

7 NIGHTS ISRAEL WINE TOUR 2007

DAY 1 Sunday, 18 February

Depart JFK International Airport at 5:40PM for Tel-Aviv, Israel

DAY 2 Monday, 19 February

Arrive at Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv in the early hours of the morning. Proceed to the port city of Haifa and arrive to **Rimonim Galei Kinnereth Hotel** in Tiberias, situated on the Sea of Galilee at about 8 a.m. Enjoy your first Israeli breakfast. Between sprawling lawns and a private beach, this world class five star hotel offers its guests a luxurious stay that includes a new Spa, (one of the most modern in the country) featuring 11 treatment rooms, a thermal mineral water pool, Shiatsu, reflexology, mud treatments and more. We will enjoy and pamper ourselves by spending a day at this famous all natural health spa (optional) as we reflect on our wonderful wine tasting experiences in Greece.

DAY 3 Tuesday, 20 February

Breakfast at our Hotel. Start the day at Mitzpe Gadot, overlooking the Golan Heights. This observation point is named for Kibbutz Gadot - a kibbutz whose civilian members were in the line of fire to defend the Galilee up until 1967. The site is dedicated to soldiers who fell in the fight for the defense of the Galilee and the Golan. Drive via El Chama the Hot Springs on the Border between Israel and Jordan, (Hamat Gader was a health centre in Roman times the site includes a 42C pool and the ruins of an elaborate Roman bath and theatre) Then, we move onwards to Mitzpe Shalom on the southern Golan for a spectacular view of the Sea of Galilee. Visit **Chateau Golan Winery** nestled in the south of the Golan Heights at Moshav Eliad. Enjoy lunch at Ramat Hagolan Winery. This excellent winery, largely responsible for the wine revolution within Israel, releases wines in three series: "Yarden", "Gamla" and "Golan". The Yarden series is considered the most prestigious. After lunch proceed to Mt Ben Tal - Introducing Israel's northern borders from the Golan Heights, Mt. Ben Tal allows the opportunity to glimpse at Israel's neighbors and borders as it tells the heroic stories of the defenders of the Golan. On to **Maor Winery**, a premium family winery, established in 2003, and located on Moshav Ramot. End the day at **Bashan Winery**, an organic and ecological winery. Overnight: **Galei Kinneret Tiberias**

DAY 4 Wednesday, 21 February

Breakfast at our Hotel. Visit the city of Safed, one of the four holy cities in Israel, together with Jerusalem, Hebron and Tiberias. The old part of town consists of narrow cobblestone alleys revealing artists' galleries, medieval synagogues, private homes and small guesthouses. **Dalton Winery** is a small boutique winery located in the Upper Galilee of Israel that produces quality kosher wines such as Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay. Lunch at **Galil Winery**. Galil Mountain Winery is a joint venture between Golan Heights Winery and Kibbutz Yiron. The winery is an enterprise that combines the unique features of the Upper Galilee Mountains with the expertise of the Golan Heights Winery in producing top quality wines. Then visit **Miles Winery** and **Tabor Winery**, overlooking the village of Kfar Tabor. Overnight: **Galei Kinneret Tiberias**.

DAY 5 Thursday, 22 February

Breakfast at our Hotel. Begin winery visits: Starting at Mt Carmel, **Saslove Winery**, a family operated boutique winery. Barry Saslove, owner and wine maker, is one of the pioneers of the rejuvenated Israeli wine industry who has taught wine appreciation and winemaking to thousands of Israelis. Barry's wines are elegant, soft, rich, and complex. Visit **Margalit Winery**, a pioneer of the boutique-wineries in Israel, Margalit has evolved to be almost a legendary wine very much sought after by the public. Visit and lunch at **Amphorae Winery** situated on the Makura ranch in the heart of the Carmel Mountains where the Maharal River gently winds. The Amphorae Vineyard is located precisely where the river crosses the Shirr Valley. A serene Mediterranean view surrounds the winery, creating the right ambience to make wine. Continue to **Flam Winery** - the Flam bros. certainly marked a significant milestone in defining the potential of the Cabernet-Sauvignon - Merlot blend in a country still looking for its future champion grape variety. Then, to **Mony Winery** located in Dir-Rif'at and owned by the Artul family, an Arab-Christian family from the Galilee town of Mghar. They moved to Dir-Rif'at - a planned Arab town that has yet to be built - to produce wine and olive oil. The vineyard is located near a beautiful church, where "peace" is written on the structure's ceiling in 340 languages, including Arabic. Before entering Jerusalem and if time permits, stop at the Arab village of Abu Gosh. Overnight **The David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem** (www.tdchotel.com)

DAY 6 Friday, 23 February

Breakfast at our Hotel. Depart via the Judean Hills and Ein Gedi to the **Dead Sea**, lowest spot of earth to **Masada**. Climb by cable car and visit the site where 960 Jewish defenders took their own lives rather than become slaves to the Romans. Our guide will take us on a fascinating tour of the mountaintop fortress. Proceed via Arad to Beer Sheva area and visit the **Yatir Winery** for a tour and lunch. Return to Jerusalem. Overnight **The David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem** (www.tdchotel.com)

DAY 7 Friday, 24 February

Breakfast at our Hotel. Today we begin sightseeing of Jerusalem: Starting at the Mount Scopus and the Mount of Olives for magnificent panoramic views of the Old City. Visit the **Garden of Gethsemane** and the **Church of All Nations**. Enter the Old City of Jerusalem and enjoy a walk along the ancient ramparts. Visit the **Western Wall** and view the **Dome of the Rock** and **Temple Mount**. Stroll through the Arab Market and enjoy the sights, sounds and colors that prevail (there will be time to stop and shop). Lunch en route. Stop at Haas Promenade for a panoramic view of Jerusalem from the southern side. After lunch proceed to view the New City. Drive via the **Knesset** (Parliament), Mt Herzl, and visit the picturesque village of Ein Karem. Overnight **The David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem** (www.tdchotel.com)

DAY 8 Sunday, 25 February

Breakfast at our Hotel. Today we will begin winery visits to, first, **Barkan Wine Cellars** one of the leading producers of quality wines and spirits in Israel. Barkan Wine Cellars are renowned locally as well as worldwide for the extraordinary care with which their growers attend to the vineyards, their winemakers who take the finest care of the grapes and vines, and their use of the most advanced technologies. Continue to **Tzora Winery**, owned by Kibbutz Tzora. This boutique winery produces about 4200 cases of Cabernet Sauvignon, Sauvignon Blanc and Muscat Alexandroni. Proceed to **Domain du Castel Winery**, a small winery that began production in the Judean Hills, 10 miles west of Jerusalem, in 1992. Ellah Winery, located on the Kibbutz Netiv Halamed Hey in the Jerusalem Mountains, the winery released its first wines from the 2002 vintage. Proceed to Moshav Tal Shachar, where the **Soreq Winery** was established in 1994 by the Shacham Family. Time permitting, visit Mini Israel, a new miniature park in the Latrun area. Evening: Farewell dinner at the famous **Arcadia** restaurant in Jerusalem. Set in an exquisitely renovated old building in which the dining area is divided into intimate areas by stone arches. Chef-Owner Ezra Kedem maintains one of the very best and one of the most exciting restaurants in the country with contemporary and light cuisine that relies in equal parts on French style and local ingredients, highlighting the freshness and beauty of products from throughout the area. Overnight **The David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem** (www.tdchotel.com)

DAY 9 Monday, 26 February

Early AM Transfer to airport for flight at 6 AM via Athens to the New York. Arrive at JFK Airport at 4:05 PM

