

'Celebrating the Last of this Summer's Wine'

UN AFICS (CYPRUS) ART, HISTORY AND WINE EXCURSION TO PAPHOS

On Saturday 18th October 2025, a dynamic group of AFICS National and International members bid farewell to the 'Last of this Summer's Wine' with a wonderful Art, History and Wine excursion to the District of Paphos. Archaeology shows that Old Paphos has been inhabited since the Neolithic period. It was a centre for Aphrodite's cult and indeed her mythical birthplace was on the island in the proximity of Petra tou Romiou, the first stop on the tour.

The trip which was organized by AFICS Social and Cultural Events Coordinator, Maria-threase KEATING celebrated the Archeological Sites of Petra tou Romiou, the Archaeological Museum of Paphos as well as the remarkable Icon painters' workshop of Mirianthis Constantinou located high up in the Cedar Valley at Statos, Ayios Photios where AFICS members and guests watched her spell-binding byzantine art techniques being captured in stunning array of Icons.

En route to the family run Tsangarides Winery, the tour took time for a leisurely stroll along the Historic Harbour of Paphos with its ancient castle dramatically silhouetted against the midday sun. Lunch was celebrated at the award-winning family run winery of Tsangarides in the beautiful village of Lemona where the owner himself, Mr. Angelos provided a personalized wine-tasting tour of his cellars and introduced us to the latest production techniques used in wine making at his winery where more than 350,000 bottles of wine are produced annually. Many of these wines are Organic. Tsangarides Premium Wines also have a robust international market. Lunch was provided on a panoramic terrace where delicious platters of various Cypriot cheeses, seasonal fruits including figs and traditional dips were served, complimented by an array of his family produced wines.

Such was the keen interest in this type of cultural excursion last Saturday that several AFICS members requested for a short excursion to Lefkara to be made in December 2025 where the Lefkara Christmas Market and its historic churches set the tone for the Xmas Season. Furthermore, such a trip would provide an unmissable opportunity to see first-hand the ancient traditions of Cypriot Lacemaking which has achieved UNESCO World Heritage Status (WHS).

Finally, what makes AFICS excursion's so special is the fact that we celebrate Cypriot and International Heritage together in the UN Spirit. No doubt this is something very special as each year of AFICS passes. Because, no matter how familiar we may be with such unique places in Cyprus from our own personal experiences. It's always a new experience when shared with AFICS members.



