

# First Alexi Andriotti outlet opens at Dubai Festival City



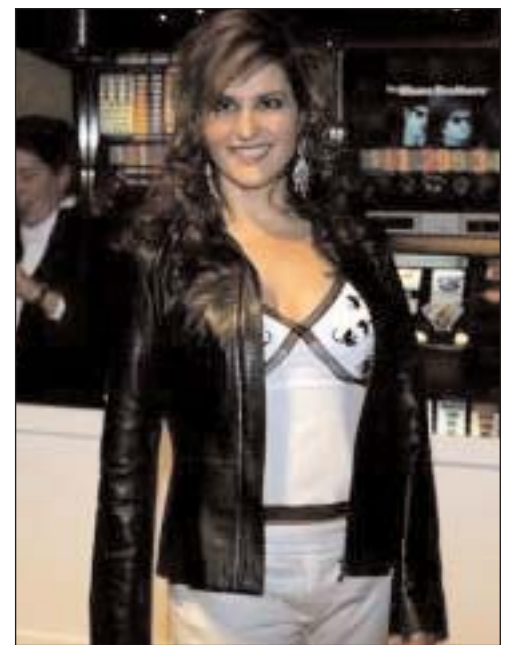
*Alexi Andriotti, established in the year 2000, has seen remarkable success across the globe, with more than 90 stores across Greece, Italy, Germany, Poland, Cyprus, Australia, Saudi Arabia, and now the UAE.*

Known for its versatile styles and exotic influences, Alexi Andriotti has created a cosmopolitan brand that has managed to transcend cultural boundaries, resulting in the company's rapid international growth.

'Having observed the city's growing demand and receptiveness towards trendy and high-quality fashion accessories, we thought it best to utilize the opportunity and step in to add yet another option to the vast list of renowned fashion names available to shoppers. We feel that Alexi Andriotti fashion accessories have immense potential in the UAE, and Dubai in particular,' said Musadiq Shah, Chairman, Pride Group Holdings.

'Alexi Andriotti's international reputation and high-quality standards in conjunction with Pride Group Holdings' retail expertise in the region promises an ideal blend for success, and we are proud to be associated with them,' said Pradeep Gupta, Vice President of Pride Group Holdings.

Makis, Business Development Manager of Alexi Andriotti, said, 'Alexi Andriotti's launch in Dubai signifies the importance of the city as a fashion leader in the region, and the recognition of a thriving retail sector. Our accessory lines are designed to help people differentiate and express their personalities through fashion, and with Pride Group Holdings, we are confident that we will make our impact felt in Dubai.'



## Producers drop 'My Big Fat Greek Wedding' lawsuit

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Actor Tom Hanks, his wife Rita Wilson and other co-producers of the 2002 sleeper hit "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" dropped their lawsuit against Gold Circle Films for alleged unreported profits, according to court papers.

Lawyers for Hank, Wilson, Gary Goetzman and other co-producers, along with actress Nia Vardalos, who wrote the screenplay, requested the dismissal on Friday in a document filed "without prejudice," meaning the lawsuit could be reopened at any time.

Greek Wedding cost some five million dollars to make and netted an astounding 368 million in worldwide box office receipts, according to Box Office Mojo website.

However, Gold Circle, which co-financed the hit movie, reported total receipts of 287 million dollars, according to the plaintiffs, and refused to pay the producers for the alleged difference.

The plaintiffs' lawyers did not explain in their request the reasons for dropping the lawsuit, court documents published Monday showed.

"My Big Fat Greek Wedding," which satirizes expatriate Greek communities, hurtled Greek-Canadian actress Vardalos to international fame and earned her an Oscar nomination.

## Tony Vavatsikos passes away

Singer Toni Vavatsikos passed away in an ambulance that while transferred from Agios Ioannis, Pilio to Volos Hospital on Monday.

The singer, who was spending his vacations in Pilio, became famous with his song "Pios na Xeri sto Vlemma tou ti Krivi o Theos gia Mas", which won the first prize at the Thessaloniki Song Festival in 1974.

His wife holds the Zagora Health Centre and the Volos Hospital ambulance responsible for his death. A sworn-in investigation has been ordered by the Volos Hospital administration.

## Greece tops fat league as diet of the Med decays

Greece, the nation that gave rise to the idea of well-formed muscular men in the name of Adonis, now has the highest prevalence of obesity in the EU, according to a report issued yesterday.

"Greece today is the EU state with the highest average body mass index

and highest prevalence of overweight [people] and obesity," says the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation report.

It reveals that the XXXL factor is one effect of a dramatic retreat from the Mediterranean diet in the region itself.

Josef Schmidhuber, an FAO senior economist, said people, not only in southern Europe, but also in north Africa and parts of Asia, were increasingly eating food that was "too fat, too salty and too sweet". The diet of fruit and vegetables, taken by their forebears, was in "a moribund state".

His findings appear in a report given to a workshop on Mediterranean products, organised by the California-Mediterranean Consortium of academic institutions.

Schmidhuber said that in 40 years, up to 2002, there had been a 20% rise in the average daily calorie intake of people living in the former 15-nation EU - but in the countries bordering the Mediterranean the increase had been steeper. Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Cyprus and Malta had increased calorie consumption by an average of 30%. Three-quarters of the Greek population was overweight or obese by the end of that period.

Spain, Greece and Italy are now the EU's biggest consumers of lipids (fats and oils), the report says. In Spain fat made up 25% of the diet 40 years ago but now accounts for 40%, the FAO said. But sedentary lifestyles, supermarkets and fast-food restaurants, and a fall in home cooking, were also to blame, it said.

## Children from Griko speaking villages in Italy visiting Greece

Can you decipher any of this? It's all 'Griko' to us...

The Organization for the Dissemination of the Greek Language (ODEG) of Athens for the 12th year in a row, with the help of Greek Education Ministry, will be hosting a group of 9 students and two teachers from the Griko speaking community of southern Italy. The hospitality is being offered by the Municipality of Athens at its camp installations in Agios Andreas. The students visited the Acropolis, museums, Nafplion and other archaeological sites with the assistance of officials of the camp.

Εβώ πάντα σε σένα πενσέω,  
γιατί σένα φυσική μου γαπίω.  
τσαι που πάω, που σύρνω, που στέω  
στην καρδιά μου πάντα σένα βαστώ.

PS: The government of Greece has taken a very active role in trying to preserve the very unique Greek dialect spoken in pockets of southern Italy.

*Griko, sometimes spelled Grico, is a Modern Greek dialect which is spoken by people in the Magna Graecia region in southern Italy, and it is otherwise known as the Grecanic language. Greeks often call the dialect Katoitaliotika (Greek: Κατωιταλιώτικα, "Southern Italian") and sometimes Calabrian, although the latter may also serve as an euphemism for a Greek-Italian pidgin language. [citation needed]*