

## OLIVE & OLIVE OIL MUSEUM

The fruit of the harvest, the oil, or the “green blood” as a popular saying goes, is a staple component of the Greek diet, and is well known both for its cosmetic and for its pharmaceutical qualities. It was a source of wealth and power, particularly in ancient societies.

The museum of the “Olive and Greek Olive Oil”, in Sparta opened its doors to the public in December 2002. It is housed in the renovated premises of the old Electricity Company.

The Museum presents the history on the two life-giving commodities, the olive and the olive oil, throughout Greece, pointing out in graphic details, their multiform impact on the country's life, in the fields of economy, diet hygiene, religious, ritual and folk customs.

The presentation of the technological developments of the oil-mill in Greece goes through the Post-Byzantine period up to the Twentieth century. Various pieces of machinery that have been preserved and/or restored, as well as large-scale working models that help the visitor acquire some knowledge of the traditional techniques involved in olive oil production, are on show. The exhibition is also supported by digital shows.



