



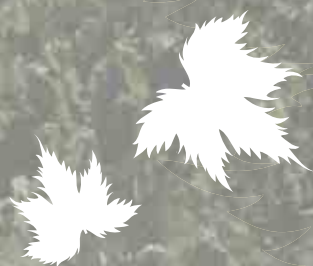
**CYPRUS
WINE
ROUTES**

route

2

**Vouni Panagias -
Ampelitis**

cheers along!

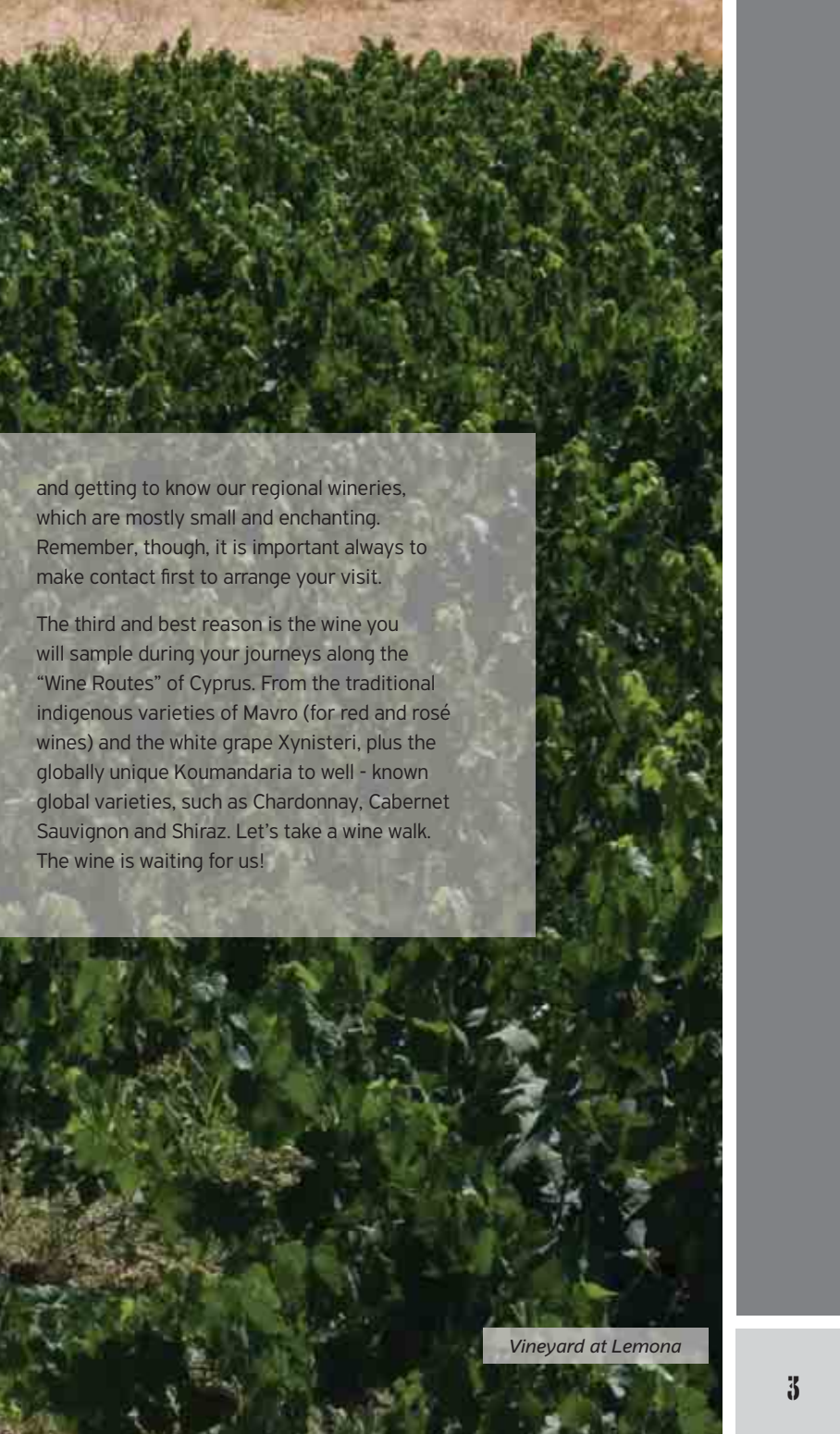


**Come -tour, taste
and enjoy!**

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!

Vineyard at Lemona

Here in this wine region, legend meets reality, as you travel ages old terrain, to encounter the young oenologists making today's stylish Cyprus wines in 21st century wineries.



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2002年12月 第11卷第4期





Inside a Winery in Chrysorrogiatissa

VISIONS OF DIONYSOS AND WINE RIVERS...

If you have seen the Mosaics at Kato Pafos you will know of the early depictions of winemakers and wine drinking. In the “House of Dionysos” - God of wine, we can see King Ikarios holding the reins of two oxen drawing a cart loaded with wine. Mythology has it that Ikarios, encouraged by Dionysos, was the first human wine-maker. The mosaic of the first “Wine drinkers” shows one with a jug of wine and the other distinctly the worse for wear....

The myth which inspired the mosaic tells us that, after the first wine drinkers had over-imbibed, they thought Ikarios had tried to poison them, so they killed him. What it doesn't tell us is how the knowledge acquired by Ikarios as the first winemaker was passed on. Presumably, as the art and craft of winemaking spread and grew, he must have handed on the know-how before departing this life!

Indeed, in Cyprus as elsewhere, winemaking is an ancient activity, handed down from father to son. There is tradition aplenty in Cyprus wine and there are many villagers who still make it in the old terracotta pots called Pithari. Today's winemakers courteously lend an eye and an ear to the myths and traditions of wine, but their wineries house the most up to date, frequently computerised and nearly always temperature-controlled equipment. They are also well trained, often having graduated in oenology from Universities abroad. There is also a government-sponsored Vines and Wines Institute in Lemesos which has done marvellous work in the development of Cyprus wine. Our winemakers are young, charming, passionate about their work, friendly and hospitable.

Nevertheless, for the romantic, here legend meets reality... And there is more to it than vines and wine -just one aspect is to revel in the naturalness of the countryside with its diverse range of trees... oak, olives, walnuts, cypresses, pines, poplars and more.

general characteristics



Typical "Wine Routes" sign

North-Eastwards from Pafos it is hilly and we can see the south-western ridges and peaks of the Troodos range. Open vistas of vineyards and other cultivation change as we wind our way upwards where groups of oak trees (*Quercus infectoria*) may be seen. In the north-eastern corner of this itinerary occur handsome and often dense pine woods. Sometimes the region is almost wild, and so is home to plentiful wild life -plants, trees, animals and birds. It also offers us the chance to visit seven wineries.

- **Climate:** The region reaches an altitude of 1,141 metres at its highest, which naturally brings higher rainfall than lower areas. The climate is mostly mild.
- **Terrain:** Flanking the narrow valley alongside the river running through the area, the region's grounds possess a mostly clay to gypsum-clay structural composition.
- **Grape Varieties:** Most of the villages of this way belong in the region of production "Controlled Denomination of Origin" (WCNO) "Vouni Panagias - Ampelitis". There are no less than 27 different grape varieties to be found, with substantial plantings of Carignan Noir and Cabernet Sauvignon. Among others present are Muscat of Alexandria and Palomino.
- **White Grapes:** Xynisteri, Palomino, Malvasia L., Malvasia G., Ugni Blanc, Plant X., Sauvignon Blanc, Riesling, Semillon, Chardonnay, Sultana, Malaga, Muscat of Alexandria
- **Red Grapes:** Mavro, Othlamo, Maratheftiko, Lefkada, Carignan Noir, Mataro, Oellade, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Alicante B., Black Muscat, Grenache, Shiraz, Merlot



Traditional “Linos” (grapes press) between Eledio and Amargeti villages

the route

From Pafos we take the B7, sign-posted to Polis, passing through the newly built suburban areas of the town, with their many shops, showrooms and businesses. Turn for Tsada, pass by and drive a further 5 km, and then take a right turn to Polemi.

This is a moderate sized village with old rural dwellings amongst the new. It's not really necessary to say there are vineyards all around! A former religious establishment, called the "Metochi of Kykkos", is worth having a look at. Not long ago renovated and now a cultural centre, it's open every day and welcomes visitors. To find it you turn left before the school on the road leaving the village, and then follow the signs on your right.

Leaving Polemi the E703 takes a north-eastern direction, and after two kilometres, we reach Psathi. The village has a most favourable elevation, surrounded by greenery and overlooks the River Polis Valley.

Just one kilometre further, we come to Agios Dimitrianos, a smaller, but equally green village as Psathi. Between the two settlements the "Arnies" nature trail commences. Three km beyond, in the depth of the valley of the river of Ezousa, we come



across Kannaviou, with a panoramic view on the left. At the village entrance there is a very old oak tree, and, opposite, the "EZOYSA" winery. It is a modern facility built in 2003, which makes a range of wines from local grape producers.

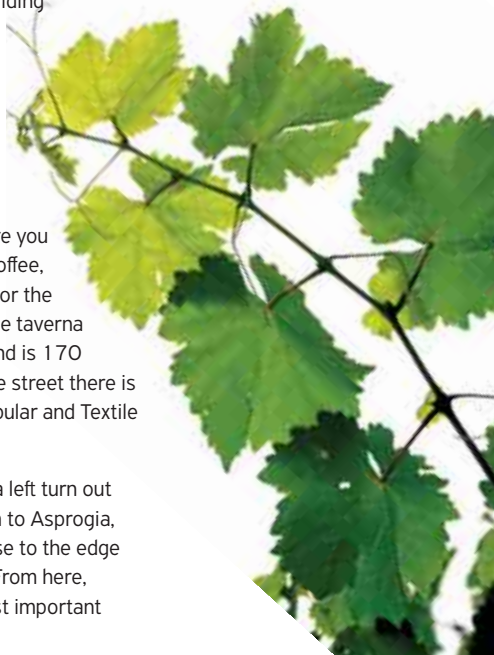
The owner and winemaker Michael Constantinides welcomes visitors and he has a comfortable tasting room. Michael makes around 50,000 bottles of wine a year, in five main styles, using both indigenous and international grape varieties. Recommended are: "Ayios Chrysostomos", a dry, fresh and fruit young white wine made from the Xynisteri grape; the crisp, dry, Maratheftiko rosé, "Eros" and the fragrant and rich berry-like Cabernet Sauvignon "Aenos".

The winery isn't the only appealing thing about Kannaviou. Just beyond the winery there is a place to walk and relax by the river, whilst a further stroll up the street reveals the village's unique taverna. The nature study path, "Palloures", starts at Kannaviou. It offers the nature-lover a lot to see, note and enjoy... wild and cultivated plants and trees abound: vines, almonds, oranges, walnuts, olives, eucalyptuses and oaks, to name but a few.



Vineyards vista at Vouni Panagias

Leaving the village in a northerly direction, and in sight of Kannaviou Reservoir, we make a small detour to our left to the pretty villages of Kritou Marottou and Fyti. These are long established settlements, inheritors of the old and traditional rural ways. At Fyti the Church tops the village's little streets, all winding around the slopes. This is a super place for a stroll, providing you with a charming view of Kritou Marottou, Kannaviou and Agios Dimitrianos. Here, mostly local stone is used in construction, and several types of single and double arches may be seen. You can relax at the Fyti taverna, where you will find locals chatting over coffee, as well as visitors who come for the excellent cooking of Maria. The taverna was once the village school and is 170 years old. A few metres up the street there is an interesting museum of Popular and Textile Art.



Retracing our steps, we take a left turn out of Kannaviou and drive six km to Asprogia, a small vinicultural village close to the edge of the dense forest of Pafos. From here, the street leads us to the most important



destination of this route, Pano Panagia. Just outside the village, at 850 metres altitude, we find the “VOUNI PANAYIA WINERY”.

This modern wine production plant is one of the largest regional wineries of Cyprus. The view from its balconies is absolutely stunning, covering a great portion of the Pafos district, north-westwards from Chrysochou Bay to the Akamas and the Laona heights, in a broad sweep south-east to the coast at Pafos Airport. At this point, too, rise the hills of “Vouni”, with the Monastery of Panagia Chrysorrogiatissa in sight. Here you will see vineyards located at least a thousand metres above sea level.

Established in 1987 in temporary premises, the “VOUNI PANAYIA WINERY” is now housed in a custom-built plant which was designed to welcome visitors, too. The facilities include tasting and buying areas and a restaurant. Conducted tours take in the large and attractive cellars, where oak barrels and thousands of bottles store the maturing wines.

Visitors here can enjoy multi-media presentations in English and Greek, graphically describing vine-growing and





Sprinkling the vines with sulfur



wine-making. Later on, you may nibble local cheeses as you sample the wines and the local eau de vie, Zivania. Director Andreas Kyriakides uses local and international grapes from neighbouring vineyards and produces both high-volume and limited edition wines. From the staple range, try either the dry or medium-dry “Alina”. The red “Plakota”, light and quite gentle, is an excellent summer wine. Andreas has also made interesting wines with the red Maratheftiko.

Pano Panagia, less than a kilometre away, is a large, picturesque village, with its traditional stone houses literally clinging to the slopes... It is the centre of the denominated wine region Vouni Panagias-Ampelitis. The area’s vineyards grow no less than 25 varieties of grapes.

Two kilometres from Pano Panagia we come to the Monastery of Panagia Chrysorrogiatissa, which dates from 1152. After a fire in 1967, which fortunately missed the church, the monastery was restored. Day-time visitors are welcome by appointment.

Wine has been made here for centuries, but its modern history started in the 1980s.



The monastery’s winery is located in the lower areas of the complex, by the gardens and vineyards. German equipment and technology were used for its construction and this is evident in the style of the wines. From the range, try the Xynisteri “Ayios Andronicos” and the red blend, “Ayios Elias”, made from local grapes.

A short distance away, towards Statos - Agios Fotios, a warm welcome awaits the oenophile at “KOLIOS WINERY”. Here, too, spectacular views abound, including the Ezousa Valley. On the ridges around the cliff-perched winery are the Kolios family’s vineyards. Provided a reservation is made, tasty Cyprus food can be had in the winery’s little restaurant. During the winery’s construction a natural spring was discovered which has now been sculpted into pretty fountains.

Winery tours are given in English and Greek,



followed by wine and cheese tastings. Try the fresh and fruity dry or medium-dry white “Persephoni”, the excellent rosé “Cornetto” and the well-blended red “Ayios Fotios”. If you wish to investigate wines made from the high tannin local Maratheftiko, Kolios makes an estimable one.

You have a choice of where to go next... to Choulou and beyond, or to Statos - Ayios Fotios itself, the highest settlement in the Pafos district. This village has been built in the 1970s to house the villagers of Statos and Ayios Fotios, who had suffered problems with terrain subsidence. The new settlement is well planned with plenty of garden spaces.

From here, taking the southwards road to Pentalia, we will soon come to a 180 degrees bend on our left. The road leading to the village of Galataria and Koilinia starts here. It is steep in parts, but the greenery pleases the eye. So many vines, virtually a homage



to Dionysos! The distance between the villages is tiny and we soon pass from one to the other -their dwellings and vineyards practically intermingle!

At the centre of the pretty village of Koilinia you will find the “SHOUFAS” winery, a small producer with a strong wine family tradition; grandfather Costas Filippou is a viticulturist carrying decades of experience. Try the dry red “Maratheftiko” and the white dry “Xynisteri”. Visitors are welcome daily but it’s best to call first.

Retracing our steps to where we took the 180 degrees turn we will find a road that leads to Pentalia, which we reach after four km. It is built on a charming mountainside and contains a lot of traditional, stone houses, many facing the scenic view of the Xeros Valley.

Soon after we exit this settlement we meet the road leading from Statos - Agios Fotios, which will bring us to Amargeti village. It is a beautiful place, rising on the side of the road amidst an emerald valley. Some of its traditional houses are refurbished. Here you will find tavernas, coffee shops, and, at the village’s centre, the “KALAMOS WINERY”.

At this producer you can taste wines from local as well as imported varieties. Taste the red “Ayia Sotira” in dry and medium-dry, made from Mataro grapes, and the dry or semi-dry “Livades”, produced from Xynisteri. You should also try the “Zivania” of the owner, Mr. Nikos Ignatiou, which matures in oak barrels. Tasting, complemented by cheeses and dry fruit, carries a fee for organised groups. Tours are conducted in Greek and English.

Continuing downwards we will soon come upon Eledio, a small but picturesque settlement, almost joined with its southern neighbour, Axilou village. From here the distance to Agia Varvara, close to the sea, is about ten km. Once we reach that area, at the entrance of the Ezousa Valley, nature seems like a heavenly garden: the soil is awash with groves, cypress trees and with seasonal cultivations dotted about the plateau.

If, from Statos - Agios Fotios, you elected to head west towards Choulou, you will traverse five km of breathtaking natural beauty. The road descends through vineyards, grazing fields and steep slopes marked by abandoned cultivations. The age-old, painstakingly erected dry-stone walls, hold the slopes



Stainless Steel containers in a Winery at Polemi



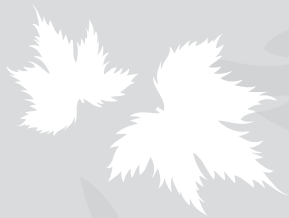
in check and the land by them brims with wild shrubs. The sparse trees aid in the impression of gigantic scaffolding reaching towards infinity. When the road closes in on the river the sight is utterly seductive, with aquatic greenery going wild, leading a frenzied hymn to Dionysos. Laurel is the leading lady, followed by reeds, ivy, plane trees, turpentine and pine trees joining in... until, finally, the stony houses of a settlement appear at the end of the straight.

And so we arrive at Choulou. Here is another charming village that once upon a time was big and flourishing -as indicated by the number of two storey houses. It is typical of European villages; the church holds a prominent position in community life, whilst the coffee shops are close by. The elders sit and discuss the day's events, some of them twiddling their "Worry Beads", others playing backgammon. Visitors are of interest to them and they will soon invite you to a cup of Cypriot coffee with a glass of cool mountain water, whilst they tell you of local life, legend and history. There's a timeless feeling to all this, Mediaeval in some respects. Walk round Choulou's little streets and feel the drama of *Arodafnousa*, the girl who stole the heart





Winery internal shot at Chrysorrogiatissa



Alley view at Letymvou

of *Rigas* (King), causing the anger of the *Rigaina* (Queen). These and other stories date from the time of the Franks, when the area was in the fief of a knight named “Choulío”, hence the name of the village. A peculiar coincidence is the name of the next village, Lemona -in that there is a city of the same name in Vasco, Spain.

To go to Lemona we turn left outside Choulou. It is a tiny settlement with close family and land-ownership links with the previous village. Some village houses here are being restored whilst others are neglected, often the result of the owning families having emigrated. Now the village is ‘back on the map’, because nearby is “TSANGARIDES WINERY”, not far from the church and in a pleasant position adjacent to trees and the River Ezousa.

The Tsangarides family has been making wine for generations and the representative of the present generation, Angelos Tsangarides, is winning awards for his wines. The winery is modern and efficient, housed in a new building, albeit with traditional character. Try two fine reds, one made from Mataro and the other from Cabernet

Sauvignon. Visitors are welcome but should call first.

Re-joining the southward road we head for Letymvou. On the way we pass over the River Ezousa, where we see the almost abandoned village of Kourdaka. Some pretty old stone-work buildings are found here. There are vines aplenty hereabouts.

Two kilometres from the river (we are now on its west bank) we come to Letymvou. Nearby are the sites of two late Byzantine churches. At the village’s heart are stone fountains and leafy places to find shade. Every year, in July, the “Resi” festival is held here. Resi is a rural traditional dish, most often found these days at wedding parties.

In this area there are almonds and deciduous trees but the view as we leave westwards from Letymvou is of vine-clad slopes. After about two kilometres we turn left and take another short detour to Kallepeia village. This is a large place with a go-ahead administration, developing fast with both renovated and new houses and apartments. In the area around the Church there is a traditional tavern. Letymvou is becoming a popular residence for several nationalities.

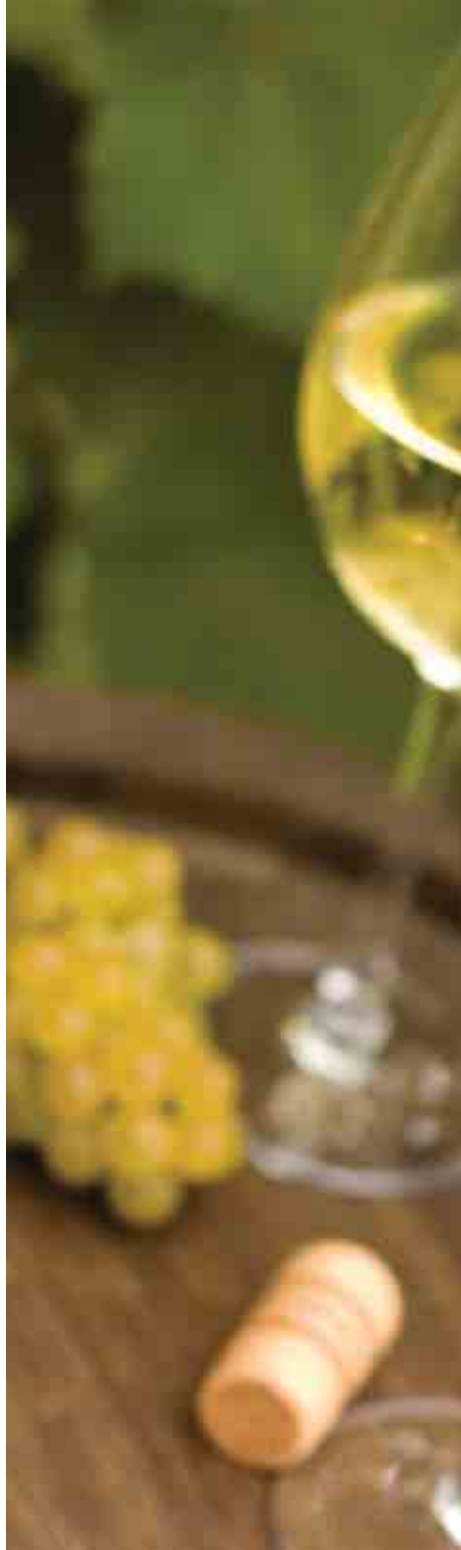




In these modern times it is within a short commuting car drive to Pafos.

Returning to our route, we arrive back at Tsada, which we passed in the morning. It is modern and well developed, whilst retaining much of its traditional Cypriot character. Shops, restaurants, food stores and plenty going on, mark this up to date place.

Whichever route chosen for this tour, the total distance is not more than 100 kilometres... All along there are countless places to stop, look and explore. And, of course, you have been able to sample and buy a remarkable range of our wines. Proof, if any is needed, that dear old Dionysos is still with us in spirit...







wineries

EZOUSA WINERY

70008844, 99415909

Kannaviou, www.ezousa.com

VOUNI PANAYIA WINERY LTD

26722770, 26722878, 99453138

Panagia, www.vounipanayiawinery.com

KOLIOS WINERY LTD

26724090

Statos - Agios Fotios, www.koliosvineyards.com

CHRYSORROGIATISSA WINERY

26722457, 99626642

Panagia

TSANGARIDES WINERY

26722777

Lemona, www.tsangarideswinery.com

SHOUFAS WINERY LTD

99447424, 99435436, 22442744

Koilineia, www.shoufas.com

KALAMOS WINERY

26723224, 99519268, 99450568

Amargeti

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



30



80



200



15



50



50



50



The background image shows an outdoor dining area. There are several wooden tables and chairs arranged on a stone-paved floor. The tables are covered with light-colored, patterned tablecloths. A stone wall is visible in the background. The lighting suggests it's daytime.

tavernas / restaurants

MITAS

99683982, 96657777

Choulou, Pafos

PHITI VILLAGE

26732540, 99138573

Fyti, Pafos

TO KONATZI TIS KALLEPEIAS

26642368, 99677744

Arch. Kyprianou, Kallepeia, Pafos

Tables at a Taverna yard in Choulou



ZODOCHOS PIGI GIA PANTA

26723212, 99771592

Chrysorrogiatissis 31, Amargeti, Pafos

APOLLON

26723030, 99632631

Amargeti, Pafos

for a good
night's sleep...



Agro-touristic accommodation at Panagia

AGRO-TOURISTIC ACCOMMODATION

NAME	LOCATION	TELEPHONE
Karydhia Cottage	Arodes	24634680, 99659928
Sapho Manor House	Drouseia	26332650, 99604010
Piskopos House	Episkopi	99619146
Samolasi Inn	Gioulou	99626672
Kostaris	Goudi	99626672
Pinou's House	Goudi	99547028
Spanos' House	Goudi	26944833, 99413244
Agios Theodoros Cottage	Choulou	26722397
Rigena's House	Choulou	26932581, 99329272
Agrotiko	Kallepeia	
Loxandra's House	Kathikas	26632150, 99608333
Michalis' Anoyia	Kathikas	99667888
Olga's Cottage	Kato Akourdaleia	99571065
Amarakos Inn	Kato Akourdaleia	26633117, 22313374
Konatzitis Kritou	Kritou Tera	99403134
Makrinari	Kritou Tera	26932931
Nikoklis Inn	Nikokleia	26432211, 99309279
Archontiko tou Meletiou	Panagia	26235011, 99518000
Mouskos House	Panagia	99678013
Liakoto	Panagia	26935597
Palati of Xylari	Panagia	99614673
Stelios' House	Panagia	99433094
Chloe's House	Pano Akourdaleia	26952268



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www.kotsaris.com

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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».

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REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS



CYPRUS
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