

Winery Overviews



ALEXAKIS

The Alexakis family is one of the most important ambassadors of Cretan wine. It is the largest privately owned winery in Crete and during its long path has collaborated with all

the winegrowers on the island. The result is high quality wines that truly represent the Cretan terroir.

The winery is a family affair. Stelios Alexakis, chemical engineer turned winemaker is still in charge of the winery with his wife Sofia responsible for quality control. Children Apostolos and Lazaros, who literally grew up in the winery, join their father as winemakers and are now responsible for the planning and production, successfully transferring the valuable knowledge and insight of their parents.

The Alexakis wines draw on a deep understanding of the Cretan vineyards (varieties, soil, local weather conditions and viticulture); long years of collaboration have allowed the company to choose the most suitable vineyards and the best growers, to produce the highest quality wines on Crete.



"...one of those hot estates that should draw consumer attention. This winery has been considered to be a 'comer' for awhile. It is fair to end that talk. They have arrived and are making terrific wines." - Robert E. Parker's The Wine Advocate

Alpha Estate is located in the heart of the Amyndeon, a wine region in the Northwest of Greece. The estate's vineyards cover over 160 acres situated on a plateau around 2,000 feet above sea level. Moderate temperatures and heavy winter rains create ideal conditions for the grapes to ripen. Poor soils with good drainage create a mild water deficit, resulting in small berries with intense red color and concentrated flavors and aromas.

Alpha Estate is presided over by Angelo Iatridis, considered by many to be Greece's most promising winemaker. Angelo cultivates international varieties as well as indigenous Greek varieties, and all the wines are crafted in Alpha's state-of-the-art gravity-flow winery. Alpha is considered one of the most cutting edge producers in Greece and has established the most technologically advanced vineyards in the viticulture world. They always strive for precision grape-growing and focused terroir-driven wines that are bold and exciting.

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Over 20 years ago Konstantinos Karydas established Karydas Estate in Ano Gastra, one of the most well-known grape-growing regions of Naoussa. His immaculately kept six acres of Xinomavro vines are planted on the hill of Gastra in sandy, clay and limestone soils, noted for their good drainage.

In 1994, he built his winery in the middle of the vineyard and, shortly thereafter, his son Petros joined him to produce his first vintage under his own label. Their mission? To produce an old school, traditional single-vineyard Xinomavro with very little intervention.



"Sigalas is one of Greece's finest white wine producers – in fact, a short list candidate for the best. This producer is universally acclaimed for his skill with Assyrtiko of all types. He is simply a master with this grape." - Robert E. Parker's The Wine Advocate

Founded in 1991, Sigalas wines were initially made at the converted Sigalas family home. In 1998 a new vinification, bottling and aging unit was built in a privately owned area of Oia, on the northern part of Santorini. Here the Santorini Assyrtiko as well as the Aidani, Athiri, Mandilaria and Mavrotragano varietals thrive. The vineyards for these varietals are considered the oldest continuously cultivated vineyards in the world, over 3000 years.

The volcanic soils and climate of the viticulture area are the most unique and this "terrior" can not be replicated anywhere else in the world. This is indeed a very special place. The Sigalas Assyrtiko is arguably one of the most acclaimed white wines in the world.

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SKOURAS

"A Most Popular Wine Brand in Wine & Spirit's Annual Restaurant Poll"

Domaine Skouras was established in 1986 by Dijon-trained winemaker George Skouras in Pyrgela, Argos, a quaint village nestled in the Nemea region of the Peloponnese. George is widely considered the "Sassicia" of Greece, the leader of the modern Greek wine revolution.

Working with both indigenous varieties as well as international varieties, Skouras started producing very high quality Greek wines in the late 1980's. The first bottling of the Megas Oenos, his flagship wine launched in 1988 was the first wine in Greece to blend Aghiorghitiko with Cabernet Sauvignon. Skouras also boasts one of the highest red wine vineyards in all of Europe, planted at over 3,400 feet.

Domaine Skouras sources grapes from its own vineyards and from dedicated grape-growers in the region and is today at the forefront of Greek estates. Demand for these terroir-driven and estate-bottled wines is strong in both Greece and around the world.



In 1930, Dimitris Douloufakis became one of the first winemakers in Crete to produce wines professionally in his traditional, old winery. A consistent award winner, Dimitris's grandson, Nikolas, now runs the winery carrying on his grandfather's traditional practices but with more modern equipment and

The privately owned vineyards are certified 100% organic and span over 70 acres of hillside land in Dafnes, a village close to Iraklio in Crete. This region has a long history in viticulture and also has been established as a Protected Designation of Origin for Liatiko wines. In addition to the natural choice of Liatiko, Nikolas grows other Cretan indigenous varieties such as Kotsifali, Vilana, Vidiano, along with other international varieties such as Chardonnay, Cabernet, and Syrah.

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Kir-Yianni was established in 1997 by Yiannis Boutaris, one of the leading figures in the Greek wine industry. Kir-Yianni, “Sir John” in Greek, is best known for producing premium Xinomavro from the slopes of Mt. Vermio in Northwestern Greece. The winery is focused on producing premium wines with authentic character which also appeal to the modern wine consumer.

Today, Stelios Boutaris, son of Yiannis, actively manages the winery and their two 30+ year-old estate vineyards located in Naoussa and Amyndeon. Combined, the vineyards stretch over 160 acres and range in elevation from 1,000 to 2,200 feet.

The Naoussa vineyard is located in Yiannakohori, the highest point in the viticultural zone, and is home to all the Kir-Yianni red varieties (Xinomavro, Syrah, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon). The vines are planted in 40 different blocks based on their different soil properties. The Amyndeon vineyard is located in one of the most promising Greek winemaking regions. This smaller of the two vineyards is home to the winery’s white varieties – Sauvignon Blanc, Assyrtiko, Roditis, Malagouzia, etc.



Mylonas winery is a third generation (since 1917), small family winery located in Keratea Attica 40km south of Athens. Savatiano is the main grape variety of this region with more than 3000 years history. Our philosophy is based on minimum intervention from the vineyard to the bottling. When you have great vineyards that produce high quality grapes of distinctive individual character, this is not only environmentally and socially responsible.

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Santo Wines was founded in 1947 as the Union of Santorini Cooperatives and represented all Santorini wineries. Today, Santo Wines is the biggest producer on the island.

The new, state-of-the-art winery was built in 1992 and is situated on the edge of the Caldera in the village of Pyrgos. Santo Wines, representing all the producers on the island, is committed to producing authentic Santorini wines of superior quality while respecting the Santorini traditional vinification techniques and protecting the precious Santorini vineyards.

They developed their own Research and Development Department to regularly launch special projects to evaluate methods to improve cultivation techniques, vinification processes and varietal quality.



Vassaltis is Santorini's newest winery with construction being completed only in April 2016. With the financial crisis hitting Greece, Yannis Valambous decides to return to Santorini to revive the vineyards he inherited from his late father.

A year later he decides to pursue a dream that seemed too distant to ever materialize; the creation of a winery. His vision is to create a modern state-of-the-art winery to express the next generation of Greek winemakers.

Along with Elias Roussakis and Yannis Papaeconomou who join the team as oenologists they are out to prove that Santorini can produce world class wine and that Greeks can deliver big results if and when they are given the opportunity.