

## THE CAST OF LEADING ACTORS...

### THE QUEEN

With her position at the centre of the monumental olive trees, greeting people arriving from both the east and the west and because of her regal splendour, she is worthy of this title. It is roughly 700 years of age with a circumference of 14.50 metres.



### PEACE

This tree which stands at the heart of the monumental trees has fallen to the ravages of time and is now dead but is still nevertheless a magnificent monument. It is thought to be around 600 years old and has a girth of 6.40 metres. Both from Atatürk's guiding principle of "Peace at Home and Peace in the World", and also due to the symbolism of peace enshrined in the olive tree, the tree has been given this name.



### CYPRUS

In order to reflect the combative spirit of the island of Cyprus which has witnessed the passage of many great civilizations over the centuries, this tree has been named 'Cyprus'. It is roughly 400 years of age with a circumference of 10.60 metres.



### GABUDI

This tree appears as though it is trying to protect the large cavity that has been carved out by time on the east side of its trunk, and from its position on the edge of the plateau which faces west, it appears to be watching over the low lying plain on the Güzelyurt side of Kalkanlı (Gabudi). Thus it has been named after the old name of the village over which it guards - 'Gabudi'. The tree is roughly 800 years old and has a girth of 12.70 metres.



### ATHENA

Olive trees are regarded as a gift sent by the Gods to mankind. According to ancient mythology, Athena was the goddess of Wisdom and Justice, and in the place where she struck her spear against the ground, the first olive tree sprang forth. When looked at carefully, this tree, which is roughly 400 years of age with a circumference of 6.80m, is as straight as the goddess's spear, and even though it has been grafted at a height of 4 metres it is still a very productive tree. So, as a symbol of abundance and wealth, it has been given the name 'Athena'.

### LEGEND

Having survived the assaults of woodsman's axes in ages past without serious loss and remaining as a productive tree, it has earned its title of 'Legend'. It is roughly 800 years of age with a circumference of 10.60 metres.



### APHRODITE

Aged around 700 years old, this tree, when looked at closely, reveals very beautiful and swollen patterns on its bark and seems as if it were challenging time. With a trunk girth of 6.80 metres, one of the slimmer of the monumental trees deserves to take name of the goddess of love and beauty, 'Aphrodite'.



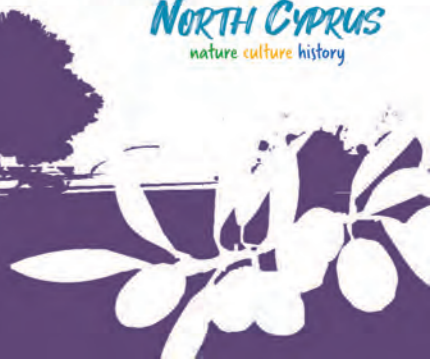
### THE KING

In the Eleophoroudin area, one of the 18 designated areas of the monumental olive trees, and close to the 900 ton irrigation pool, it is in a position where it controls the entry to the area from the north-west. And at roughly 800 years old with a girth of 16.10 metres, this tree has been crowned, 'King'.

# North Cyprus



**KALKANLI  
MONUMENTAL  
OLIVE  
TREES**





## The OLIVE...

The olive is without doubt the King of Trees! For centuries the cultivation of olives has been an indispensable custom of people from various cultures and changing civilizations, and none more so than in Cyprus. This venerable tree has been an irrevocable part of each civilization that has existed in the Mediterranean throughout history.

On account of its economic value and its place in daily life, the olive has been coveted by mankind for millennia and has played an important role in their cultural lives. It has always had a significant role in the economical progress of the nations of the Mediterranean. The olive tree, its fruit, branches and leaves have long symbolised the higher virtues and values of humanity such as holiness, abundance, justice, health, victory, prosperity, wisdom, purity and regeneration. Perhaps most importantly, it is also the symbol for peace. Some sources cite the olive tree as being one of the very first trees to be domesticated by mankind. Around the Mediterranean Sea, the civilizations of Egypt, Ancient Greece, the Roman Empire and the Anatolian Civilisations have benefitted from the blessings of the olive tree.



'Chakistes' - cracked olives - are an indispensable part of the Cypriot breakfast table and also an integral part of 'zeytinyağı' – olive oil based food which hold a special place in Turkish cuisine as a whole. Green olives are collected and are then lightly cracked with a stone or piece of wood in order to trigger the fermentation process, and then they are lightly salted and left to cure for only a few days before they are ready to eat. Chakistes are often flavoured in a marinade containing coriander seeds, thyme, lemon, 'gannavuri' – hemp seed, or garlic. This method of curing adds a slightly bitter, yet fresh taste. 'Bulla' – a kind of local pitta bread or bread roll - with olives baked inside, salads drizzled with olive oil and the olive oil based cuisine mentioned before all claim an important place in Cypriot cuisine.



## Monumental Olive Trees In The Kalkanli Region

At Kalkanlı, or Gabudi (Kaputi) or Kalokhorio, as it was named in the past, olive trees are believed to have been planted by the Lusignans in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and this was continued by the Venetians in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Thus, due to the age and size of the trees here, this area is called the 'Monumental Olive Tree' region and up to 2000 olive trees in the Kalkanlı Valley are listed and protected. It is estimated that around 400 of the trees are over 500 years old whilst the oldest trees are upwards of 800 years old. The project to protect the trees of the Kalkanlı Valley is one of the most important projects in the NATURA 2000 initiative under the auspices of the European Union. Another significant initiative is the certification of 200 of the region's olive trees by ICEA (Institute for Ethical and Environmental Certification), and the use of the olives and oil of these trees in organic production. The first certified organic production from this region occurred in 2006. The Irrigation Association No.218 of Kalkanlı and concerned locals have taken on the responsibility for the care and protection of these Monumental Olive Trees in the hope that they will play a part in the development of tourism in the region.

The ruins of the Ayios Mendilos, and Ayios Nicolaos Churches, the remains of an ancient millstone, ancient caves, a variety of flora including rare orchids, and natural springs are other features of historical or natural interest to the visitor. With its ecological, archaeological and cultural features, the Kalkanlı Region is a living cultural and natural heritage - just waiting to be discovered.



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