

The old and the new Cyprus

The story of Cyprus

Cyprus is an island located in the Levantine basin, which is the easternmost part of the Mediterranean Sea. On 16 August 1960, Cyprus obtained independence after the Zürich and London Agreement between the United Kingdom, Greece and Turkey. On 15 July 1974, the Greek military junta carried out a coup d'etat in Cyprus, to unite the island with Greece. Five days later, the Turkish army invaded the island on the pretext of restoring the constitutional order of the Republic of Cyprus. The events of the summer of 1974 dominate the politics on the island, as well as Greco-Turkish rela-

tions. On 1 May 2004 Cyprus joined the European Union together with nine other countries. In March 2008, the wall between the Republic of Cyprus and the UN buffer zone was demolished. The wall had cut across Ledra Street in the heart of Nicosia and was seen as a symbol of the island's 32-year division.

Nowadays, there is no conflict, but tensions continue to be felt. These tensions have divided Cyprian culture in two. There are older things such as monuments, legends and wine and new things like festivals, evenings, big events and tourism.

Ledra Street

Ledra Street is a major shopping street in central Nicosia. It is the site where you could find the division wall between the Greek south and Turkish north. During the struggle that ran from 1955 to 1959, the street acquired the nickname 'The Murder Mile' in reference to the frequent targeting of the British military by nationalist fighters along its course.

Today, there is a large variety of shops, ranging from department stores to small specialty shops. To the north, the street opens out into smaller streets, renowned for clothing and fruit. This street is one of the most popular in Cyprus because it has an important history.

JM



Aiya Napa, the new Ibiza

Aiya Napa is a seaside resort located on the southern coast of Cyprus, famous for its sandy beaches. In recent years, apart from being a family holidays destination, it has become a 'party capital!'

Aya Nappa is a bustling city, which attracts mainly young people and renowned for its nightlife. There are many restaurants, nightclubs, pubs, bars, and music... Sometimes, There are bars dedicated to Karaoke only. Some bars concentrate on only one type of music, whilst others play various party anthems. There are also numerous bars/pubs dedicated to one Nationality. With one Scottish pub, three Irish pubs, one Scandinavian bar, one Nor-

wegian bar, one Romanian bar and many others, you get the taste of the diversity of the place. Ayia Napa is the new trendy place where revellers from all over Europe come to have fun.

But in becoming the 'party capital,' Ayia Napa has also become the capital of alcohol, drugs and violence... The mayor, Antonis Tsokkos, re-

fuses that his city is seen as the new meeting point of clubbers. He fought to change the image of the station with the Cypriot tourist office. The aim of the tourist office was to slow this type of tourism down, and now we wonder if a backpedalling is possible...

MD



Ancestral Cyprus

A long time ago, Cyprus started to make wine. Cyprus is one of the first wine producing countries. In Cyprus, there is a Museum about wine production called 'The Cyprus Wine Museum' which is situated in Erimi village (on the old Limassol), on Paphos road. In this Museum we can see how wine is made, and you can also buy some bottles of it.

Once a year, from late August to early September, there is a festival in Limassol to celebrate wine and wine making, everyone can participate, in fact, a lot of tourists (around 100,000 visitors) come to Cyprus for the festival. This festival honours Dionysus, god of wine and Aphrodite the goddess of love and beauty.

the road of Paphos to Limassol. In the legend, Petra Tou Romiou is the birthplace of Aphrodite, the goddess of love and fertility. The baths of Aphrodite is a beautiful place. It's in a grotto, where the water is fresh. Aphrodite used to take her bath there. In the legend, Aphrodite met her lover, Adonis, when he stopped for drink, after hunting. At the moment he drank, he automatically fell in love with the goddess. From the fourth century before JC, to the fourth century after JC, Cyprus was a big place of pilgrimage. In fact, a lot of people venerated Aphrodite, and the population would give to the pilgrims a place to sleep and food. Nowadays, there is remains of the temple, in Kouklia.

LA

Petra Tou Romiou is a rock just off the shore along