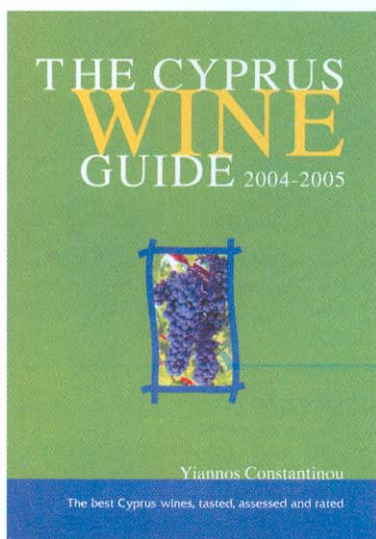


# BOOK

# REVIEWS



## The Cyprus Wine Guide 2004-2005

By Yiannos Constantinou

A paperback packed with information about the wine industry in Cyprus, including the Top 20 wineries on the island, an excellent section on the history and present-day production of Commandaria "the oldest name for a wine in the world" and Zivania "the traditional Cypriot spirit".

The author, Yiannos Constantinou, is a specialist on wines and a member of Fédération Internationale des Journalistes des Vins et Spiritueux (International Federation of Wine and Spirits Journalists and Writers). His articles have been published in local newspapers and in publications abroad, and his wine guide "Oenikos Odigos" (in Greek) was the first book to assess all local and imported wines available in Cyprus, and is currently a bestseller.

This handbook gives a realistic overview of everything you ever needed to know about Cyprus wines. "Is it not strange," asks the author "that a small

island like Cyprus with a population of around 750 thousand people should boast some 50 wineries?" and laments the "get-rich-quick mentality" of some wine makers who would sacrifice quality for profit.

He has made a selection of top twenty wineries in Cyprus, having tested the wines at each winery "organoleptically". Other criteria for selection were "the premises and technological infrastructure of the wineries, their adequacy in terms of know-how, their quantitative and qualitative strength in terms of vineyard ownership, and also the prospects they appear to have or to lack"

Included in the list are Ayia Mavri, Domaine Vlassides, Erimoudes and Vardalis (all in Kilani village), Constantinou Winery (Pera Pedi), Domaine Nicolaides (Anoyira), Fikardos (Mesogi), Ktima Mallia (Mallia), Lambouri (Kato Platres), Olympus (Omodos), Vassilikon (Kathikas) and Yiaskouris (Pahna).

All sections for each winery have useful information about the exact location, visiting hours, the altitude, total

**Nora Nadjarian** examines an impressive new publication on the wines of Cyprus and takes a look at the island through the eyes of a travelling artist.



annual production, names and details of wines produced, and star ratings for the recommended wines. A number of Chardonnays and Cabernet Sauvignons have been given three-star ratings ("Very Good") while the Domaine Nicolaides Rosé (2003) is recommended as "by far the best rosé on the island." Below is an extract from the "best wine" section given for each winery:

### **Cabernet Sauvignon 2001, Vasa Winery**

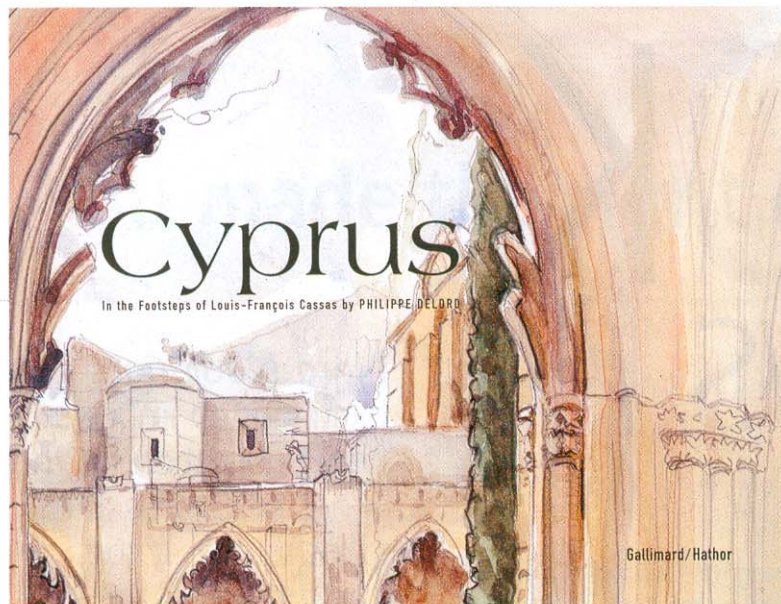
*Deep red. Intense, concentrated and complex nose in which the smells of the oak barrel are nicely integrated with the fruit (berries and cherries) and the chocolate, spicy and herbaceous aromas. Medium-bodied, good fruit, toned acidity and tannins which need another two years in the bottle in order to become firm and round. One of the best three or four cabernets of Cyprus.*

In all, a very useful publication, which will certainly tempt connoisseurs (as well as beginners!) to try out some of these exquisite tastes.

The Cyprus Wine Guide 2004-2005 is available from good bookshops all over the island.

### Aromas and flavours of Commandaria





The hardcover book, published by Gallimard Publishing House and Hathor Art Productions, is available in French and English. It can be purchased at Moufflon or Soloneion bookshops in Lefkosia, or from Hathor Art Productions. Tel: 22441571. Cost: £25 inc. VAT.

### Cyprus: In the Footsteps of Louis-François Cassas by Philippe Delord (Gallimard/Hathor)

*"Paris, Roissy 1. Thursday 5 September 2002 Gate no4. A gaggle of travellers is being swallowed up into the departure lounge. Cyprus Airways flight number 385 is announced.*

*The journey we are making will again follow the footsteps of Louis-François Cassas. His wanderings in the eighteenth century, following on from Alexandria, have brought me to Cyprus, an island at the gateway of the Levant, situated to the west, a hundred kilometres from the coasts of Lebanon and Turkey. His month's stay on the island produced mainly drawings and sketches of buildings constructed by one of the most important families – the Lusignans. When Richard the Lion Heart, King of England, sold Cyprus for one hundred thousand gold bezants to Guy de Lusignan, it remained for nearly three centuries the overseas kingdom of the Lusignan dynasty (1192- 1489)..."*



This is the beginning of a journey to Cyprus by young French artist Philippe Delord, who retraces the footsteps of the 18th century artist Louis-François Cassas on the island of Aphrodite.

Cassas was sent on a mission in the Ottoman Empire by the Ambassador

cover two centuries later the ruins of the abbey of Bellapais, a place of quietude, retreat and serenity, still encircled by a wide belt of olive trees, citrus and cypresses. Even if some pieces of the wall have disappeared forever, nothing seems to have changed since the eighteenth century..."

Philippe Delord was born in Lyon in 1962, and studied graphic design in Paris in the 1980s. He has widely exhibited in France and abroad, and as a travelling artist followed Cassas' footsteps once before, to Alexandria, in 1999.



Figurines from the sanctuary of Sais, Egypt. Horned minotaur, centaur bearing snakes, bulls, helmeted warriors, bearded priests. All seem lost in another world.

of Louis XVI in Constantinople, and arrived in Cyprus in the spring of 1785. Cassas' drawings are primarily of religious monuments of the Lusignans, but he captured the atmosphere of the times - and his work is invaluable in reconstructing life on the island as it was two centuries ago. "Today," writes Annie Gilet, Curator of the Musée des Beaux Arts in Tours, "these few works on paper amount to the first faithful pictorial representation of these Cypriot views so often celebrated by nineteenth-century artists and writers. It is with much emotion that we redis-

Delord's trips to Cyprus between 2002 and 2004 took him in search of places his predecessor drew, and in this delightful travelogue, the multiple influences that have marked a country with 8,000 years of civilisation are revealed. Through Delord's sketches and paintings, the reality of Cyprus - beyond the seaside resorts - emerges in full. The bittersweet and often humorous water-colour and pen-and-ink renditions of everyday life and scenes in Cyprus at the beginning of the 21st century are accompanied by Christine Demillier's evocative text. ■