

Uncorking Cyprus's Wine and Heritage Secrets

AFICS Excursion to Omodos of 29 June 2025

On Sunday 29th June 2025, AFICS-Cyprus members and friends travelled as a group to the historic and picturesque village of Omodos, Limassol. The excursion set out from Nicosia to experience the charm of this once Frankish village famous for its wines, Zivania spirit and *Arkatena* bread. Moreover, it is steeped in history and treasured historical sites such as the world renowned Timios Stavros (Holy Cross) Monastery.

With its majestic presence, the Timios Stavros Monastery which the group visited, holds a special place in Cyprus's history. It is one of the oldest and most historic monasteries on the Island and is truly special because it hosts the relic of a piece of the Holy Cross and rope. After a leisurely coffee and sampling of the local *Arkatena* bread, the group left for the Gerolemo family run Winery on the outskirts of the village.

Set high-up in the Troodos mountains with breathtaking views, the tour had the opportunity to savor local flavours during a traditional Cypriot Brunch and experience its rich viticultural history. An extensive wine tasting tour was provided by a member of the family which introduced the group to both new and old varieties of grapes as well as to different processes undertaken to produce their famous Zivania spirit and the dessert wine *Commandaria*.

It is little wonder that Omodos has a well-established reputation as being one of the best-known villages in Cyprus where *'wine flows like sunshine and history lives in the heart beat of every corner'*. The tour returned to Nicosia via the beautiful village of Kakopetria with views of the historic town, its plateia and its waterfall, en route.

AFICS plans to organize similar day excursions to historic villages in Cyprus and other family run wineries during 2025.