and we end the tour at Agia Fyla, just north of Lemesos. The distance did not exceed 120 kilometres, but its many sights will remain with us.





wineries

KYPEROYNTA WINERY

25532043, 99589612, 99613362
Kyperounta, Lemesos

TSIAKKAS WINERY

25991080, 99567898, Pelendri, Lemesos
www.tsiakkaswinery.com

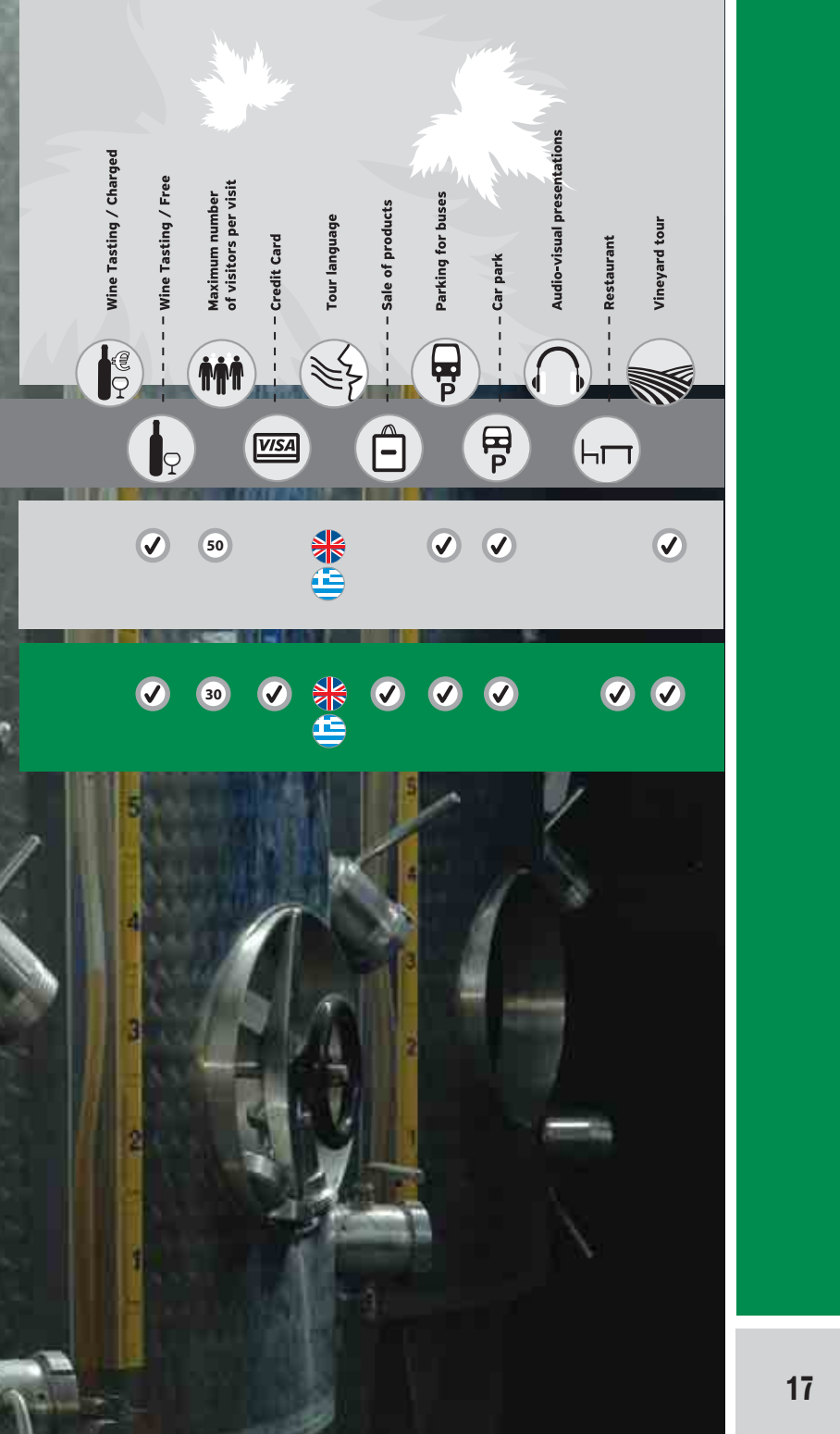
tavernas / restaurants

DIONYSOS RESTAURANT (RODON HOTEL)

25521201, Agros, Lemesos
www.rodonhotel.com

TO PEZEMA

25521046, 99551381
Steliou Hadjipetri 50, Agros, Lemesos



Wine Tasting / Charged

Wine Tasting / Free

Maximum number of visitors per visit

Credit Card

Tour language

Sale of products

Parking for buses

Car park

Audio-visual presentations

Restaurant

Vineyard tour



50



30





for a good
night's sleep...



A house with a vineyard in Potamitissa

AGRO-TOURISTIC ACCOMMODATION

NAME	LOCATION	TELEPHONE
Agrovino	Lofou	25470202, 99468151
Anerada	Apsiou	99649331
Antony's Garden House	Episkopi	25932502, 25932748
Arkela	Vasa Koilaniou	25375355
Blue	Apsiou	25822670, 99649331
Cornaro House	Arsos	25358836, 99314684
Dia's House	Arsos	25372368, 99636046
Mavrikios Village Apartments	Koilani	99642763
Moustos House	Arsos	99604955
Nicolas & Maria's Cottage	Anogyra	99406091, 99525462
Niki's House	Agios Athanasios	99334671
Themis House	Lemithou	22422938, 25462525
Vouni Lodge	Vouni	22323385, 99685395

HOTELS

Forest Park	Platres	25421751
New Helvetia	Platres	25421348
Pendeli	Platres	25421736
Edelweiss	Platres	25421335
Minerva	Platres	25421731
Petit Palais	Platres	25422723
Kallithea	Platres	25421746
Rodon	Agros	25521201
Vlachos	Agros	25521330



Vines on a backdrop of Polystypos

WEB - ADDRESS

www.lofou-agrovino.com

www.agrotourism.com.cy

www.agrotourism.com.cy

www.arkela.com.cy

www.agrotourism.com.cy

www.agrotourism.com.cy

www.agrotourism.com.cy

www.agrotourism.com.cy

www.agrotourism.com.cy

www.agrotourism.com.cy

www.nikishouse.com

www.themishouse.com

www.agrotourism.com.cy

www.forestparkhotel.com.cy

www.pendelihotel.com

www.edelweisshotel.com.cy

www.petitpalaishotel.com

www.rodonhotel.com

Production: Cyprus Tourism Organisation

www.visitcyprus.com

Text: Patrick Skinner

Design: Appios & Metaxas Communications Ltd

Photography: CTO Archives

Printing: J.G Cassoulides & Son Ltd

10' 2008



The project has been implemented by the Cyprus Tourism Organisation and co-funded 50% by the European Regional Development Fund of the European Union (ERDF) and 50% by national resources.

The task of ERDF is:

«Helping reduce the gap between development levels and living standards among the regions and the extent to which least-favoured regions are lagging behind. Helping redress the main regional imbalances in the Community by participating in the development and structural adjustment of regions whose development is lagging behind and the economic and social conversion of regions».

ISBN 978-9963-44-097-9



EUROPEAN UNION



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS



CYPRUS
TOURISM ORGANISATION