

Press Release

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

For Immediate release

Kill Date: February 15, 2010

“Fall in Love with Greece!”

14h Anniversary Palm Desert Greek Festival

Saturday and Sunday, February 13th and February 14th 11:00 AM – 9 PM

Valentine’s Day Weekend- Bring your Sweetheart or the whole family!

St. George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert

74-109 Larrea, Palm Desert, Ca 92260

For directions and information: (church office) 760.568.9901

Media Information: Ana Storton @ 760.832.2824

Photos Available

www.palmdesertgreekfest.org

Highlights:

- St. George Greek Orthodox Church of the desert is hosting the
- 14th Anniversary Palm Desert Greek Fest from 11AM – 9PM,
- Saturday and Sunday, February 13th and February 14th , 2010.
- Live Greek Bouzouki Music & Traditional Greek Dancing.
- Authentic Greek Food, Appetizers & those heavenly Pastries.
- Greek Wine, Greek Beer & Greek Coffee.
- Hercules Kids Zone
- Souvenir Agora Market w/ over 20 Unique Vendors
- Complimentary Church Tours w/ Byzantine Art & Mosaic Iconography
- Greek Grocery
- Admission- only \$2, kids under 12, Free

DETAILS:

The Palm Desert Greek Fest is a community celebration of Greek culture – from guided Church tours to Byzantine icons; live Greek music and traditional folk dancing; souvenirs, ethnic groceries, and religious items. But, the heart of our festival is the wonderful homemade Greek food and pastries created from generational, family recipes. OPA!

The members of St. George prepare an assortment of authentic and traditional Greek style foods to amaze the taste buds and make you fall in love with Greece.

Back again this year; our signature Greek style, Lamb Chops marinated and grilled to perfection, served with Greek seasoned fries; as always that famous Greek Chicken with lemon juice, olive oil and Greek oregano; piles of Gyros (thinly sliced lamb in a pita with a spicy Tzatziki yogurt sauce; feta cheese and Kalamata olives in a refreshing Greek Salad and back again this year, Flaming Saganaki! A deliciously, unique dish made from Greek Kasseri cheese set ablaze with Greek Brandy until the top is bubbly and browned. The fire is quenched with refreshing, tart lemon juice and served with a shout of “OPA!” Just like in the village.

For your pleasure, the ladies of the church bake a wide selection of delicate pastries and deserts, including that world famous Baklava (no description necessary, Koulourakia (traditional Greek cookies), Kourabiethes (melt in your mouth butter cookies dusted in powdered sugar) and Galatobouriko (Greek custard wrapped in filo pastry, sweetened with light syrup), Diples (Delicately rolled, pastry dough, crisped & drenched in honey & sprinkled with cinnamon and walnuts). Also, found in the Kafenio (Coffeehouse) are Loukoumathes (feather light golden puffs of pastry, smothered in honey and sprinkled with cinnamon and walnuts) excellent with a hot, cup of fresh brewed Greek Coffee.

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To wet your appetite, we are serving Mezedes (appetizers) like those found at side walk café in the islands; Pastitsio (seasoned ground beef and macaroni topped with a tasty Béchamel sauce); savory chicken and succulent pork Souvlakia (skewered and grilled over an open flame); Loukaniko a delightfully spicy Greek sausage; Dolmades (marinated grape leaves stuffed with rice and seasoned ground beef); Spanakopita (filo pastry with spinach and cheese filing);

Party the Greek way with Greek specialty wines including, Retsina, and beers are available at the Taverna Courtyard, along with our famous Ouzo and Metaxa.. In any Greek village, the natural gathering place is the Kafenion or coffeehouse. Here you can sip both Greek and American coffees and iced Frappe as you enjoy the mouth-watering *Loukoumades* (honey-sweetened fritter pastries prepared in front of you) – all while playing a game of backgammon or Tavli. Greek and American specialty coffees are also on hand to accompany the delicious pastries and deserts at our village Kafenion.

Try the authentic Greek grocery to take home a taste of Greece to your kitchen. The Bakaliko is our answer to the old-time Greek general store. Here the shelves stocked with imported Greek food and sundry items direct from Greece, including specialty ingredients needed for Greek food and pastry preparation.

Entertainment Highlights:

Live Greek music will be performed by “The Greeks” a traditional Greek Bouzouki Band performing from noon until festival closing, daily. Traditional dancers will present dancing demonstrations of Greek folk dances at 2 pm, 4pm & 6pm both days. Festival attendees are encouraged to join in and “Be Greek for a Day! As they Fall in love with Greece!

An active Kids Area called Hercules Kids Zone with bounce house, rock climber/slide, carnival games...an increased array of 20 Unique vendors with exotic, Mediterranean wares. Don't miss Complimentary, guided church tours will be available at 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30 PM both days, highlighting the Award-winning, Byzantine Mosaic Artwork, Iconography and the history of the ancient Orthodox Christian faith.

Media Advisory:

During the months of January & February leading up to the festival itself, members of the St. George Greek Orthodox Church work daily to prepare and create the heavenly and mouthwatering, Greek specialty foods and pastries for the Festival. Many weekdays members work from 9AM to 1 PM preparing foods. If you would like to schedule a photo session of the preparations, or if you wish to film on the premise, please contact Media Coordinator; Ana Storton @ 760-832-2824, for immediate arrangements and information.

Festival attendance averages 15,000-18,000 + attendees from the local community, and area tourist to St. George Greek Orthodox Church. The annual Greek festival is a major source of support for the St. George Greek Orthodox church and the charitable organizations that the Church supports.

The Press is encouraged and strongly welcomed at the Festival; please contact Ana Storton at 760.832.2824 or consult www.palmdesertgreekfest.org for more information, photos and scheduling.

Thank you,” Eftharisto”

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