



olive & olive oil

Bimonthly magazine
Issue N°60
May - July 2008

Publisher:
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Axion editions

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Annual subscription:
Greece: 48 €
Cyprus: 60 €
World: USD 108/72 €

MARIO SOLINAS' Awards 2007/08

This year's Mario Solinas competition of the International Olive Oil Council introduced certain innovations such as the distinction of olive oil extracted either from mature or unripe green olives.

78 olive oils entered the competition: Spain (31), Portugal (21), Greece (14), Italy (4), France (3), Israel (2) and one each from Egypt, Morocco and Saudi Arabia .

Spain won 7 awards while Greece, France, Italy, Portugal and Morocco carried off one award each. Another 12 oils, including three from Greece received honours as finalists.

OIL& OLIVE OIL congratulates all four Greek companies that received the awards and honours. OIL & OLIVE OIL gives a short description of these four companies.

We would like to offer to all Greek companies that struggle to improve the quality of their extra virgin olive oil our best wishes. Above all we hope that their efforts will be recognised and bear fruit.

Gold Award, medium green fruitiness



Agricultural Cooperative of Kritsa.

Founded in 1927 it numbers approximately 890 members today .

Its main activity is the production, packaging and standardization of olive oil.

The Cooperative has a new modern centrifuge ALFA LAVAL mill, and practices the system of common crushing. It has its own packaging facilities which are certified according to ISO 9001:2001 and HACCP (ISO 22000:2005). Its storage tanks are of stainless steel and can hold up to 700 tonnes of olive oil. The olive oil produced is mainly high quality extra virgin, of an acidity almost always below 0.3 . This high quality extra virgin has been awarded many times: 3rd prize in the category of medium fruitiness in the 2006 MARIO SOLINAS competition. 1st prize in the 2nd Panhellenic Competition of Standardised Extra Virgin Olive Oil in the category of intense fruitiness in 2007, Gold Taste Award in the 2nd Olive and Oil Festival in May 2008. Gold Quality Award in Elaiotechnia exhibition in May 2008. 1st prize in the category of medium fruitiness the MARIO SOLINAS' competition 2008

Finalist awards



BOTZAKIS SA The company was founded in 1995 by George, Vasilis and John Botzakis, following the long tradition of olive oil production in Crete. It maintains a highly modern and vertically organized factory in the area of Alagni in Iraklio. Its products are certified organic (DIO certification) and PDO

«PEZA» by AGROCERT.

The plant is also certified according to ISO 22000/2005 and ISO9001/2000 and is in the process of approval for the BRC and IFC certificates. Since 1989, Botzakis SA began to supply with Cretan extra virgin olive oil many European countries such as Germany, France, Luxembourg and Belgium. Since then exports expanded towards China, Korea, USA and Brazil.

One of the company's main objectives is to offer top quality products along with direct and thorough customer service.

The Botzakis company wishes to broaden its partnership at international level by bringing its unique Cretan Product to the consumers of all over the world.

Agricultural Cooperative «CERTIFIED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS OF GARGALIANI - ELAIONAS».



was founded in 2004, originally by 102 producers from Gargaliani and from the villages of Planos, Pyrgos, Floka, Marathos, Valta and Lefki. In 2006 the number of members of «E-

LAIONA» rose to 205 producers, who cultivate more than 5,000 acres with 103,000 olive trees. The production capacity of its members ranges from 700 to 1,000 tonnes of extra virgin olive oil and 5-6 tonnes of Kalamata table olives . Its members apply the Quality Management System Protocol EUREPGAP v2.1 Jan'04 option 2. The Cooperative is also certified for the Production of Olive fruit by the accredited Certifying Agency CMi (Checkmate International plc certificate # 12134) and according to Critical Control Point System - HACCP EL0T 1416.

Lefteris Vourtsis. The private business of Mr. Lefteris Vourtsis, operates both as a mill and as a packaging



plant. It is located in the municipality of Arkadi, in Kalipado of Zante island. The history of the company starts with Mr. Vourtsis' father in 1940. For many

years it operated only as a mill while during the last decade it has set up its own packaging plant. The company's aim is to improve its processing and standardisation processes so as to offer a Greek cold extraction Extra Virgin Olive of high quality, organic and PGI as well. The business has started to export to America, Canada and Germany and aims to expand to other international markets.