



XK Gazette

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25 years
of the
XK Club!





Wine and waves

Like a fine wine, XKs get better with age – as **Alex Holis** discovers on a Greek tour

It may not be obvious but we believe that there is a connection between a classic Jaguar and a good, aged wine and that is why we decided to investigate this belief in the best winery in the Peloponnese. Exactly like a classic Jaguar, a good wine also needs proper preservation and storage. An aged, rich wine – like the ones in the Domaine Skouras cellar – is very similar to a classic Jaguar in its garage: they both need the right humidity, temperature and loving care. Both are waiting for someone who truly appreciates their worth to let them breathe, allowing people around to enjoy them.

As the Jaguar Heritage Certificate records the date of manufacture, chassis, body and gearbox numbers, in the same way the label of premium wines reports the date of bottling, the variety of grapes, the composition of the *terroir* and its bouquet. For the classic car concours d'elegance, the chairman of the jury is the highest authority, while for oenology the highest authority is the Master of Wine. For the JCG exclusively, the famous Master of Wine Kostantinos Lazarakis honoured us with his presence! Like a great orchestra conductor he has conducted an 'oenological symphony', choosing a crescendo of bouquets from the most exquisite labels and successful years of Domaine Skouras 'premium wines'.



- Top: Alex at the wheel, with the sun shining and the blue sea beyond. What better way to enjoy an XK?
- Above: everyone prepares for their private wine-tasting

- Right: XKs line up with E-type. Rest assured those hoods came down at some point during the tour!
- Below: the group pictured outside Domaine Skouras, and (bottom) Alex with Master of Wine Kostantinos Lazarakis



During our private seminar, we learned many peculiar secrets such as the ageing of Peplo, an aromatic rosé created with a blend of one-third Agiorgitiko that matures in acacia barrels, one-third Syrah that ‘sleeps’ in its wine sludge in a stainless steel tank, and one-third Mavrofilero that gives it the final pink colour thanks to the skins wrapped in a fabric ‘veil’ (peplo in Greek), dipped in the ceramic amphorae.

This inspiration came from Ancient Greece, where such big ceramic amphorae were used. They were also adopted by the Romans as the main means of transporting and storing wine or oil throughout the Mediterranean and the provinces of the Roman Empire until the 16th century.

Leaving the idyllic landscape of the vineyards, we drove along the coast of the Saronic Gulf and reached the enchanting seaside Kalamaki Beach Resort where they had fenced a special parking space for us. At the hotel we enjoyed the dazzling



- Above: arriving at the Kalamaki Beach Resort, where a special parking area had been set aside
- Left: Maranello interloper follows XK and E-type on coastal road

view of the sea and, further to our morning oenological seminar, in the afternoon we took part in a relaxed 'Happy Hour & Technical Seminar' in the garden, the theme being spark plugs: different performances for each type and how they can help us to diagnose carburettor problems.

Sunday was another sunny day, perfect for a coast-to-coast ride from the Saronic Gulf to the Corinthian Gulf and Lake Vouliagmeni near Loutraki. Characterised by UNESCO as a place of special natural beauty, this small turquoise lagoon is located very close to the area of the archaeological site of Heraion. Its shores are sandy and its waters communicate with those of the Corinthian Gulf through a narrow canal. These waters are much

saltier than the open sea and renewed every six hours by the tide and low tide.

The Caribbean colour of the sea accompanied us all the way to Ypanema, the coolest and most beautiful café-restaurant of the lagoon, where they had kindly reserved their best tables for us and, of course, VIP parking spaces for our cars! Although some of our members still had their Jaguar at the mechanic's workshop for maintenance, they did not want to miss this exclusive event and they asked to participate driving their conventional car. This does not really matter because, for us, first comes friendship and honest relationships and then our common love and admiration for our cars. 🏎️