

Gods and Heroes of Northern Greece

with Ancient Wine Guys

July 20th-27th, 2025

Explore the vibrant, verdant northern part of Greece, home to the Xinomavro red grape variety. Taste delicious local cuisine, wonderful wines and visit archaeological treasures. Experience the warm northern hospitality and unwind in the beautiful vineyards of Greek Macedonia



Saturday, July 19th: Pre group arrivals

If you wish to arrive in Thessaloniki a day earlier, to ease into the time change and overcome some of the jet lag, we have reserved some rooms at the hotel at a special group rate. Please advise us if you need to book an extra overnight.

Day 1. Sunday, July 20th: Arrival in Thessaloniki

Arrival at Thessaloniki International Airport "Macedonia" (SKG) and transfer to the centrally located hotel (on your own). Check-in. City tour with private bus and if energy levels permit, visit to the Archaeological Museum. Afternoon welcome drink and group dinner to welcome and meet all travellers. Overnight with breakfast at Hotel Monasty. (D)



Day 2. Monday, July 21st: Pella-Naoussa-Thessaloniki

After breakfast, (served from 7.00am) early morning departure with our private bus for our first day trip to the vineyards! On the way to **Naoussa**, we will make a stop at **Pella**, capital of the ancient Greek kingdom of Macedons (Alexander the Great). We will visit the museum and the site. Continue for approx one hour drive to the town of Naoussa, the most important town of Xinomavro grape variety. Visit 2 wineries, and enjoy an **alfresco lunch**. Return to Thessaloniki late afternoon. Free time to enjoy the hotel pool, a nap and dinner in town. Overnight with breakfast at Hotel Monasty (B,L)

Xinomavro: *Its name –Xinomavro- comes from the words xino (sour) and mavro (black). As matter of fact, the skin of its berries does not possess any particularly rich tint. Be that as it may, **Xinomavro** surprises with its performance and multi-faceted personality, yielding “vin de garde” reds, dynamic rosés, aromatic sparkling wines, and even sweet wines.*

read more... <https://winesofgreece.org/varieties/xinomavro/>

PRONUNCIATION OF XINOMAVRO



Day 3: Tuesday, July 22nd: Vergina-Siatista-Thessaloniki

We will visit the museum of **Vergina**, an impressive, underground museum that houses the tombs of Macedonian kings and their finds-offerings that were unearthed from each tomb.



We will continue our drive further west, to the picturesque village of **Siatista** to visit a local winery. Group lunch. Return to Thessaloniki late afternoon. Overnight with breakfast at Hotel Monasty (B,L)



Day 4: Wednesday, July 23rd: Epanomi -Katerini

After breakfast, we will check out and load our suitcase on the bus. We will embark on a visit to an important winery, south of Thessaloniki, whose founder winemaker, **Vaggelis Gerovassiliou** pioneered in the revival of the Greek wine as we know it today! Tour the winery and their luscious vineyards surrounding the winery. Wine tasting. *Visit the museum that features the winemaker's private collection of more than 3,000 corkscrews from around the world.* Group lunch included. Continue with our private bus to Katerini and reach our seaside Princess Mediterranean Hotels (B,L)





Day 5: Thursday, July 24th: "Dion"- Kitrus -Katerini

Today we will visit one of the most important archaeological sites of Greece, namely the **Dion Archaeological Park** in the foothills of mount Olympus. A 150 hectare park with important finds from the Hellenistic and Roman era, with



sanctuaries and urban areas featuring a market square, residential areas, baths, public buildings, churches, workshops. Group lunch. Visit a local **winery Kitrus**, to taste the wines made from vineyards of mount Olympus. Return to hotel late afternoon. Free time to enjoy the hotel pool, a nap and dinner. Overnight with breakfast at Hotel Princess Mediterranean or similar (B,L)

Day 6: Fri, July 25th: Katerini - Tyrnavos -Thessaloniki

Early morning check out and departure with our bus to visit a part of the wine region of Thessaly, namely **Tyrnavos**. Known for its excellent quality of 'tsipouro' we will taste the wines of a charismatic winemaker, **Zafeirakis**. Together with his father, they revived an ancient variety of the region called '*Limniòna*' that produces wonderful red and rose wines. Lunch in a traditional taverna. Return to Katerini for some free time. Overnight with breakfast at Princess Mediterranean Hotel (B,L)

Day 7: Sat, July 26th: Katerini - Thessaloniki

Free morning. Check out of the hotel and start our return journey back to Thessaloniki for some shopping. **Farewell group dinner** at centrally located restaurant. Overnight with breakfast at Hotel Monasty (B,D)

Day 8: Sun, July 27th: Thessaloniki -Home

After breakfast, group bus transfer to the airport at convenient time for all participants. (B)

RATE Includes:

- Seven (07) overnights in 5* & 4* hotels in Thessaloniki, Katerini in double room

- Daily breakfast
- Group Transfer from/to airport with private bus
- Bus transportation with modern bus and professional driver
- Tour host with wine knowledge (*24hrs assistance*)
- Seven (7) winery visits and wine tastings
- All Admission fees to sites and museums, as per itinerary
- Seven (7) meals incl. Welcome and Farewell dinner (*all meals include 3 courses & wine*)
- Toll fees and Greek vat tax

Not Included:

- Airfare from/to home
- All meals/services not mentioned
- Gratuities to guide and driver (*optional, suggested 2-3 euros per day for each*)
- Extra travelers insurance
- All personal expenses and shopping



Disclaimer: The schedule will have more details in regards to visits, hours, etc. closer to the start date.

Please note that the final excursion-related themes will be tailored to the participants' level of physical aptitude and will be announced at a later date.