



Exploring Sifnos....

We all fell in love with Sifnos and it's Cyclaidan blue and white cube houses, dovescotes, chapels, terracotta chimneys and broad vistas. It is timeless yet funky. 2500 years ago, gold and silver mines brought it great wealth. Today it is famous for its fine ceramics and cuisine. At night it is lit up by these carved, decorative chimneys which add great charm. Lovely sandy bays and beaches and fabulous views over the old olive terraces and vineyards. That's us, almost alone, in the lovely harbour at Platis Gialos.



Apollonia has a hidden pedestrian maze of glamorous shops and tavernas which teem with life after dark. From our rooftop taverna, we enjoyed the views and their succulent "Mastelo lamb" baked in the island's clay pots lined with bay leaves in red wine and anis for 12 hours! They are also famous for their almond cakes, soft cream cheese and cheese coated in red wine. Left- the boys in their panama hats!



The best zucchini balls ever!





Panagia Chryssopigi is yet another sight that knocks the breath out of you with its sheer dazzle and location. Behind the monastery, on weird layers of volcanic rocks is a font to mark where centuries ago a miracle is said to have occurred when the rocks split off from the land to save nuns fleeing from invading Turks. It is an amazing location.

Far inland, Peter and I also climbed to the large archaeological site and monastery of Agios Andreas for the fantastic views over the whole island. Once, 70 stone towers acted as warning beacons against invasion across the whole island. One evening we also briefly dropped by to a local church festival where many islanders were celebrating their church's own day. On the islands, the church is still a huge force- the focal point for socialising, life occasions and advice. It is not at all unusual to see people come up and kiss the hand of the priest when out shopping....Many seem to have quite a twinkle in their eye though. These are very close communities, modern but still extremely respectful. We've found the Greeks to be among the most cheerful, kind and polite people we have met. Perhaps we could learn something there.



Left- the perfect parking spot under the shade of a huge and ancient olive tree!