

Taybeh Golden Hotel Opens Its Doors for Oktoberfest

By Maria C. Khoury

All of a sudden it seems like I have a house with eighty rooms. This is exactly what working at the new Taybeh Golden Hotel feels like to me since we are still at the setting up stages and taking reservations, especially for Taybeh Oktoberfest that will be back in Taybeh this September.

My most favorite part of the hotel is not the conference room, business area, or the gym but actually going to the roof at night and seeing the lights on the other side of the Dead Sea, or the lights of Amman, Jordan. I can also see the lights of Jerusalem – a magnificent site. There is such a glorious view from there, one of the highest locations in Palestine; and in the future, this area will be turned into a rooftop restaurant. In the daytime, people can gaze at the 30,000 ancient olive trees that beautify this picturesque village. For sure, the location that is home to the first micro-brewed beer in the Middle East has an unknown future. But we are trying our best to do great things under harsh conditions. At the moment, people can take pleasure in an organic meal next to the lobby at the Daoud Pasha Restaurant. And if a busload of pilgrims shows up, they will enjoy the spectacular sunrise from the Teta Azizeh Dining Room for a Middle Eastern breakfast.

The hotel offers eighty tastefully furnished rooms, including some suites for long-term stays. Taybeh Golden Hotel is a unique space because it hosts the Taybeh Winery on the ground level producing the new boutique Palestinian wines with the "Nadim" label. Did you know that Nadim means "my drinking companion"? Daily wine tours are complimentary (closed Sundays), and wine tasting is available by appointment. The first red grapes – Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah – crushed at the Taybeh Winery (August 2013), were locally grown in Birzeit and Aboud, while new vineyards have been planted in front of the Taybeh Brewery, preparing the ground for an eventual family wine estate.



White grapes were crushed in August 2014, making a delicious Sauvignon Blanc and Zeini Blanc. There are twenty-one local Palestinian indigenous grapes, and Canaan Khoury, the new Palestinian winemaker, is experimenting in order to enter the international market with a distinctive identity for boutique Palestinian wines, keeping Taybeh on the world map.

The family-owned Taybeh Golden Hotel, with the astonishing state-of-the-art wine equipment from Italy, is located in the center of Taybeh, on the main road, conveniently half an hour from Jerusalem and within twenty minutes of Jericho and Ramallah. Along with promoting "The Finest in the Middle East," and boutique wines, the lobby exhibits art from prominent Palestinian artists Nabil Anani, Sliman Mansour, and Tayseer Barakat.



On September 19 and 20, Taybeh Golden Hotel will have its doors open for what promises to be the best celebration at the Taybeh Brewery since the first Oktoberfest was initiated in 2005. However, if anyone feels like escaping from the busy city life either before or after Oktoberfest, they can always come to Taybeh for a golden day!

Dr. Maria C. Khoury, author of Christina Goes to the Holy Land, has organized the annual Taybeh Oktoberfest since 2005.



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