

LANIA VILLAGE:

The History



“A Wine Village at the Foot of the Troodos: 3,000 Years of Life, Craft, and Memory”

Location: Lania (Λάνια), Limassol District, Cyprus **Chronology:** Late Bronze Age – Present

Origins and Early Settlement (c. 1600–750 BC)

Archaeological traces around Lania—near **Agios Georgios** and **Valana Hill**—reveal habitation from the **Late Bronze Age** and the **Cypro-Geometric period**. Positioned along ancient copper-transport routes from the Troodos mines to the Alassa industrial centre, the area developed as a small but strategic rural settlement. A carved stone inscription found nearby is one of the earliest indicators of organised life in the region.

Faith and Continuity in the Early Christian Era By the 1st–4th centuries AD, the community had embraced Christianity. A rock-cut tomb in the area known as *Agia* preserves evidence of early Christian burial practices, marking the continuity of life in the foothills of the Troodos.



Medieval Lania: Monastic Lands and Village Life

During the **Frankish (Lusignan) period**, Lania was surrounded by monastic estates—**Valanas, Agia Marina, Katallymata, Amasgou**—which shaped local agriculture and economy. Though only ruins remain, these feuds testify to a landscape once dominated by monastic power. The village appears on **Abraham Ortelius’s 1573 map** as “**Cagna**”, confirming its presence in the medieval world.

Ottoman Period and the Birth of the Modern Village (1571–1878)

Ottoman incursions led to the destruction of the monastic estates, but villagers returned to re-cultivate the fertile slopes. By the **mid-17th century**, they rebuilt the settlement around a new church, forming the architectural core still visible today—stone houses, narrow lanes, and terraced vineyards.



A Village of Wine and Craft

Lania’s identity is inseparable from **viticulture**. For centuries, families produced **Commandaria, zivania**, and grape-based sweets such as **soutzoukos**. The village preserves one of Cyprus’s rare **traditional wine presses (linos)**, a testament to communal winemaking. Local tradition even claims that vines from Lania once helped restore the vineyards of **Champagne, France**, reflecting the village’s long reputation for high-quality grapes.

The Name “Lania”: Layers of Memory

Three traditions explain the village’s name:

- **Lana**, daughter of **Dionysos**, linking the village to ancient wine lore.
- **Valania**, the acorns of the oak tree, once abundant in the region.
- **Lania**, the female of the shrike bird (*lanios*). These overlapping stories reflect the village’s deep cultural memory.



Lania Today: A Living Heritage Village

Modern Lania preserves its historic character:

- The **Lanitis Museum of the House**, a landmark of rural architecture
- The **Old Olive press** and the **Commandaria museum**
- The **Last Shoemaker's Workshop**
- The **Grape Press -Linos**
- The **Church and the Chapel of Panagia Valana**
- The **Legend and history of the Sacred Icon of Panagia Valana**
- The **Traditional Coffee shop and the Old Well and drinking Trough**
- The **Ancient Plane tree and Oak**
- **Around the village photos of times past**
- **Artist and Artisan Studios**
- **Picnic Areas and Playgrounds**
- Flower-lined lanes and restored stone houses
- Annual cultural events such as "**Lanes and Courtyards**", where residents open their homes to visitors

Lania remains a place where **craft, memory, and community** continue to shape daily life.