

born of earth, wind & fire



basket, bottle + vine

a newsletter dedicated to the santorini vineyard: april 2012

PRESS
COMMUNITY

OUR WINES

WINERIES

BLOG

ON SITE

Santorini sails into Manhattan

Wines from one island to another delivered another year of greatness



Jordan MacKay led a panel of sommeliers through the tasting. Below, George Gavalas was one of several Santorini winemakers making an appearance. Right: Agape Roussos and Haridimos Hatzidakis

Photos: Gabriella Porter



On the morning of March 22, producers from the island of Santorini were welcomed to Manhattan with weather suggestive of the region's unique climate—a dense morning fog leading to bright sunny skies—as they presented their wines to wine trade and media professionals at the third annual Wines from Santorini tasting. Held at the Gansevoort Park Avenue Hotel, the event kicked off with a tasting and discussion of the island's hallmark grape and its deserved place on the table. Writer Jordan Mackay led panelists Paul Grieco of Hearth Restaurant and Terroir Wine Bars, Michael Madrigale of Bar Boulud & Boulud Sud, Tom Pastuzsak of the Nomad Hotel, Athina Tsoli of Karamolegos Winery and Sofia Perpera of All About Greek Wine in a conversation about the Santorini vineyard and Assyrtiko's unique attributes.

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ON THE ROAD

Greek wines hit the road in a 3-city tour in May

HOT VIEW



Top Somms talk Santorini.

HOT STUFF

Wine & Spirits writer Tara Q. Thomas spoke about Greek wine renaissance on NPR's "The Splendid Table" this month. MP3 [here](#).

HOT LINKS

[Santorini](#), one of the cradles of western winedom

[A bounty of Greek wines](#) finds in high style on lists

[Minerality in wine](#) not taken for granite

[Hatzidakis Cuvee No. 15](#) gets a high [tasting] note

[Jersey](#) gets an Easter wine recommendation

[Santorini on the list](#) at new cutting edge restaurant in NYC.

[One wine blogger](#) takes a walk on Santorini's wild side

HOT SIPS

Michael Skurnik Wines and Ted Diamantis of Diamond Importers will present a

GREEK WINEMAKERS RETURN to North America for the annual spring road show in Montreal, Toronto and New York City. Greece, known as the oldest culture of wine, has made news by reinventing the modern face of Greek wine while holding true to its winemaking traditions. Please join us for a look at these terroir-driven wines made from indigenous and international varieties that speak of the land from which they come. More than 50 wineries from Greece will present the 2011 vintage and more.

REGISTER HERE FOR YOUR CITY:
[Montreal](#) May 10, [Toronto](#) May 15 or [New York](#) May 17.



seated tasting of Assyrtikos from Domaine Sigalas, ranging from new and old vintages, barrel-fermented and the new single-vineyard wine. Paris Sigalas, Steve Olsen and Laura Maniec MS will lead the discussion at Corkscrew Studio on May 9, 1-3pm (trade only.)

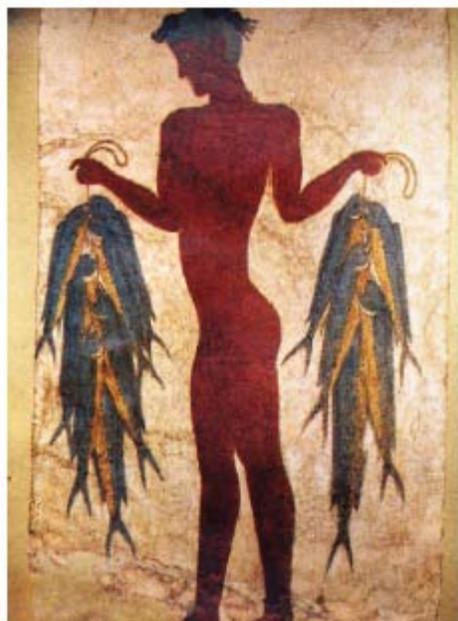
Athenee Importers was on site this month for Winebow's "Off the Beaten Path" tasting of its portfolio including Argyros Atlantis Red and Gaia Thalassitis.

Kellari and the Embassy of Greece has started a monthly Greek wine happy hour on the first Monday of every month at the Embassy in Washington, D.C., @Kellari DC.

Wine & Spirits magazine has included Greek wines for the second consecutive year as a hot pick in its restaurant survey. Gaia Assyrtiko Wild Ferment rated among the most popular Greek wines.

ON THE UPSWING

Akrotiri excavations are reopened after 7 years



Fresco of the Fisherman from Akrotiri, also on the label of the Lava wine at Koutsoyannopoulos Winery.

VISITORS TO SANTORINI have one more reason to drink in the island's unique sights and sites. After a seven-year closure during which the excavations were restabilized, Akrotiri archaeological site has re-opened to the public. The Minoan Bronze Age site, devastated by volcanic eruption in the middle of the second millennium BD and covered for thousands of years is likened to Pompeii for its state of preservation and intricate town plan.

Archaeologist Christos Dumas, who led the excavations, writes there were indications of a thriving wine industry here. "The picture we have from the last phase of the city of Akrotiri is that viticulture and wine production should be a core sector of the economy." The grape was, of course, a popular genre in figurative pottery of the time, but digs have revealed other indications of wine culture such as receptacles for pressing grapes and storing grapes.

Though wine production has advanced considerably on the island, echoes of this ancient oeno-history are to be found in several of the wineries, all of which stand to see increased visitor traffic with the re-opening of this important site.

HOT TWEET

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MISSION

Wines from Santorini is a campaign to increase awareness of the unique PDO wines and vineyard of Santorini through cutting-edge education and promotion.

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