Article published on July 23rd 2012 | Travel Tips

Kafes â€“ Cyprus Coffee

Whatever your errand in Limassol Cyprus it is almost impossible to visit the shops or market without being offered a coffee. Such is the charm and warm hospitality of the Cypriot race.

â€œ Relax, whatâ€™s the hurry anyway, surely you have time for a coffee.â€•

A Nescafe or cyprus coffee will be offered to any visitor but perhaps you would prefer some of the real thing.

Cypriots drink Turkish coffee, although since the troubles in 1974 it is known more often as Cyprus coffe (or Greek coffee).

It is made individually in small long handled pots, wide at the base and tapering in at the top. These are called Imbrikia and come in various sizes, from individual to a many cup size.

Fresh coffee beans, usually Brazilian, are finely ground or powdered daily and one heaped teaspoon is added to each demitasse of cold water. Sugar goes in too at this stage before heating the coffee. You need to know whether to order glykos (sweet) metrios (medium sweet) of sketos (unsweetened).

The imbrikia are heated on the stove and when the sugar has dissolved the coffee is allowed to come to the boil, forming a creamy froth on top called kaimaki. As the froth turns in from sides and coffee begins to rise in the pot, it is removed from the heat and poured, a little into each cup, to distribute the froth.

Cyprus coffee is strong and should always be served with a glass of cold water. It contains no spices, such as the cardamom pod you might find in a cup of Arabic coffee, but sip with care, for at the bottom of every cup lurks more than a little sediment.

Enjoy a taste of Cyprus in 5 star call at the St Raphael Resort and Marina on the south coast of the island of Cyprus in the coastal town of Limassol.

Article Source:
http://www.articleside.com/travel-tips-articles/enjoy-cyprus-coffee-when-in-cyprus.htm - Article Side

St Raphael Resort Limassol Cyprus - About Author:
a Cyprus Hotels | a Limassol Hotels |a All Inclusive Resorts | a Limassol Resorts
St Raphael Resort, Amathus Avenue | P.O. Box 51064, 3594, Limassol, CYPRUS Tel: +357 (25) 834 333 | Fax: +357 (25) 635 491 | a www.raphael.com.cy

Article Keywords:
cyprus hotels, limassol hotels, visit cyprus

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