

# Taste of the Mediterranean

A third-generation goldsmith from Greece turns his attention to winemaking and invites you to sample the results.



PHOTOGRAPHS: SCOTT SUCHMAN

**"The wine doesn't start in the barrel," says Louis Papadopoulos, with wife Katie. "It starts in the vineyard."**

explains. "As our son gets involved more in the jewelry store, now Louis can make more wine."

## Greek Hospitality

Virginia certainly boasts bigger wineries with fancier tasting rooms, but few match the warmth and hospitality of the Papadopouloses' modest cellar.

Mediterranean Cellars makes 13 different wines ranging

from Chardonnay and Viognier to Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. But they also make traditional Greek retsina, a rich, flavorful wine they've named Rechina, and a special full-bodied red blend Louis calls Romance. For a tasting fee of \$5, guests can sample all of the wines the family produces.

"For a winery of this size to make so many varieties, it's a lot," Louis admits. "With jewelry, always I like to create different designs. It's the same with wine."

Surveying his farm from the winery's wide patio, Louis admits he feels a sense of contentment. Though he returns to Greece as often as possible, he says his heart now belongs to Virginia. "My home is here now," he confesses. "I miss the sea, but everything else, I have here now. My mind, my heart, they are here in Virginia." —CASSANDRA M. VANHOOSER

**Mediterranean Cellars:** 8295 Falcon Glen Road, Warrenton, VA 20186; (540) 428-1984 or [www.mediterraneancellars.com](http://www.mediterraneancellars.com). **Louizos E.L.P. Goldsmiths, Inc.:** 2972-B Chain Bridge Road, Twin Oaks Plaza, Oakton, VA 22124; 1-888-281-7454 or [www.louizoselp.com](http://www.louizoselp.com). ♦

Old black-and-white photographs hang in the far corner of the tasting room at Mediterranean Cellars outside Warrenton, Virginia. There's a smiling young Louis Papadopoulos, shirtless in a vineyard with his firstborn son tugging at a cluster of grapes. In another frame, gnarled vines grow alongside a sun-bleached house on a rocky stretch of soil.

"All my life, I make wine," Louis says, smiling at the photos of his native Greece. "The first time was in 1961. The grapes, they came from this 40-acre farm around our summerhouse in Corinth."

## Golden Opportunity

Though he still owns the farm in Greece, Louis moved his family to the United States in 1964 and then relocated to Northern Virginia in 1984. A goldsmith by trade, he is still interested in the design aspect of the business. His son, Louizos, operates Louizos E.L.P. Goldsmiths, a jewelry store in Oakton, just 18 miles southwest of downtown D.C. Louis's time is now spent tending the rambling vines on the hills near Warrenton.

"After years of making jewelry, this is my beautiful hobby," Louis confesses,



**Katie Papadopoulos sometimes makes homemade spanakopita and baklava for guests who stop at Mediterranean Cellars to sample the wine.**

striding through the vines. "I missed a lot the fresh air and sun. I wanted to go out and enjoy my life."

His wife, Katie, chimes in. "He says, 'I am going to make my own wine,'" she

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