

Wine production in Cyprus

A flashback in history and mythology of the island

Wine in antique time

- The production of wine in Cyprus has started since ancient time.
- Cyprus is highlighted as the source of European wine, as it has been proved scientifically - by Italian archaeologists - in Erimi village, where a big centre of wine production existed 4500 years ago.
- Traces of a basic component of the wine (tartaric acid) were found in fragments of excavated round flasks.



**GRAPES READY FOR WINE
PRODUCTION**



**“COMMANDARIA”: THE
FAME OF THE GLORIOUS
WINE OF THE KINGS**

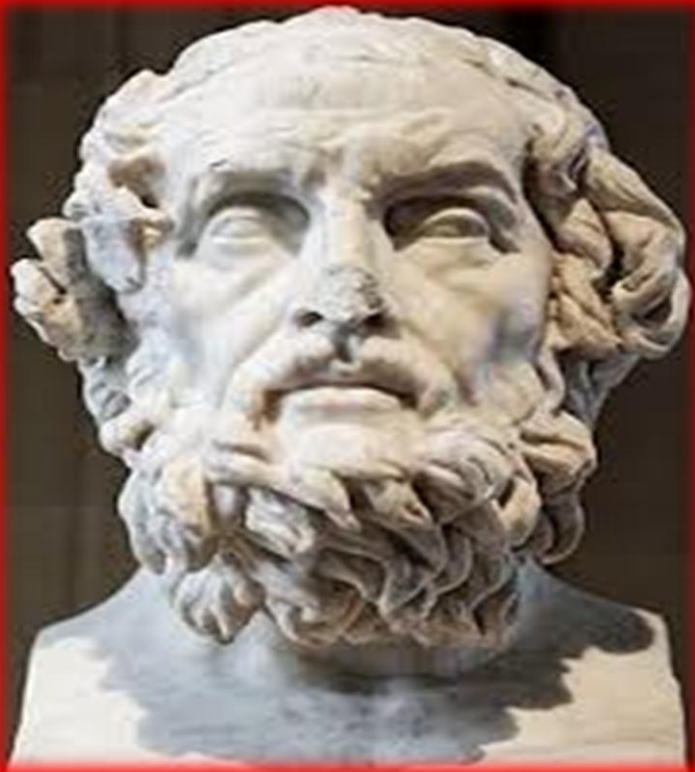
History - Mythology

- Cypriots were thus producing wine, long before the ancient Greeks did, probably even 1500 years earlier.
- In mythology we meet Bacchus(God of wine) to enjoy Cyprus wine with his friends,
- The lovers of Aphrodite (Goddess of Beauty and Love) to celebrate by drinking “Cyprus nama” , that is known to be the oldest most known wine.

1100 B.C.

References by Homer:

- The Greek ancient poet, Homer, praises in his epics the wines of Cyprus , whilst in a lot of ancient Greek writings Cyprus is being referred to as “εὖοινος”, which is translated in English as “good/nice – wine”.



Ancient Poet Homer

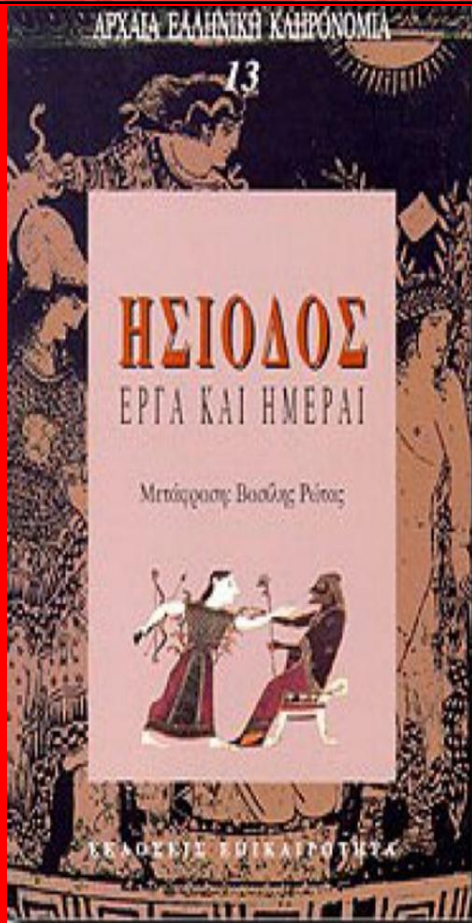


Dionysus – God of wine

800 B.C.

Reverences by Hesiod:

- Hesiod was the second in importance ancient Greek poet after Homer.
- Poet Hesiod describes in his writings «Έργα και Ημέραι» - (translated into “Works and Days”) the production of sun dried wine of that time.
- There is reference to the “sweet to drink” wine from Cyprus, the nowadays famous to all of us “Κουμανταρία” – Commandaria.



Hesiod



12TH CENTURY A.D.

Commandaria – the most known Cyprus wine

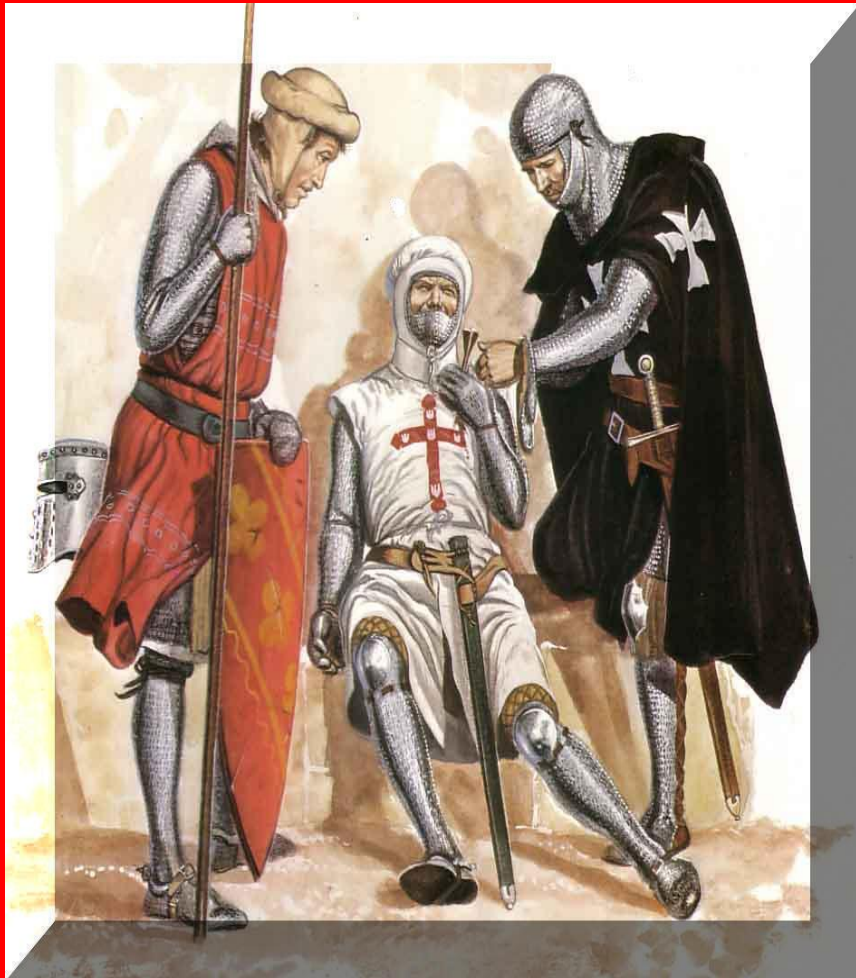
- In year 1191, Richard the Lionhearted, conquered the island on his way to the Holy Places during the 3rd Crusade.
- Subsequently, he transferred the island to the knights battalion, who later sold the island in 1192 to Guy de Lusignan, ex-king of Jerusalem.



12TH CENTURY A.D.

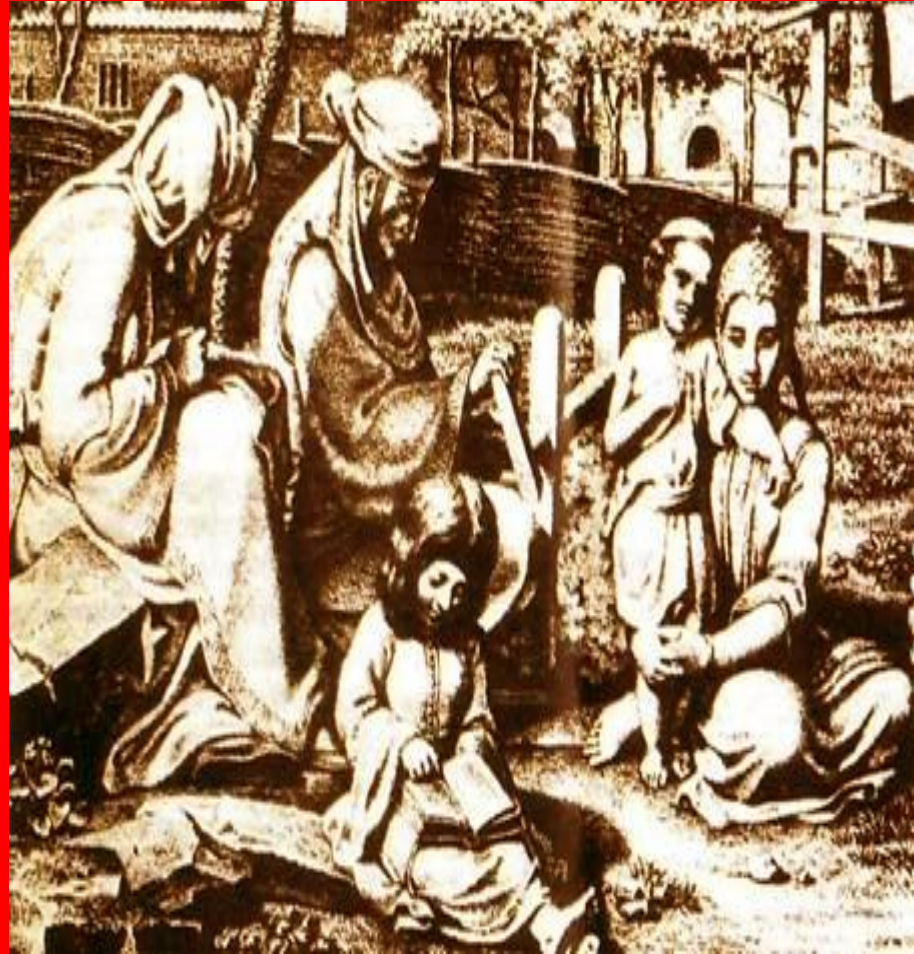
How did Commandaria get its name?

- “Koumandaria” got its name from the “Great Administration” - «**Grande Commanderie**” of the knights' battalion of St John of Jerusalem, who had settled in Cyprus and conquered a large part of Limassol province.
- These areas were called **Commanderies**.



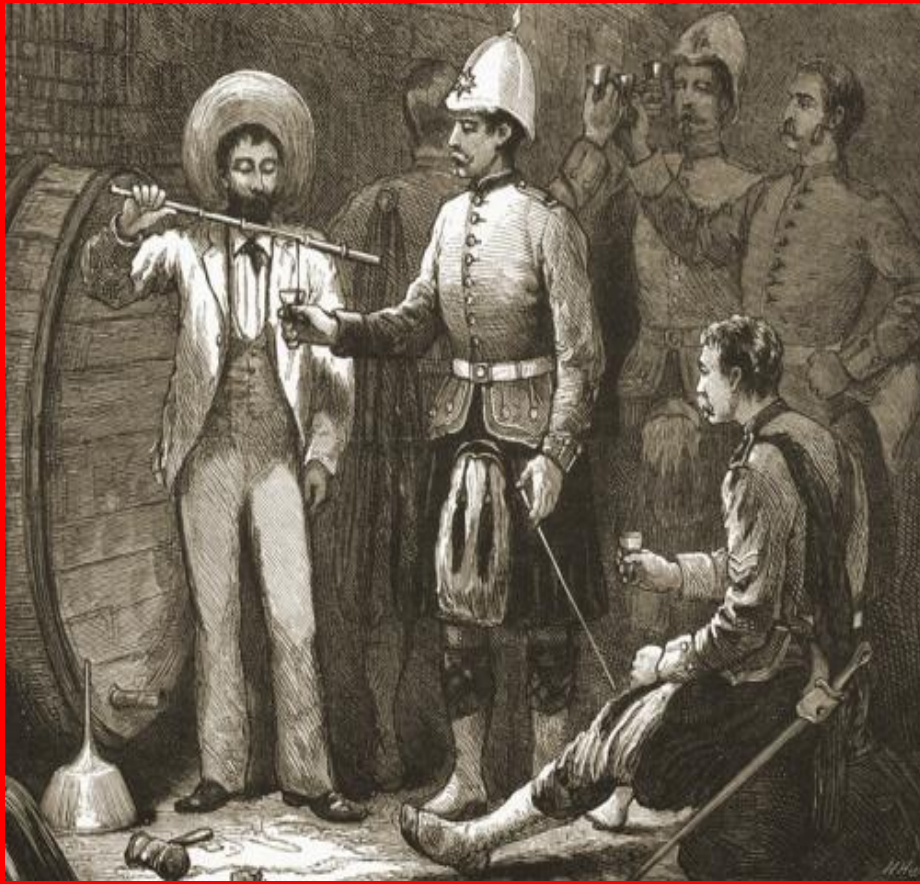
Turkish domination

- During the Turkish domination, the development of the viniculture and the production of Commandaria had to great extent declined.
- This was due to the weakness, repression and the heavy taxation, that the Ottoman Empire imposed on the wine trade.



British Rule

- The production of Commandaria, however, had rooted on the Cypriot land and was maintained throughout the tradition and Christian faith.
- Since the years of the Byzantium, the “sweet to drink” wine of Cyprus, had been defined as the wine of the Holy Communion.
- Thus, despite of all the adverse conditions it survived and was preserved until the years of the British Rule.
- It was then attempted to determine the Commandaria area and the villages which were allowed to produce this type of wine, since its price was much higher than similar wines produced in other areas of Cyprus.



Protected Geographical Indication

- According to the archeologists Commandaria is the most ancient wine in the world.
- Commandaria had been prepared since then under a specific method which is being used until nowadays.
- It is the only wine, with Protected Geographical Indication produced in Cyprus, and an international reputation and worldwide recognition.

EUROPE – THE LARGEST MARKET FOR THE CYPRUS WINES



Countries where wine is being exported:
Germany, Great Britain, France and Russia.

Villages that produce wine

- The most known wine producing villages are:
 - Apsiou
 - Ayios Mamas
 - Capilio
 - Yerasa
 - Ayios Pavlos
 - Ayios Georgios
 - Zoopigi
 - Lania - Lemesos
 - Doros
 - Ayios Constantinos
 - Monagri
 - Louvaras
 - Silikou
 - Kalo Chorio Lemesos

Map showing wine producing villages – Ministry of Agriculture



Thanks for watching

The end



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- Andreas Charalambous
- Kyproulla Mitside
- Fotini Xeira
- Maria Savva

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