

Ancient Wine

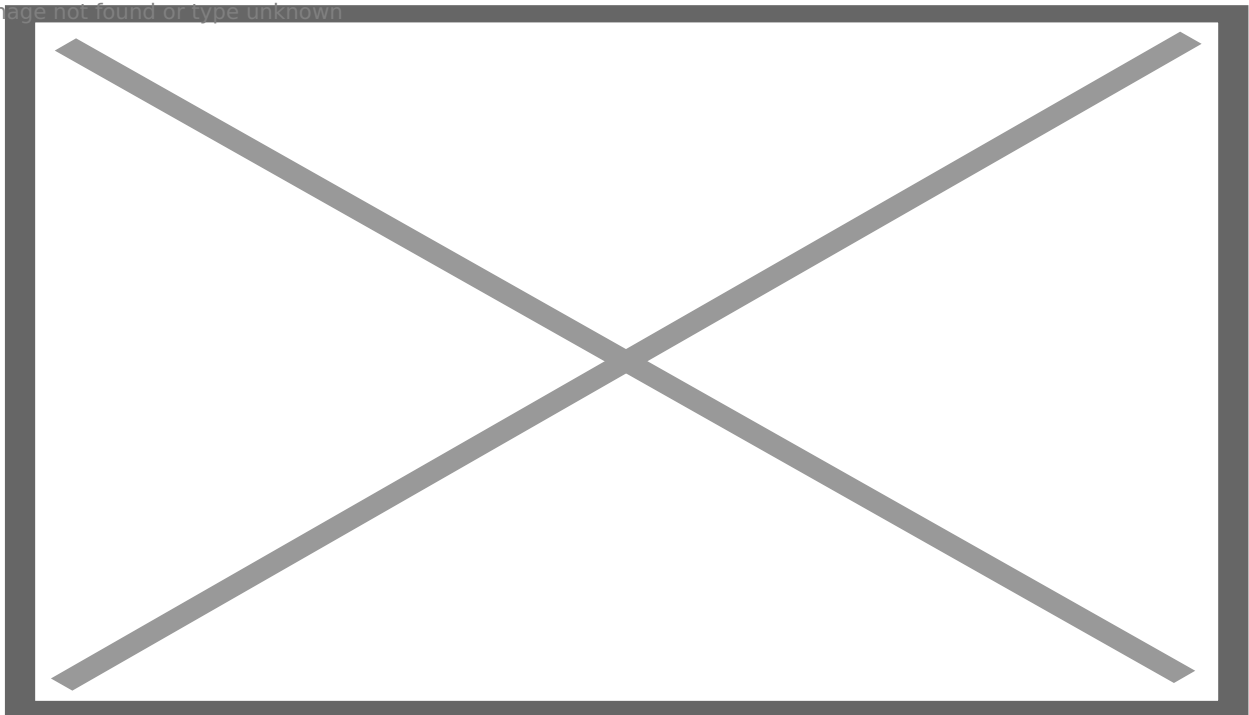
Post by “Pacatus” of November 5, 2024 at 3:54 PM

I had recently read some claims that one of the reasons the ancients watered their wine was because of its high alcoholic content, compared with our (unfortified) wines today. This appears to be false. (My wife, who made wonderful, dry country wines, also said so. 😊)

There has been mention on here before about Epicurus, as he was dying, drinking undiluted wine.

There may have been other reasons for watering wine, though, in addition to concerns of sobriety.

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[Wine throughout history: What were ancient wines really like?](http://www.wineinvestment.com)

www.wineinvestment.com

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[Was ancient wine more alcoholic than modern wine?](#)

Because the ancient Greeks and Romans mixed their water with wine, it is often assumed that their wines were considerably more alcoholic than modern ones. Is...

www.badancient.com

Note: I do not water my wine; my wife sometimes does (and she imbibes infrequently). 😊

Post by “Don” of November 5, 2024 at 6:49 PM

I am literally in the middle of going through the fragments and texts and putting together a list of all the foods that the Epicureans were said to "limit" themselves. Lentil stew, anyone?

The reason I post here is the word Οἰνίδιον "small wine, poor wine" from Diogenes Laertius X.11

"at all events they were content with half a pint of thin wine"

The -ιδιον is a diminutive. Personally, it would make sense to me if this referred to young wine, low in alcohol, like "small beer."

Post by “kochiekoch” of November 5, 2024 at 8:00 PM

Ancient drinking water sources left much to be desired. ☐ Not only the sanitation problem, which the alcohol in the wine would address, but the taste problem.

Adding wine to the water would make drinking water more palatable and drinkable.

[Why did the ancient Greeks and Romans drink their wine mixed with water?](#)