

October & November, 2001



And a good and creative time was had by all...

Our most recent “artful escape” to Greece in the fall of 2001 took place right after the world had been stunned by the events of September 11, and the subsequent declaration of war against terrorism. If terror and other threatening possibilities were lurking around us then, art was what we chose as our beacon of hope, guiding us ever so gently across Greece and directing our future.



Sketching the Parthenon

Perhaps because of the fears that were rampant outside, we became faster friends, creating and enjoying each others’ creative efforts so much more than in previous journeys. And what talent we had in our small group! A singer-song writer filled the autumn evening on our tiny island with her voice and music as we sipped wine, shared our stories, and waited for the restaurants to open for the dinner trade. A painter (and a closet poet) painted to her heart’s content and our eyes’ delight, abandoning herself to the splendor of the Parthenon and the rugged sea shores of Tinos...a sculptor chiseled away on Aegean marble, creating a conch – a symbol of communication and gatherings; and an opera buff developed an affinity for Greek folk music during our visit to the wonderful and whimsical Museum of Popular Greek Music Instruments in *Plaka*.

Art was all around us, art created by us, art displayed for our viewing in the National Gallery – a magnificent exhibit to celebrate the centenary of Nicholas Gyzis’ death (he of the founding fathers of contemporary Greek painting and one of the so many artist sons of Tinos). Fine art, fine wine, fabulous food, good company, unforgettable sharing moments.



“I climbed and sketched the Parthenon. Will wonders never cease?” **Jean Monteith**

The more events became uncertain in the world around us, the more our hosts opened their hearts and extended even more Greek hospitality, as if to cushion the sadness, the unpredictability of the times we are living in. Who can forget the delicious food spontaneously prepared for us by Anna, our Tinos’ hotelier’s

wife, or his guitar playing and our dancing the night away with *syrtos*, *hassapikos*, and Caterina's valiant *zeibekiko*? What about our night of "culinary exchanges" in Tinos? Fresh *barbounia*, the finest of local fishes, for Canadian bison sausages??

Mr. Jan Vorres, of the Vorres Museum, a most attentive host at all times became even more so this time – he showed us more works, lingered on with us...even posed for photos with us! (Now, will our snapshot be displayed along with all the famous world figures who have visited the museum...?)



What of Mr. Yiannis Papachristou, the proprietor of the Papachristou Winery...who shared with us his passion for producing organic wines from scratch to finish...who ever so generously gave each of us two bottles of exquisite wine in tasteful (and reusable) cloth bags to take away with us. (This is the wine we all shared to set our mood just before dinner on Tinos...!)

So many wonderful memories, such a time of re-affirmation of how effective a cultural exchange art and travel can be.

See we hope to see you next year on one of our journeys...and may all your dreams come true in 2002.

Plan now – our journeys for 2002 and beyond:



"Greece..an artful escape" our popular fall destination and marble carving/sculpting studio, written up in travel sections from *The Sunday Oregonian* to the *St. Petersburg Times*, and selected by the Editor of *GoNOMAD Alternative Travel Guide* as one of its "top picks" for European travel. In "*Marble: Tradition and Innovation*," we find the hidden galleries in Athens, walk the streets of historic *Plaka*, explore the islands of *Syros* and *Hydra*...and create original works of art on the Cycladic island of *Tinos*. (September 25 to October 10, 2002)

"*In the Footsteps of Dionysos*"...this time around we search for the elusive and fun-loving god in the autumn plains of Attica, and the stunningly beautiful volcanic island of *Santorini* – we stomp the grapes ourselves, sample the best of Greek wines, enjoy *Epicurean* feasts, explore the picturesque villages...and much more! (Oct. 23 to Nov. 1, 2002)

In the works...

Our first-ever summer journey for our hot-blooded ceramic types—they love Greece in the summer and a good, fiery kiln (*The Art and Craft of Clay*, now scheduled for August 13–25, 2002)

"*Aegean Palimpsests: a photographic journey to Skyros*" you won't want to miss the centuries old pre-Lenten carnival on this beautiful Sporadic island (for March of 2003)

A *printmaking* studio journey for April of 2003...on another stunning Greek island

Stay in touch...



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