



Antiparos: Caves, History and Cycladic Charm

Paros has for years been a household name even to those who have never visited the Greek islands. But Antiparos - just 30 minutes by boat from Parikia, the capital of Paros, or a mere six minutes by ferry from Paros' popular Pounta Beach - has yet to be discovered by more than those who have already been initiated in its hidden treasures: One of the oldest and loveliest stalactite and stalagmite caves in the world; the remains of a Venetian Castle built in 1440 to protect inhabitants from pirate raids; innumerable white churches with blue domes scattered all over the island; secluded emerald beaches.

On Faneromeni beach, at the small church of Panagia Faneromeni, the September 7 annual Festival will once again treat lucky visitors with grilled octopus, tsikoudia - and warm hospitality.

To the south-west of Antiparos lies uninhabited Despotiko islet, the archaeological findings of which are turning it into an Archaeological Park.

Life goes slow on Antiparos. Everything is still quite traditional. When the old men go to the Kafenion (small cafes) they leave their wives behind. The men spend hours sitting around small tables and drinking Greek coffee. They discuss matters of importance (mostly football and politics), play Tavli (Backgammon) or cards while their wives often sit just next to the Kafenion and discuss what they feel is important.

Most shops are in the main street. It's impossible to miss. It is leading from the port into the village. The first thing a visitor will notice is the smell of fresh bread. There are two bakeries in this street providing locals and visitors with bread and various cakes. If you follow the street you will end up on the main square (Platia). On the right side is a small castle (Kastro) and the museum.

Greek Wine "Made In China"

The wine world continues to focus on China as the largest growing wine market and on August 4, Greek varietals took root in the Gansu province of China with German varietals to follow. According to influential wine source Decanter.com, Kir-Yianni (a Greek winery) and Mogao (China's government-owned and publicly traded winery) have just planted the first Xinomavro vines in the Gansu province of China.

Kir-Yianni follows in the footsteps of Chateau Lafite that in 2009 brought vines to the Shandong



province to create by 2011 the world's first "Chinese Grand Cru Bordeaux."

This collaboration marks "China's first planting of a Greek grape, and

the only Xinomavro for commercial purposes anywhere other than Greece." Xinomavro is defined by Kir-Yianni as "the world's rarest noble red grapes originating from Northwestern Greece."

Kir-Yianni's Mihalis Boutaris said, "the pilot vineyard will increase from 4ha next spring to 150ha over the next few years."

The International Wine and Spirit Record (IWSR) estimates the Chinese are expected to be drinking more than a billion bottles of wine annually by 2011.

Ancient theatre on Limnos opens after 2,500 years

The ancient theatre of Hephaestia, on the eastern Aegean island of Limnos, opens for the first time after 2,500 years on Aug. 11 with a performance of ancient Greek dramatist Sophocles' play "Oedipus the King" directed by Spyros Evangelatos.

The theatre has a seating capacity of 200 in its main area, while other 1,000 people can be seated outside where they will be able to watch the performance through a giant screen.

The ancient theatre of Hephaestia, the city of the ancient Greek god Hephaestus, underwent reconstruction in 2000-2004 and is regarded as one of the most important ancient Greek theatres dating back to the late 5th and early 4th century BC, while certain additions have been made in the Hellenistic and Roman Times.

SOURCE: ANA



Man wanted in Greece appears in SA

A man wanted in Greece over his alleged involvement in a drug operation will face an extradition hearing in Adelaide in October.

Vasilios Konstantinou, 54, appeared before the Adelaide Magistrates Court on Monday when the court was asked to delay his case.

Defence counsel Michael Jandy said he needed time to liaise with his client over his ability to continue to provide instructions and to retain senior counsel.

The Hellenic Republic previously issued a warrant for Konstantinou's return, alleging

he participated in a joint criminal enterprise with six other people to cultivate cannabis in October 2005.

It also alleged he participated in a joint enterprise to harvest and possess cannabis.

In each instance the quantity of the drug involved was listed in court documents as "substantial".

In earlier bail hearings, Konstantinou said he did not know he was wanted by police when he left Greece in 2005.

In court on Monday, Magistrate Alf Grasso continued Konstantinou's bail and adjourned his case to September 15 for mention and also set down one day for a hearing on October 18. Mr Grasso also gave the parties leave to bring the case on to revise those dates if necessary.

Article from SMH



Veria Library awarded

The "Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation" bestowed its "Access To Learning Award ("AT-LA") to the National Library of Veria (northern Greece). The award, which is accompanied by a one million dollar cash prize, was bestowed to the Veria National Library as the "most successful library model in Greece and throughout the world".

According to an Education Ministry announcement, Veria's library candidacy was among the final three that were short-listed from over 250 candidacies from all over the world. The candidacies were appraised by the Foundation's evaluators from abroad.

Article from ANA-MPA

HELIOS FIVE YEARS RELATIVES

Relatives of victims of the worst air disaster in Cyprus and Greece mourned their loved ones, on the fifth anniversary of the tragedy. A memorial service was held at the chapel of Panagia Eleftherotria and Agia Paraskevi at Mosfiloti village on Saturday, which is dedicated to the memory of the 121 persons who lost their lives on 14 August 2005, when an Helios Airways Boeing 737 aircraft, on its way to Prague via Athens, crashed into Grammatikos mountain side, north of the Greek capital, Athens. Most of the dead were Cypriot holidaymakers. Another service was held at Grammatikos at the site of the crash, in the presence of relatives of the victims. The relatives repeated their demand that those responsible for the tragedy must be brought to justice and said that all measures necessary must be taken to avert a similar disaster.