



In the Footsteps of Dionysos October 23–November 7, 2001

Greek mythology is a rich tapestry of history, folklore and belief set against the irresistible backdrop of drama, tragedy, jealousy and romance. The story of Dionysos, the god of wine, is one of the most enduring tales. This journey will trace Dionysos' footsteps – with all the appropriate reverence! We begin with preparatory rites in a scenic spa town on the island of Evia, renowned for its healing waters since antiquity. After peeling away our stresses in luxurious surroundings, we will immerse ourselves in the mythology, history and viticulture of wine throughout the centuries. We will take you to the heart of Greece's wine country, visiting small private estates, meeting independent producers and tasting the fruits of their efforts. Set amidst the beauty of autumn in the Plains of Attica and the Cycladic islands of Naxos and Paros, this ArtExchange journey samples the best Greek wines and pairs them with delicious food, warm hospitality and the mythology and customs that surround the wine making process. Price: Can. \$3,950. Double occupancy. Single supplement \$600.

Day 1: Athens. Informal reception; late night walk about Plaka.

Day 2-3: Evia. The historic *Thermae Sylla Spa*, take the healing baths, tour the picturesque town. A full day of special treatments. Visit the village of *Stamata* and the *Semeli Winery* for tasting and fabulous food on our way back to *Athens*.

Day 4-7: Athens. Walking tour of the historic sites of *Athens*: the *Acropolis*, *Anafiotika* in *Plaka*, taste the house wines and classic *mezethes* of local *tavernas*. Visit three of Athen's most intriguing musea: the *Folk Art Museum*, *Museum of Popular Musical Instruments* and *Museum of Traditional Pottery*. A day-long excursion to the best private vineyards in Attica, with wine tastings and food.

Day 8-9: Paros. Explore *Paroikia*, visit the *Moraitis Estate*, enjoy the spectacular fishing village of *Naousa*.

Day 10-12: Naxos. Explore the *Chora*. See *Dionysos'* gigantic statue in the village of *Apollonas*. The fertile *Tragaia Valley*, Byzantine churches, and venetian castles – with breaks at local *kafeneia/tavernas*. The *Archaeological Museum* and *Kastro*. A trip to the village of *Chalki* to visit the ancient *Vallindras Distillery* and sample their potent *citron*, made from citrus leaves.

Day 13-15: Athens. A day at the *Benaki Museum*, one of the finest in the world. Some free time to re-visit favourite sites, do last minute shopping... and a special going away dinner.

Day 16: Check out time. Return to our home destinations... to savour memories and friendships.

Includes: Accommodation, all breakfasts, six special dinners/lunches, wine tastings, full day of spa treatment (your choice of two programmes), all surface and sea transportation, admission to all sites, resource expertise, local guides, educational materials. Airfare excluded.

The ArtExchange Tel: (403) 251-5297 website: www.artexchange-greece.com

