



**CYPRUS
WINE
ROUTES**

1

route
Laona - Akamas

cheers along!


A large, stylized white leaf graphic with multiple lobes, positioned behind the text on the left side of the upper section.

**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!

Vineyards vista at Stroumpi

route 1

Laona - Akamas

Pafos, Mesogi, Tsada, Stroumpi, Kathikas, (Akourdaleia), Pano Arodes, Kato Arodes, Ineia, Drouseia, Polis Chrysochous or Pegeia, Pafos

This route follows age-old pathways in the north-western department of Cyprus.





Vineyards at Tsada

CREATING THE MOOD TO EXPLORE!

This route follows age-long pathways in north-western Cyprus. It offers uniquely interesting vistas, not merely associated with vines and wines. Lovers of food and wine will have the opportunity to visit five wineries and to try some interesting wines, which they will find complement our Cyprus food. The bonus, however, is the remarkable panorama of scenery and the cultural and geological interest before us. There is very little else like it on the island.

Generally speaking we shall travel along secondary roads, on the E701 and E709. The road ascends steadily, passing from cultivated fields to taller vegetation and the picturesque loveliness of the patch-work of the vineyards. One fascinating vista follows another as we drive upwards through delightful valleys to the forest areas. And then, unexpectedly, we come to tiny villages which dot the landscape -the area is sparsely populated and this contributes to a lovely rustic, rural atmosphere...

Nature's crowning glory of this vines and wines region is the Akamas Peninsula. Away from building development -the unspoilt area of Cyprus, with flora and fauna rooted in the mists of time. In the set of the land, its close association with the sea, in its vegetation and wild life, Akamas is a wondrous place. The traveller, perhaps replete from Cyprus hospitality with its ever-ready supplies of food and drink, can enter here another world, a perfect antidote to the pleasures of the table.

general characteristics



A picturesque Taverna in Kathikas

The paths we take in Akamas quickly demonstrate what a unique place it is, with much more than superficial views. For anyone interested in geology, vegetation and wild life, it is a place where time spent rewards the visitor.

The peaceful environment and the charm of many rural buildings ensure that the route is a pleasure for the walker and lover of nature. And, almost wherever we go, we encounter vines, vines and more vines. Along our route we shall find five wineries we can visit.

- Climate: From sea level, the land rises to hilly undulations of 450 to 600 m altitude. Annual rainfall is about 620 millimeters. The climate is generally mild.
- Terrain: Most vine yards on this route grow on limestone formations while some, on gypsum-clay beds.
- Vineyards: The region of Kathikas is best known for white varieties, mainly the indigenous Xynisteri. Most of the villages on the route are classified with the “Controlled Denomination of Origin” (WCNO) “Laona - Akamas”. Nineteen grape varieties are cultivated:
- White varieties: Plant X Malvasia G., Plant X, Sauvignon Blanc, Riesling, Semillon, Chardonnay, Muscat, Xynisteri.
- Red varieties: Mavro, Ofthalmo, Carignan, Mataro, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Alicante B., Grenache, Shiraz, Merlot, Lefkada, Maratheftiko



Vines at Pegeia



the route

We start our journey northwards on the B7 road to Polis. After a short drive, and while still surrounded by shops and residences, we make our first stop. We turn off left, at Mesogi, into the Industrial Estate, where we will visit the “FIKARDOS” winery. One of the first regional producers, owner Theodoros inherited the family traditions of winemaking, adding to them state-of-the-art equipment and modern skills. Although owning no vineyards, he has long-term contracts with local growers, resulting in a reliable flow which enables the winery to produce a large range of table wines.

Fikardos offers both “varietals” (made from just one grape variety) and blends of several grape varieties. Taste across the range, such as the “Valentina” rosé, the white “Amalthia” and “Alkisti” and the red Shiraz. The winery is open to visitors every day and offers a good perspective of the area’s wine-making capabilities. Across the road from the Industrial Estate you can find the nice village of Mesogi, known for making cane baskets, which you can buy from local shops.

Before we continue our exploration, we can make an interesting side visit to



Inside a Winery in Kathikas

the Monastery of Agios Neofytos the Recluse. Take the turning off the B7 at the top of Mesogi. Drive through the village of Tremithousa, passing an area of considerable beauty that leads to a road through a verdant valley. The monastery is in a beautiful location at an altitude of 412 metres. The site is enhanced by a marvellous square surrounded by sycamore, cypress and poplar trees. The Chapel, carved out of the rock in which the hermit saint (1134-1214) lived, is well preserved.

After this, we return to the B7 and continue to the village of Tsada. It’s a picturesque place, with both traditional and modern buildings sitting comfortably together. The stone-built fountains, by the names of Gerolakkos, Rodkias and Pyadkia, have a folklore beauty. Here you can enjoy pleasant views to the sea, across vines and plantations. Tsada is an important viticultural village in the region.

Now to continue our travel... The road up to Stroumpi twists and turns, with scenic views upwards and down into gorges. The village is sited at an altitude of 450 metres and is deeply involved in vines and wine.



Entrance to a house at Kritou Tera



Anyone accustomed to open flatlands with millions of vines is surprised at Cyprus's tiny vineyards. They are frequently planted on steep slopes, necessitating the use of donkeys or mules to bring out the grapes. More than a thousand of them are still working on the island.

Here the predominant grape varieties are the Mavro-red and Xynisteri-white. The Mavro, a low-acid grape, is being phased out, with high-acid varieties planted in its place. Every year, in August, Stroumpi organises the Grape Festival "Dionysia" - a good event to go to! In Stroumpi you may see a number of churches, all of some architectural, historical or religious interest.

One kilometre from Stroumpi, on the road to Polemi, lies the "KAMANTERENA" Winery of the Co-operative organisation SODAP. It is the largest wine plant in Cyprus. A functional building with thoroughly modern equipment, a range of successful wines is made here. Millions of bottles of its "Islands Vines" are exported to Britain, and a number of interesting blends (such as Riesling-Xynisteri) are made. The medium-priced "Mountain Vines" (the red based on mostly Cabernet Sauvignon and the white

on Xynisteri with a little Semillon) are worth trying.

SODAP are also installing a museum as well as a modern tasting room, a restaurant/cafeteria and other amenities for visitors.

At Polemi village, a few kilometres eastward, is our next winery stop, "TSALAPATIS WINERY". Moderately sized, it makes 100,000 bottles a year of quality wines from privately owned vineyards. In the naturally cool below-ground wine 'caves' you can taste and buy from an interesting range: Xynisteri, but also Sauvignon Blanc and a red blend of Mataro and Lefkada.

We continue our travel north-westerly and leave the B7 to take a left turn (E711) for Kathikas. On the way, we can take a side-trip to the tiny village of Theletra (200 residents) and to another hamlet called Giolou. There is a small restaurant here where you will probably remember the wine, but more especially the fresh bread!

And so to Kathikas, set in a patchwork of vineyards, trees and stone walls. It is an area with plenty of photo opportunities. Spreading out from a square housing its Church, the little streets of Kathikas enchant



The Folklore museum at Ineia

the visitor with small houses, shops selling local produce, as well as places to eat. Kathikas has two wineries, both worth a visit.

“K&K VASILIKON WINERY” has an excellent reputation for its two staple wines. The white “Vasilikon” is fresh, fruity and ideal with local seafood. The red “Ayios Onoufrios”, blended from Mavro, Mataro, Cabernet Sauvignon and Grenache, is a best-seller. The Kyriakides brothers, who founded the winery, produce 300,000 bottles annually. Their wines are made from grapes grown in their own vineyards. Visitors are welcome by appointment and may taste the wines and tour the winery.

On the other side of the village you find “STERNA” winery, a popular destination, where people happily sit on the terrace sampling wines and enjoying food. Here the cave where the wines are stored is a very genuine one, around 2,000 years old. At weekends your guide could well be the son of the producer, the ten year old Panagiotis! The winery’s range features pungent, earthy wines, which suit local specialities. The grapes come from 140 acres of privately owned vineyards.

The sun moves across its arc and reminds the traveller it’s time to move on! So, we leave Kathikas and soon take the road to our left that leads to several picturesque villages. Stops to gaze and take in the scenery are called for, with lots of photo chances, too.





A fine sample of a wicker wine case

A cup of Cyprus coffee, with its attendant glass of cool water, is also a good idea -to clear taste, smell and our appetites for delights to come!

Firstly we come to Pano Arodes village, characterised by well maintained stone houses and the Church of Agios Kalantionas. In the square there is a pretty coffee shop at which to relax and take in the scene. Locals, sometimes sitting and talking, other times playing Tavli (Backgammon), seem to shout at each other -but this is just the way people converse!

One kilometre north, in Kato Arodes, you can view the oblong vaulted Community Office, which seems like a church without a bell tower. Carrying on we come to the village of Ineia, where the view to the sea is breathtaking -the slope shelves gently down to the coast of Akamas... In Ineia, the traveller will note that the signs are old-fashioned, denoting the village as "Oinia", indicating its origin from the Greek word for "Wine".

Just a little up the road is Drouseia

village, a popular destination for tourists. Set in rolling hills with lovely views all around, it is a great place for a weekend, with hotels, restaurants, tavernas and shops. Needless to say, there are vineyards all around. Among Drouseia's attractions is the Textile Museum.

Instead of taking the road to Polis out of Drouseia, we can go back to the E709 and cross it to visit Kritou Tera. "Park and Walk" is the motto in this traditional settlement of narrow streets. The water-driven mill and the old coffee shop with its murals are things that will live in our memories as we turn back to drive the few kilometres to Polis.

There is plenty of choice here for an overnight stay, to review the sights, sounds and people we have encountered during our journey, and the food and drink we have partaken. Polis is a modern coastal town with many tourist amenities, including water sports, sailing, fishing and sporting.

On the return drive to Pafos, we may, if we want, take a right turn at Kathikas to go to Pegeia, a vibrant small town at the edge of the steep escarpment and the coastal road with its many hotels and restaurants.



Exterior of a house at Pano Arodes



wineries

FIKARDOS WINERY

26949814, 26937439, 99647005
Mesogi, www.fikardoswines.com.cy

KAMANTERENA SODAP WINERY

26633000
Stroumpi, www.sodap.com.cy

TSALAPATIS WINERY

99624929
Polemi

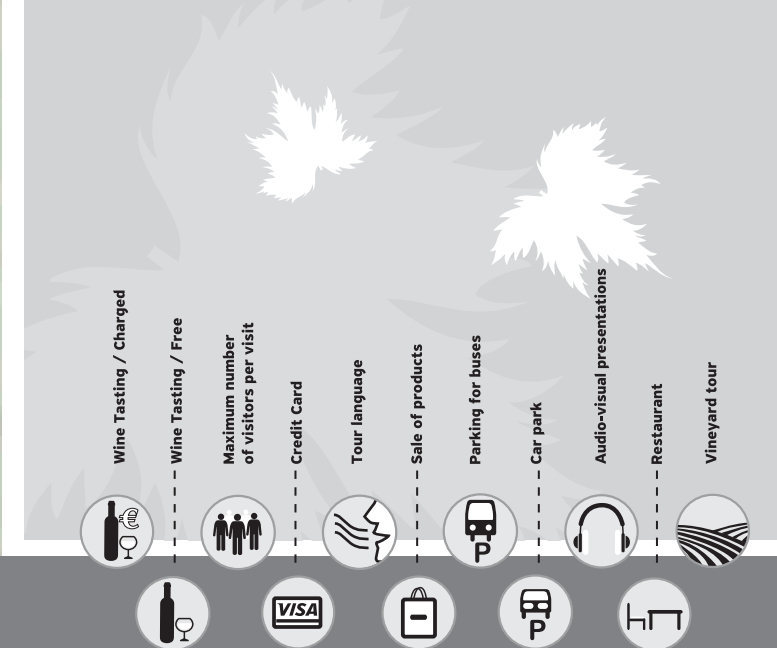
K & K VASILIKON WINERY

26633237, 26632520, 99647004
Kathikas, www.vasilikon.com

STERNA WINERY LTD

99699082
Kathikas

Bottles on a transporting belt in a Kathikas Winery





tavernas / restaurants

FARMA

26632745, 99421706, Kathikas, Pafos
www.kathikasvillage.com

IMOGENI

26633269, 26632954, 99618177
Georgiou Kleanthous 33, Kathikas, Pafos

YIANNIS KATHIKAS

26633353, 99914067
Georgiou Kleanthous 11, Kathikas, Pafos

A. ARAOUZOS

26632076, 99471540, 99186496
Georgiou Kleanthous 17, Kathikas, Pafos

STATHMOS

26332604, 99699182
Akamantos 3, Drouseia, Pafos

KOUGIOUKAS NEROMILOS

99543619, 99626672
Giolou



FOINIKAS

26332276, 26332336, 99458316

Agiou Georgiou 10, Drouseia, Pafos

KYPARISSOS

26633600, 99557545

Kathikas, Pafos

LEMONARI

26633434, 99420033

Stroumpi, Pafos

PETRAKAKI

26814191, 99596528

Kato Vrysi 45, Kathikas, Pafos

N.M. HADJIMORFOS

26818919, 99341155

Mesogi, Pafos

for a good
night's sleep...



Agro-touristic accommodation at Kathikas

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
Konatzi tis 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



The fountain of “women” at Pegeia

WEB - ADDRESS

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www.kotsaris.com

www.kostaris.com

www.paphossunsetvillas.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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