

Panayis Sykas

Panayis Sykas-the founder



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Poverty forced Panayis Sykas to leave his native Lania towards the end of Ottoman rule in 1878 and settle in Limassol where his name became established as Panayis Lanitis, after his place of birth.

Following the end of Turkish occupation and the start of British rule (1878), he settled in Limassol and changed his name to Panayis Lanitis. He married Angelica Kyza, daughter to a long standing Limassol family. They had five children. Three daughters (Elegko, Antigoni and

Kleio) and two sons, Nicholas.P.Lanitis and Costas.P.Lanitis (father to Evagoras.K.Lanitis).

Panayis' children, Costas and Nicholas later took on the business activities of their father.

Panayis Lanitis gave his children the best education he could. In 1880 they graduated from the Greek Scholarchy and Panayis then sent them to Beirut to 'learn foreign languages and acquire trade knowledge and knowhow'.

Upon their return to Cyprus, they went into commerce with an initial capital of 2 thousand napoleonic coins, provided by their father.

At the outset, Nicholas became active at his father's business on Koumandarias street, while at a young age, Costas.P.Lanitis is sent to Symi and then Chios, to sell Cyprus wines to the Turkish army.

It was ill fated however. Two ships that were carrying the Costas.P.Lanitis merchandise, sink in open sea and Costas is forced to close down his business and return to Cyprus.

Panayis Lanitis dies prematurely in 1905 and his children Costas and Nicholas take over.

The farm was created in 1936 by the Lanitis family. The Lanitis Group of Companies has a history dating back as far as 1896, when the family left the village of Lania, in the foothills of the Limassol district, to come to the town trading wine products and raisins.

The Group over the years has expanded into one of the largest and most prestigious business organisations in Cyprus, involved in agriculture, trading & commodities, tourism & travel, hotels, transport, leisure & entertainment, restaurants, golf, marinas, energy, construction & property development.

Over a period of more than half a century the farm produce has changed a number of times. In the 30s it began with Olive trees, vegetables and aromatic plants, while at the same time produced honey and milk products from a large herd of sheep and goats. In the 50s it changed to vineyards becoming one of the largest local exporters of table grapes to the United Kingdom. During the 60s the Farm was devoted to citrus production.

The founder of Lanitis Farm Ltd was N.P. Lanitis, a nature lover, who often said: "Trees are still working for us, while we are sleeping."

His words are engraved underneath his statue, at the entrance of the farm offices.



The Lanitis Family Children and grandchildren

