

The Oldest Aromas in the Mediterranean

The research of the Italian Archaeological Expedition of Pyrgos, a community near Limassol in Cyprus, has led to the discovery of the oldest industrial area in the entire Mediterranean basin. This archaeological site comes from 2200 B.C.

It was a Palace in which each room was dedicated to a different type of work. Ancient Cypriot technicians worked on metallurgy, textile, production of wine, olive oil and aromas. Many jars were found in the site revealing just how people, 4000 years ago, produced the famous Cypriot aromas, typically a mix of natural spices and olive oil.

The lab, believed to have been destroyed in an earthquake in antiquity, shows that making perfume was a serious business. Throughout the Bronze Age and into the 1st millennium B.C., Cyprus played a key role in copper and olive oil production and trade. Olive oil was used as a base for medicine, cosmetics and perfume, some of which were exported mainly to Greece.

Pyrgos Primary School, together with the Archaeologist Mrs. Maria Rosaria Belgiorno, tried to produce the same aromas, using a similar procedure. The perfumes were made through the lengthy steeping of the spices in water and oil and other ancient techniques.

http://www.pyrgos-mavroraki.net/pyrgos_mavroraki_000015.htm

http://www.pyrgos-mavroraki.net/pyrgos_mavroraki_000009.htm

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