



Post-event press release: 22.11.2017

Russian gastronomy week in Cyprus

Russian gastronomy week was held in Cyprus from 13 to 17 November 2017 (RGW-2017).

The International Center of Wine and Gastronomy (ICWAG, Moscow, www.icwag.ru), Affiliate Member of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) took the role of the organizer of the large-scale gastronomic event, which was held already for the third time. The concept of the Russian gastronomy weeks project was developed by the ICWAG with active personal support of the UNWTO Secretary-General Taleb Rifai. The project is realized with the support of the Ministry of foreign affairs of the Russian Federation, Ministry of culture of the Russian Federation, Rossotrudnichestvo, Federal agency for tourism (Rostourism), Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, Russian leading professional associations and unions.

The first Russian gastronomy week was conducted in 2015 in Madrid, the second one was held in 2016 in Madrid and Barcelona. The Weeks received positive feedback from the UNWTO, Russian Ambassador to Spain, as well as from Russian and Spanish participants. The events of the RGW-2015 and the RGW-2016 were widely covered in Russian and foreign media.

The third Russian gastronomy week was held in the year 2017 in the cities of Nicosia and Limassol in Cyprus with support of the Embassy of the Russian Federation in the Republic of Cyprus, Russian Cultural Center in Nicosia, Cyprus Tourism Organization (CTO), Russian Peace Foundation. The UNWTO Secretary-General welcomed the participants and the guests of the Week with a video message.

The concept of the RGW-2017 in Cyprus was aimed at extending and strengthening business and cultural relations between the countries, at demonstrating tourist opportunities in various Russian regions and most importantly, acquainting locals and visitors with a wide variety of Russian cuisine.

The program of the Russian gastronomy week in Cyprus started on November 13th with a solemn opening ceremony at the Russian Cultural Center in Nicosia. The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Cyprus Stanislav Osadchiy, president of the Cyprus state TV and radio company RIK Thanasis Tsokos, director for sales management of the TUI Russia & CIS Ali Mikailov addressed the guests with welcome speeches. Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the Russian gastronomy week, president of the International Center of Wine and Gastronomy Leonid Gelibterman presented the team of the Russian chefs headed by the president of the Federation of Restaurateurs and Hoteliers of Russia Igor Bukharov to the guests.

Representatives of the Organizing Committee solemnly handed to the head of the Presidential Administration of Cyprus, Michalis Sophocleous, a chef's uniform of a member of the RGW team, sewn specially for the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Nicos Anastasiadis. During the cultural program, Victor Zhalsanov, the artist from the city of Ulan-Ude performed traditional Buryat songs, accompanying himself with folk instruments.

The guests of the ceremony visited the expositions of the Vladimir region, the cities of Ulan-Ude and Yaroslavl, as well as with the products of Russian food and beverage producers. Chefs Anton Salnikov (Moscow) and Andrey Matiukha (Krasnodar region) offered



an elegant buffet with Russian wines to the guests. The opening ceremony finished with drawing of prizes provided by the partners of the Week to raise funds for the Cyprus charity fund Together Forever.

The key events of the Russian gastronomy week in Cyprus continued in the luxurious five-star hotel Four Seasons Hotel Limassol. In the «Vivaldi» restaurant, the authors dinners of regional cuisines by chefs Andrey Matiukha (Krasnodar region), Artem Loginov (Vladimir region), Aleksandr Sakharov (Yaroslavl) and Vladimir Belous (Ulan-Ude) were held. President of the Federation of Restaurateurs and Hoteliers of Russia Igor Bukharov conducted a master class «Legends of the Kremlin kitchen», and the president of the International Center of Wine and Gastronomy Leonid Gelibterman conducted a master class «Russian vodkas and distillates». For the first time in the history of Russian-Cypriot relations, the Russia-Cyprus Culinary Summit was held with participation of the chef Andrey Matiukha (Krasnodar Territory) and the Cypriot Angelos Ioannou, the sous-chef of the Four Seasons Hotel Limassol. The summit concluded with the solemn signing of the Cooperation Agreement between the Federation of Restaurateurs and Hoteliers of Russia (President Igor Bukharov) and the Cyprus Chefs Association (President George Damianou). Master class on cooking pelmeni (Russian dumplings) by chef Anton Salnikov (Moscow) gathered more than 40 Cypriot children and equal number of their parents. The final gala dinner performed by the team of the Russian chefs was attended by about 150 guests; however the Four Seasons Ballroom restaurant was not able to accommodate everyone who wanted to participate in the gastronomic feast.

The events Russian gastronomy week in Cyprus were attended by about one thousand persons, they were widely covered in Cypriot and Russian media.

The Russian gastronomy week in Cyprus has become an effective platform for friendly communication between various gastronomic cultures and a kind of bridge to connect Russia, compatriots living in Cyprus, and the Cypriot people. It was highly appreciated by the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Cyprus Stanislav Osadchy, director of the Russian Cultural Center in Nicosia Alina Radchenko, diplomat of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus Neophytos Constantinou, executive director of the Four Seasons Hotel Limassol Nick Aristou, inhabitants of Nicosia, Limassol, Paphos and the guests who came from Greece, Israel and Russia to participate in the events of the Week.

Detailed information about the Russian gastronomy week in Cyprus is available on the official website of the project: www.rusgw.com and in the group www.facebook.com/rusgw2017/. Photo and video materials are available at the link: www.yadi.sk/d/vw0EO4nF3Prxit.

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