



# Easter...2013 New Beginnings on Leros



Another season starts, with Easter - a time of great celebration on the island. They do it with dynamite tossed from car windows, flung down the hillsides, all night long. It is not for the faint-hearted. Tuck is worn out after 5 days of it. The churches are ablaze with candles and gold chandeliers, packed with families. It is a social occasion and we were lucky enough to follow the procession of flower-bedecked icons up to the square. Below is our neighbour Vallandi and son, without whom the house would not dazzle as whitely and who'll tile our garden to make a neat, little oasis to sit under the now huge almond tree (with room for the new hammock!). Above is a basket of home-made Easter cookies with a red egg candle-symbolising the blood of Christ. Other neighbours brought us dyed eggs and plaited bread with a red boiled egg baked into it. The island is in bloom. Gorgeous. The island appears to be flourishing, too, though things are hard in Athens and for the old.



We also celebrate at Leros Marina with an Easter lunch for all the sailors and join a lively group of French including our friends Annick and Jeff. Later we all meet up again at the house and they bring goodies raided from the their galleys...and what else? Champagne! A couple of days later, Annick ends up in Leros Hospital with a deep gash to her knee after a scooter accident. However, although the hospital looks like something out of the fifties, they are extremely competent and caring and she is now recovering well. Good to know that things are functioning here though we would have preferred to h another way! May is a relaxing and sociable month with good dinners on the terrace with neighbours and friends, new plants to pot (honeysuckle, lavender, geraniums, cactus thyme, rosemary, basil and mint), and making island-hopping plans. Many days are spent working on Havana who is now in top shape. We are ready for our first visitors.



Over 100 little chapels dot the island. A candle is always burning- no matter how remote. They are quite moving.

