



3rd International Conference & Festival on the Olive Tree



Olive oil, a healing balm for all

Lesvos in a Glass

A Sensory Journey with IOON at Elia Lesvos Confest

27 MAY 2026
MYTHICAL COAST
WELLNESS RETREAT

SPONSORS



ORGANIZATION



LESVOS OLIVE ISLAND

WITH THE SUPPORT OF



INTERNATIONAL
OLIVE
COUNCIL

Yale University



National and Kapodistrian
University of Athens



elialesvosconfest.com

Wednesday 27 May 2026

Mythical Coast Wellness Retreat, Mytilene

Coordinated by Journalist & Presenter Magda Tsegkou

Tasting - Gastronomy Gala

12:00-16:00 Lesvos in a Glass:

A Sensory Journey with IOON at Elia Lesvos Confest

Organizer: International Olive Oil Network (IOON) – a Swiss-based initiative dedicated to advancing olive oil knowledge, sensory science, and cultural appreciation worldwide, in collaboration with the Organoleptic Laboratory of Crete.

Part 1 | The Language of Olive Oil: Understanding Quality, Organoleptic Characteristics & Sensory Principles

A focused introduction to olive oil quality, classification, and sensory principles aligned with current EU market standards. The session explains how organoleptic attributes (fruitiness, bitterness, pungency) connect to health perception and gastronomic value.

Part 2 | The Sensory Journey

A curated, guided tasting featuring Lesvos varieties and terroirs, including comparative international benchmarks and gastronomic pairing.

Interactive element: “**Words of Taste**” — participants capture each oil in a word or metaphor, creating a collective Poetic Wall of Lesvos.

Speakers & Experience Curators:

Spyros Tsevas

Founder, IOON & Member, IOON Council of Experts

Eleftheria Germanaki

Agronomist; Head of the Organoleptic Laboratory of Crete & Head of the Team of Tasters, Member of the IOON Council of Experts

Filippo Falugiani

Founder of AIRO – International Association of Olive Oil Restaurants. A restaurateur, professional olive oil taster, and wine sommelier

Manolis Karpadakis

Olive oil value-chain expert, special taster at MELISSA-KIKIZAS S.A. / Terra Creta Facilities; Vice President of the Crete Exporters Association, Member of the IOON Council of Experts.

Participation requires registration and the number of participants is limited.

GASTRONOMY GALA: WORKSHOPS AND MASTERCLASSES

Closing with a Gastronomic Gala at *Mythical Coast*, guided by our team of chefs dedicated to olive oil and local heritage.

Vasilis Leonidou

Executive Olive Oil Chef – *Avli Restaurant*, Rethymno

Giannis Tsivourakis

Head Chef, *Minoan Palace*

Fanis Maikantis

Executive Chef

Aristotelis Megoulas

Chef & Owner of the Restaurant *Pomo d'Oro*

Marios Antoniou

Chef at *Mythical Coast*