

# TRAVELER OF THE QUARTER

With the Mayor of Naxos



Olive Oil Class



**DONNA  
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Greetings, Fellow Travelers!

Traveling is such a joy! Women of the Midwest make it easy. The ambassadors are great, and my fellow nomads are so much fun. One of my more interesting trips this year was a culinary tour of Greece. We tasted our way across the country on a foodie tour. Every day, we enjoyed a sumptuous lunch followed by dessert. Oftentimes, the dessert was baklava, that luscious pastry filled with walnuts and honey. Every restaurant said that they had the best baklava in Greece. Each recipe was slightly different, but all were delicious.

Our tastings were not limited to lunches. We sampled all kinds of new delicacies. One of my favorites was tomato marmalade. I had never heard of it, but it was delicious drizzled over chunks of hard cheese. A jar of it came home with me. Another favorite was tzatziki - a simple dip made with yogurt, cucumber, lemon, olive oil, and herbs. Yum!

We also visited small food-related businesses owned by women. We learned how Evangelia Melas produces organic olive oil from her olive grove. After our tour, we ate lunch under the shade of her olive trees. Next was a visit to Klio's honey farm. Klio told us how her grandparents started the farm that she manages today. She demonstrated how she extracts honey from honeycombs. Of course, Klio had treats made with honey for us to try.

A foodie tour isn't complete without a cooking class. Under the guidance of our chef, we chopped tomatoes and black olives for our Greek salads. We made moussaka by layering ground beef, eggplant, and potatoes and baking them in individual ramekins.

A trip to Greece isn't a trip to Greece without seeing its ancient wonders. We climbed the marble steps to the Acropolis and visited Olympia, where the god Zeus was worshipped, and the original Olympic Games were held. I could go on and on. There were many ancient sites that we got to visit, but I am running out of space, and I want to tell you about the islands.

We didn't limit our wanderings to Greece's mainland. We hopped on a ferry to visit two of the islands in the Cyclades chain, Naxos and Santorini. Naxos is a laid-back island dotted with blue and white buildings. We visited a potter and watched him shape a pot. A few of us also tried to throw pots. Santorini was a wonderful island to wander around and a perfect end to our trip.

Happy Travels!  
Donna Gustafson



The Parthenon



Cooking in Santorini



Sweet Spoon & Baklava