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**July 3-6, 2014, Leonidio - Arcadia**

Melitzazz festival is a colorful, multi-national gathering of cultures, in the capital of Tsakonia, Leonidio.

Invited artists and chefs convey the atmosphere of their places, contributing to the celebration with music, dance, culture and tastes. Scattered events take place in the streets, at squares and in the chateaus of the picturesque traditional village of Leonidio, numerous open stages are set up throughout the city of Leonidio, the streets are transformed into open air bars and street food goes to a new dimension, where music and dances tangle with scents and flavors of local and international gastronomy.

The festival is dedicated to the famous **PDO Tsakonian eggplant of Leonidio.**

Leonidio and Tsakonia celebrate, highlighting their rare qualities, the Tsakonian language with its foundations in the Doric dialect, the Tsakonian dance with its roots in the myths of Apollo, the local tradition, hospitality and excellent natural environment.

The theme of the festival, inspired by hosted cultures, included many types of music and dance till 2013, from rebetiko, oriental, flamenco and Serbian brass, to gypsy swing, jazz, Balkan, Cyprus, tarantella, operetta and much more.

**MELITZAZZ GOES AMERICA LATINA!**

This year, 2014, the extrovert Tsakonian eggplant travels far away to **Latin America**, to the homelands of its best friends: the potato from Peru and the tomato from Mexico, ingredients we can find in different dishes such as briam, tourlou, moussaka and many sauces as well. Moreover, it meets many other Latin American friends, such as corn, cocoa, chocolate, coffee.

The Tsakonian eggplant brings many things from the countries of its friends. Gastronomy and flavors, different cultures, dances and music, Argentinean tango, Brazilian samba, capoeira, maculele, Cuban salsa, latin from the Andes, **Tsakonian** local traditional, but also jazz and interesting improvisations and blends.

***“Kaour ekanate”.***

**Welcome to our festival!**

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