

Happy New Year and welcome to our first members' newsletter.....



As you can see it's packed with news, activities and exclusive springtime offers, along with some exciting new accommodation options, providing more opportunities to experience our diverse culture and breathtaking landscape.

To help you plan your next break we've featured some springtime events to make the most of the outdoors - from the exhilaration of competitive cycling to laid-back bird watching excursions. Plus, there's something for everyone in our cultural diary which is full of inspiring events taking place on the island this year.

We would love to hear your feedback through our new social networking sites, and as a reward we're offering some amazing prizes in our members' competition.

From all the team we wish you the very best for 2010 and look forward to welcoming you back to our beautiful island soon.

Best wishes
Sofronios



NEW for 2010 – rural and coast multi-centre breaks

Cyprus Villages has teamed up with new partners to offer you flexible rural and coastal accommodation options to create your perfect tailor-made holiday package.

Now you can combine a tranquil inland village stay with a few days on the beautiful golden beaches of Ayia Napa, or perhaps spend some time exploring the ancient ruins of the Pafos' region close to the stunning natural scenery of the Akamas peninsula.

Whatever your interest we have an accommodation option to suit you - from our wide range of Cyprus Villages' rural retreats, Ayia Napa



resorts and the Thalassa hotel at Governor's Beach, plus a range of private houses, hotels and villas in Pafos.

Book your multi-destination holiday through our website or contact our reservations team on (+357) 24 332 998, reservations@cyprusvillages.com.cy

Recession busting holiday deals for our members.....

We are delighted to offer our valued Cyprus Villages' Club Members exclusive savings on our 2010 published package rates - so you can experience more of Cyprus for less. Book before 31 March 2010 to enjoy substantial discounts during the following holiday periods:

March 2010	April 2010	May 2010	June 2010	25/8 to 25 Sept 2010	Nov 2010
-15%	-10%	-15%	-20%	-15%	-20%

Enhance your experience with our compliments

FREE tickets for Shakespeare under the stars



Experience the magical atmosphere of Curium's ancient amphitheatre at the island's annual Shakespeare festival. Book a Cyprus Villages' property during the festival week (18, 19 & 20 June) and you'll receive 2 free tickets for this season's 'Merchant of Venice' production. Just mention 'Shakespeare' when you book.



De-stress with a complimentary massage

Book a week's half board package with Cyprus Villages and receive a soothing back massage in our Tochni Day Spa absolutely free. Ask about our massage offer when you make your holiday booking. Offer valid until March 31

FREE upgrade on your car rental

Members who book a Cyprus Villages' inclusive category 'A' rental car package will receive an upgrade to a category 'B' model with our compliments. Ask our reservations team for details.

Celebrate your special occasion in style with Cyprus Villages

Surprise your partner and add an extra touch of romance to your vacation with our special romance package, including a 3-course candlelit dinner for two at Tochni Tavern or a fish meze at the Thalassa resort, with flowers and a bottle of Champagne for just €45 per person.

Celebrate anniversaries, birthdays and any special occasion in style. We can arrange flowers, balloons, chocolates and birthday cakes to make your day memorable.

Simply tell us about your celebration when you make your booking and we'll take care of the rest.

Join our social networks for a chance to win a week's holiday

Cyprus Villages' guests can now get all the latest news, information and photos through our Twitter, Facebook and Flickr pages.

To celebrate we're offering a fantastic holiday package in Tochni for the writer of the best Cyprus Villages' holiday story posted on Facebook and Twitter, and another for the best photograph and testimonial shared on our Flickr pages before the end of September 2010. We'll be asking you to vote for your favourite.

Simply follow the links on our website, and don't forget to post your comments and photos on Trip Advisor too.

Competition details: A total of three prizes will be awarded, with each winner receiving a one week stay for two people including breakfast at Cyprus Villages' Tochni resort. Stories and photos must be posted on the Cyprus Villages social networking sites before 30 September 2010

Cyprus cycling season gets underway

As one of the most exhilarating European cycling destinations, Cyprus is attracting more professional and amateur cyclists than ever before.



The main cycling season runs during the cooler months from November to April, when you can enjoy numerous cycling routes suitable for riders of all levels.



Cyprus Villages provides all the necessary cycling equipment with partners Probike and Cycle-in Cyprus offering bicycle hire and guided rural cycling excursions.

Nature lovers, photographers and history enthusiasts will find the tours a perfect way to combine interests, whilst enjoying the fresh air and some healthy exercise.

Featured springtime events.....

The Sunshine Cup Race Series – February 21 to March 7

Our annual Sunshine Cup race series is a firm favorite of some of the world's top cyclists who take advantage of Cyprus' excellent weather conditions and challenging terrain to prepare for the professional World Cup cycling season.

This year the international event offers three challenging mountain bike races in picturesque Voroklini, Macheras Forest and Amathunta. The races are open to professionals and hobby riders without a license, with a tempting €29,000 in prize money at stake.



The Aphrodite Trophy – March 20 & 21

An open event for all cyclists aged 15+ the Mountain Bike Marathon and Mountain Run Races follow an exhilarating cross-country course starting from Tochni village.

Cyclists can prepare at an advanced training camp and take part in an array of special activities, from mountain biking with professional riders, to locally-inspired gastronomic experiences.

As the official accommodation partner for the events, Cyprus Villages is offering special accommodation rates and packages in Tochni and the surrounding villages to all race and training camp participants.

Packages include airport transfers, participation in training camp activities and B&B accommodation in Cyprus Villages' properties.

For information about cycling holidays visit our website or check out the following sites to help you plan your next activity break.

www.probike-cyprus.de
www.cycle-in-cyprus.com

For race entry details visit
www.mtbcyprus.com



Tour of Cyprus 2010 – March 25 to 28

Cyprus' newest cycling challenge takes riders on a 400km scenic tour of coastal and mountain terrain, charming villages and bustling cities.

Designed in a 'Tour de France' style format, the multi-stage endurance race offers two rider categories to suit both professionals and those who prefer to take things at a gentler pace.

The tour's Official Air Carrier, Cyprus Airways, is offering a 20% discount on flights plus free bike transportation for participants. To find out more about this exciting event visit www.tourofcyprus.com

Spring into bird watching

Cyprus is an ornithologist's paradise with around 380 species of birds to spot, from a small number of endemic species to a host of migratory visitors crossing the Mediterranean every spring and autumn. Spring migration begins in February and by the end of March the island is positively teeming with birds of all varieties.

BirdLife Cyprus, a representative of BirdLife International organises regular guided excursions to bird-watching hotspots throughout the island, offering a chance to enjoy a day in the countryside as it bursts into life in a kaleidoscope of colour.

For information on bird watching events and recent sightings, visit the BirdLife Cyprus' website at www.birdlifecyprus.org, or telephone (+357) 224 55072.

You can also call the bird information hotline for up-to-date sighting news on (+357) 25934076.

Take a hike.....

In addition to a multitude of local self-guided walking routes, for just €3 you can make new friends by joining a CSRC ramble.

Every Sunday the group heads out on a different walking adventure followed by lunch in a local taverna. For details visit www.csrc.ws



Cyprus Diary 2010

With a variety of colorful festivals, culture, tradition and ancient historical sites, Cyprus has something of interest for everyone. Our selection of contemporary and traditional cultural experiences provides a taste of what is on offer during 2010, from world-class sporting events and active pursuits, to nature excursions and balmy summer evenings of music, dance and open-air theatre

January

January 10, 17, 24, 31

MUSICAL SUNDAYS – FREE entertainment on the seafront at Larnaka, Ayios Tychonas and Pafos, featuring jazz, pop, traditional music and dance. 11:00 every Sunday (except Easter) until May 2. For details visit www.visitcyprus.com

January 13, 14, 15

CYPRUS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA 'DANCE MUSIC' - classics from Vassilis Tendis, Andreas Haralambous, Johann Strauss Jr and Josef Strauss. 20:30 Strovolos Municipal Theatre Nicosia (13), Markideion Theatre Pafos (14) and Rialto Limassol (15) www.symesok.com

January 18

TRIBUTE TO YIANNIS RITSOS – the CyBC Popular Orchestra celebrates the 100th anniversary of the famous Greek poet. Entry is FREE. 20:30 at the Larnaka Municipal Theatre. Telephone (+357) 24655794 or visit www.larnaka.com

January 23

CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT with members of the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra music by Mozart and Dvorak plus three Argentinean tangos. 17:00 Pallas Theatre, Pafos Gate, Nicosia. For details visit www.symesok.com

January 26 & 27

NOISE ENSEMBLE – lively percussion and dance spectacular. 20:30 Larnaka Municipal Theatre (26) and Rialto Theatre Limassol (27). For Larnaka details call (+357) 24665795 / Limassol (+357) 77777745

January 27, 28, 29

CYPRUS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA WITH HARP & FLUTE – featuring music by Beethoven, Mozart and Dvorak. 20:30 Strovolos Municipal Theatre Nicosia (27), Markideion Theatre Pafos (28) and Xenion High School Amphitheatre Paralimni (29) www.symesok.com

January 29

"SINGING FOR THE CHILDREN OF KENYA" – with the Student's Choir of the Orthodox Patriarchal Ecclesiastical School of Makarios III (Kenya) 20:00 Larnaka Municipal Theatre (+357) 24655794 or visit www.larnaka.com

January 29

"TWO PIANOS – ONE VOICE" - music and songs from Greece, Spain and Russia, with Margarita Zorpala and pianists Manolis Neophytou and Neoklis Neophytides. 20.30 Rialto Theatre Limassol (+357) 777 77745

February

February 3

PREMIERE 'NINE' – charity screening of the award-winning 2009 film. 20:30 Zena Palace cinema, Nicosia. (+357) 99 611863

February 4 to 14

LIMASSOL CARNIVAL – the celebration includes masquerade balls, children's activities and a spectacular carnival parade (+357) 253 42153

February 6

BIRDLIFE CYPRUS – a trip to spot water birds and other winter visitors on the Akrotiri Peninsula (+357) 22455072

February 13

THE NUTCRACKER & OTHER MUSICAL TALES - the CSO introduces the magic of music to children aged 3 and above. 17:00 Rialto Limassol (+357) 777 77745

February 15 to 28

TIDES & LAST SUNDAY – photographic exhibition featuring two Limassol-inspired collections by Theo Georgiades. Dinos Art Café, Limassol (+357) 25 762030

February 19 to May 26

TOULOUSE LAUTREC AND THE BELLE EPOQUE IN PARIS & ATHENS - features over 100 original works by the notorious 19th century Parisian artist. Evagoras Lanitis Center Limassol (+357) 253 42123



February 20

BIRDLIFE CYPRUS – the group heads out to the Pafos foothills to spot winter thrushes and finches. 09:00 www.birdlifecyprus.org

February 21 to March 7

SUNSHINE CUP RACE SERIES - see our featured events page for details

February 26

ENSEMBLE INTERCONTEMPORAIN - the Pharos Arts Foundation presents the legendary Ensemble Intercontemporain, considered one of the world's finest contemporary music groups. PASYDY Auditorium, Nicosia. www.thepharostrust.org



February 28

LIMASSOL INTERNATIONAL MARATHON - Cyprus' only internationally certified marathon and distance races. 0800 Old Stadium GSO, Molos www.limassolmarathon.com



March

March 5 to 7

10th PLATFORM OF CONTEMPORARY DANCE - a mix of contemporary performance art and dance theatre. Rialto Limassol (+357) 777 77745

March 6

BIRDLIFE CYPRUS – winter visitors and early spring migrants at Asprokremmos Dam and Mandria. 09:30 at the Dam car park www.birdlifecyprus.org

March 10, 12 & 13

CYPRUS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA “MYTHS AND LEGENDS” – featuring soloist Vivian Cooksley. 20:30 Strovolos Municipal Theatre Nicosia (10), Rialto Limassol (12), Markideion Theatre Pafos (13) www.symesok.com

March 13

BIRDLIFE CYPRUS – enjoy a day spotting birds in Troodos. 09:30 at the Forestry Department Environmental Centre. www.birdlifecyprus.org

March 14

CYPRUS MARATHON – the full distance, half and 10km races finish at Pafos Medieval Fort square followed by Greek music and dancing. 08:30 www.cyprusmarathon.com

March 20 & 21

APHRODITE CUP – see our featured events page

March 21

TRIPTYCH: POETRY – IDENTITY – COEXISTENCE, THE POET AND HIS WORLD – poetry, music and acting. FREE entry. 17:00 Kastelliotissa Medieval Hall, Nicosia (+357) 22 756453

March 21 & 22

INTERNATIONAL APHRODITE RALLY - classic car enthusiasts take a romantic drive through sites associated with the love goddess Aphrodite. For details visit www.mercedes-benz-club.org.cy

March 23, 24 & 26

CSO MUSICAL PILGRIMAGE ACROSS FIVE CONTINENTS – classics by world renowned composers, from Handel to Verdi. 20:30 Rialto Theatre Limassol (23), Strovolos Municipal Theatre Nicosia (24), Markideion Theatre Pafos (26). For details visit www.symesok.com

March 25 to 28

TOUR OF CYPRUS CYCLING CHALLENGE indulge your passion for cycling with this ‘Tour de France’ style 400 km distance event. See our featured events page for details www.tourofcyprus.com

March 26 to 29

5TH CYPRUS SALSA CONGRESS – a draw for Latin dance aficionados with 60 workshops suitable for different levels of experience. Grecian Park Hotel, Ayia Napa www.salsacyprus.com

March 27

THE PROCESSION OF ST LAZARUS - eight days before Easter the people of Larnaka celebrate the feast day of their patron saint with a large procession through the town’s streets

April



April 4, 5 & 6

AYIOS TYCHONAS EASTER CELEBRATIONS – a free community event with live bands, DJ’s and traditional food. 18:00 Ayios Tychonas Municipal Park (+357) 25 323 567

April 4 & 5

AYIA NAPA EASTER CELEBRATIONS midday Easter Sunday service at Ayia Napa Church followed by traditional entertainment in Seferis Square. Greek and Cypriot dancing on Easter Monday. www.agianapa.org.cy

April

PRINTMAKING CLASSES – learn basic techniques with renowned artist Hambis Tsangaris. Hambis Printmaking School, Plataniskia (+357) 25222772 www.hambisprintmakingcenter.org.cy

April

LARNAKA CLASSICAL MUSIC FESTIVAL the annual tribute to classical music features orchestras, brass bands, quartets, singing and more. Larnaka Municipal Theatre (+357) 24 657 745

April 7 to 9

BERENGARIA INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL - chamber and solo performances by celebrated artists from across the globe, including gifted young musicians. Rialto Theatre, Limassol (+357) 253 43900

April 10 to 18

8TH ANNUAL ‘CYPRUS FILM DAYS’ FESTIVAL – a treat for film buffs with a week’s worth of groundbreaking independent film and lectures. Limassol (+357) 777 72552



May

May 1

BIRDLIFE CYPRUS RINGING DEMONSTRATION – Neo Chorio. 09:00 to 12:30 www.birdlifecyprus.org

May 1 or 8

STREET LIFE FESTIVAL - with urban sports, music, natural therapies and street performance, Street Life is an event for kids aged 0 to 100. Limassol (+357) 253 53573 www.street-life.org



May 8 & 9

ANTHETERIA FLOWER FESTIVAL - tracing its origins to the ancient cult of the goddess Aphrodite, the modern day festival takes place across Cyprus in celebration of spring and the rebirth of the countryside. A flower market will be held at Potamos Yermasoyia on Saturday, with a parade of flower-festooned floats along the sea front on Sunday. For details contact Yermasoyia Municipality on (+357) 258 79898

May 24

KATAKLYSMOS – the traditional Cypriot Festival of the Flood is marked in every coastal town. Features markets, games and entertainment on the waterfront in Pafos, Larnaka and Limassol



June

June

AYIA NAPA CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL – the annual event is great entertainment for kids with music, dance, games, fun-fair and sports contests in Ayia Napa Square. www.agianapa.org.cy

June

WORLD MUSIC DAY FESTIVAL - pop and rock bands take to the stage by the walls of the Medieval Fort in Kato Pafos, with food, themed stalls and more

June 5 & 6

5th RUSSIAN – CYPRIOT FESTIVAL – this family weekend features 200 musicians, artists and singers, plus a fireworks display. 16:00 to 23:00 at Molos Beach. For details call (+357) 255 90530

June 18, 19 & 20

SHAKESPEARE AT CURIUM – THE MERCHANT OF VENICE – the ancient amphitheatre hosts Cyprus' annual Shakespearean festival beneath the stars. Tickets priced €20 / €10 with all proceeds to charity. 20:00 at the Curium Amphitheatre (+357) 999 90535

June 25 & 26

CYPRUS VILLAGES' MEDITERRANEAN FESTIVAL – a feast of cuisine from countries of the region, along with art and music. Tochni Tavern (+357) 24 332998 www.cyprusvillages.com

June 25 to 27

CUBAMEMUCHO FESTIVAL – the program of intoxicating, high-energy Cuban dance includes competitions, classes and gala performances. Visit www.cubamemucho.com

July

July 2 & 3

AMATHUSIA FESTIVAL – the ancient Agora of Amathunta hosts Greek singers on Friday and Russian and Cypriot dancers performing with X-Factor runner-up Nikolas Metaxas on Saturday. Entry is FREE. Call (+357) 25 323 567 for details

July

LARNAKA SUMMER FESTIVAL - music, film, poetry and performing arts with outdoor concerts at the medieval fort and Pattichion Amphitheatre. www.larnaka.com



July

LIMASSOL BALLET FESTIVAL – the popular dance event offers performances by some of the world's leading ballet companies. Past participants include the Bolshoi Ballet, Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance and the Fuego Spanish Group. Call (+357) 25 745 919 for details

July / August

FESTIVAL OF ANCIENT GREEK DRAMA the annual festival presents classical plays as relevant today as when first unveiled at the Dionysia festival of ancient Greece. For details call CCITI on (+357) 22 674 920

July

9th ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF KOUMANTARIA (COMMANDARIA) - celebrating centuries of wine-making heritage, the festival offers a variety of entertainment in the picturesque Kouri and Xylourikou valley. Includes demonstrations, music, rural experiences and more. For details call (+357) 25 372 855 or (+357) 99 536 566

July 29 to August 1

COUNTRYSIDE DOCUMENTARY & ANIMATED FILM FESTIVAL - a program packed with outdoor film screenings, music and workshops at Hambis' Printmaking Museum and School in the tiny village of Plataniskia. Entry FREE. www.cyprusanimafest.org



August

PISSOURI ROCK FESTIVAL – after a break in 2009 the popular festival is back this year. For details visit www.pissourifestival.com

AGROS VILLAGE FESTIVAL – a celebration of local culture, food, wine and the rose-derived products for which the village is famous, including liqueurs, candles, perfume and brandy

VOUNI VILLAGE FESTIVAL – a chance to sample local delicacies and rural hospitality at its best



DIONYSIA FESTIVAL - the community of Stroumbi celebrates its traditional heritage with three days of festivities in honor of the grape. Features food, wine, traditional dancing and singing, folk art and handicrafts, plus vine-produce; including the famous 'palouze.' www.stroumbi.org

FREE PRINTMAKING CLASSES – every August artist Hambis Tsangaris offers free classes in honor of his mentor, Greek printmaker A. Tassos. The event is followed by an evening exhibition with entertainment in the centre's amphitheatre. Hambis Printmaking Center, Plataniskia (+357) 25222772 www.hambisprintmakingcenter.org.cy

August 27 to September 5

LIMASSOL WINE FESTIVAL - a perfect opportunity to sample the products of the island's wine producers, this tribute to the Greek god Dionysus includes a feast of local delicacies, entertainment and demonstrations. 20:00 to 23:00, Limassol Municipal Gardens (+357) 25 745 919



September

September 3, 4 & 5

PAFOS APRRHODITE FESTIVAL - Pafos' Medieval castle provides a stunning backdrop for the town's annual opera extravaganza. Past performances include Bizet's 'Carmen' and Puccini's 'Turandot'. www.pafc.com.cy

September

TROODOS MOUNTAINS TRADITIONAL FESTIVAL - arts and craft exhibitions, cultural events and guided tours will be hosted by local wine producing communities (+357) 25 421 020

September

MEDITERRANEAN FESTIVAL OF FOLKLORE DANCE - featuring troupes from across the region the festival includes a colorful evening parade. Larnaka www.larnaka.com

September

PARADISE JAZZ FESTIVAL – jazz lovers flock to venues all over the pretty village of Pomos to hear the variety of acts brought to Cyprus for the occasion www.paradiseplaceproductions.com

September 27

AGIA NAPA FESTIVAL – Seferis Square becomes the centre for festivities in celebration of the historic, cultural and agricultural traditions of the region. The event includes folk art displays, theatre and concerts. Visit www.agianapa.org.cy

September / October

KYPRIA FESTIVAL - a highlight on the island's cultural calendar, Kypria brings together an entertaining program of international performance art, music and dance (+357) 25 878 744

October

OPEN STUDIOS - local artists throw open their studio doors to the public on selected weekends. Features a variety of creative mediums and is a great opportunity for art shopping. Look for the Open Studios banner outside participating studios. (+357) 99 143 293 / (+357) 99 752 687



October

AFAMIA GRAPE FESTIVAL - held in Cyprus' oldest wine growing area following the annual grape harvest, the event features folk dance, wine tasting, markets, crafts and agricultural products

IFSC EUROPEAN CUP - 200 of Europe's top climbers are expected to compete in Cyprus' first IFSC European Cup speed climbing event. Nicosia. (+357) 97770067 or visit www.komoo.com



PRINTMAKING CLASSES – two weekends of classes in basic techniques with renowned artist Hambis. Hambis Printmaking School, Plataniskia (+357) 25222772 www.hambisprintmakingcenter.org.cy

October 8 to 10

THE CYCLAMEN RALLY – feast your eyes of a procession of beautifully restored classic cars as they compete in the bi-communal touring race. (+357) 22 376 098 www.okak.org.cy

October 15 to 24

LEMESIA - the island's biggest celebration of sport marks the achievements of athletes past and present. The event features exhibitions, concert, fireworks display and athletics. Contact Limassol Municipality on (+357) 25 884 325

November

THE RAINBOW FESTIVAL – annual event offering music, dance, international cuisine and art to promote integration and multi-culturalism. Molos, Limassol. Entry FREE (+357) 22 878 181

November 21

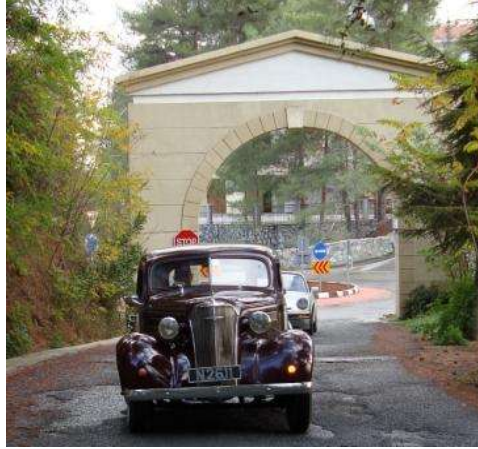
AMATHUNTA HALF MARATHON & 10KM RACE - local and international runners are welcome to join this popular annual event, which also features traditional music and dance. Starts 09:00 at the Ancient Agora of Amathunta. Contact Stavros Kakourides on (+357) 994 368 26

November 25 to 28

CYPRUS INTERNATIONAL 4 DAY CHALLENGE - the challenging multi-discipline running event covers a scenic route across the Pafos region and breathtaking Akamas National Park, culminating with the 10km Pafos City Run. Call (+357) 268 80430 or visit www.cypruschallenge.com

November 28

THE FOREST PARK RALLY – a procession of classic cars sets off from Limassol's Medieval Castle heading for the mountain village of Platres. www.fipa-cyprus.org.cy



November to March

AYIA NAPA CULTURAL WINTER – a program of traditional customs, entertainment and educational events throughout the winter time (+357) 23816307

Event details and times are correct at the time of publication but may be subject to change. Please check the details with the organisers listed or ask our reception staff for assistance should you wish to attend a particular performance or event

December

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS – the festive spirit can be experienced all over the island, with events organised in almost every town and village. Check local press for details

