

Educational program on Corkscrews, inspired by the corkscrew collection of the Gerovassiliou Wine Museum

For children 10 to 15 years old (with variations to each age)

- o Number of students: up to 25
- o Monday to Friday: 09.30-11.00
- o It is required to contact the Museum by phone and fill in the relevant registration form

The rich, original and rare character of Vangelis Gerovassiliou's corkscrew collection forms an ideal context for this educational program that can focus on a variety of themes, such as:

- the concept of collecting things and the concept of "museum"
- the history of vine and wine, the nutritional, cultural and social dimension of the wine and its position in everyday life.
- the study of life and evolution through the narrative and historical value of everyday objects
- the importance of the aesthetic dimension of objects surrounding us and the balance between aesthetics and use

The program starts with a general reference to the vineyard and the concept of collecting things and of "museum". It goes on with the exploration of the basic units of the museum, having as a central axis the corkscrew collection. The children work in teams and they get in contact with the world of vine and wine through a game with which they exercise their senses, body, speech and mind. The program is structured in such a way so as to encourage children to actively participate, cooperate, enhance their ingenuity and imagination, and, of course, have fun through learning.

Proposed classroom activities prior to the visit

- Find fairytales, sayings, poems that talk about grapes, vines, harvest, wine
- Find, observe and comment on images, photographs, works of art that are relevant to the subject (see further down)
- Discuss about the concept of "collecting". Ask from the children to bring and present to their class their own collections. Find other unique or bizarre collections in the web.
- Discuss about the concept of "museum", as well as about what the exhibits of a wine museum could be

Proposed classroom activities after the visit

- Ask from your students to remember and draw some of the corkscrews they have seen and they have been impressed. They can design a new one of their own inspiration.
- Perfect the spirals-mobile, which you made at the museum by adding decorative elements (corks, twine, papers, bells, etc.) and decorate the classroom with them.
- On the occasion of the occupation of cooper, do a little research on other skilled trades that currently tend to disappear.
- Make constructions of corks and foils. Remember the qualities of the cork and the ecological dimension. Discover other applications of this material.
- Discover other things related to vine, wine, etc, through your lessons, e.g.:

and Byzantium)

Religion (the symbol of the Christian iconography of the vine, wine in the Eucharist, etc.)

Chemistry and physics (the process of fermentation in wine production and the function of mechanical corkscrews)

Mathematics (the shape of the spiral in relation to the movement of the corkscrew)

Geography (look for the vines grown in Greece and worldwide)

Arts (the vine, the wine drinking, Dionysus in art - see below)

Indicative reference material for the program

Works of art

- Claude Monet – still life of apples and grapes

http://hoocher.com/Claude_Monet/Claude_Monet.htm

- Francisco Goya- the grape harvest or autumn

<http://www.wikipaintings.org/en/francisco-goya/autumn-or-the-grape-harvest-1787>

- Caravaggio – Bacchus etc

<http://www.wikipaintings.org/en/search/Bacchus,%20Caravaggio/1>

- D. Filippotis – Boy eating grapes - p. 27

<http://wwk.kathimerini.gr/kath/7days/1995/04/02041995.pdf>

• The month of September in the calendar Les Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry, 15th c. – Conde Museum, Chantilly, France

<http://www.christusrex.org/www2/berry/f9v.html>

- The Grape Harvest – a tapestry exhibited in the Cluny Museum, Paris

http://www.tapestry-art.com/detail.html?item_code=ME032

Photographs depicting vine and harvest themes taken from the photo albums

“Greece through the lens of Takis Tloupas” and “Greece toiling away”, a collection by N. Politis

A special newspaper feature dedicated to harvest with rich image and textual material:

<http://wwk.kathimerini.gr/kath/7days/1999/08/29081999.pdf>

A few words about Gerovassiliou Winery and Wine Museum

Gerovassiliou Winery is a revival of Vangelis Gerovassiliou family vineyard. Vangelis Gerovassiliou, an experienced oenologist with studies in Agriculture, Oenology, Viticulture and Technology of Oenological Equipment, initiated this venture in 1981. The winery, which was built at the heart of the family vineyard in 1986, came to complete Vangelis Gerovassiliou’s vision to cultivate and produce grapes that give high-quality wines, bearing the stamp of the land producing them. A key parameter in achieving this is the combination of traditional cultivation and production methods with the latest technological advances. In addition, respect for the environment, the employees and the consumer has always been a top priority of the winery.

However, the love of Vangelis Gerovassiliou and his family for the world of wines and viticulture is not limited to producing high-standard wines. Focusing on the importance of wine as a cultural and social good, he succeeded in creating a winery that is open to the wider public and groups having a special interest in the vine and wines. He also created the Gerovassiliou Wine Museum to house his rich collection of wine-growing objects and 2600 rare corkscrews and made it available to the wider public.

All Gerovassiliou winery visitors, especially children, can have a wonderful experience through their contact not only with the beauty of the natural environment but also with an active production unit. The coexistence of the vineyard with the winery makes it easy to visualize the whole process of winemaking from the moment a vine is planted until a bottle of wine reaches our table. Since many stages in vine-growing continue to be based on traditional methods, revolving around manual labour, the winery enhances the importance of tradition and human labour. Finally, the unquestionable dependence of a product’s quality on the producer’s respect for the nature’s wishes and time constitutes an excellent opportunity for visitors to study the environment and its relationship with man.

When visiting the Wine Museum, a trip in the world of wines becomes a trip in time. Objects related to vine growing and vinification, as well as to wine transportation and consumption, narrate and illustrate how everyday needs push humans not only to invent patents and trigger evolution but also to welcome creation and art in their lives.