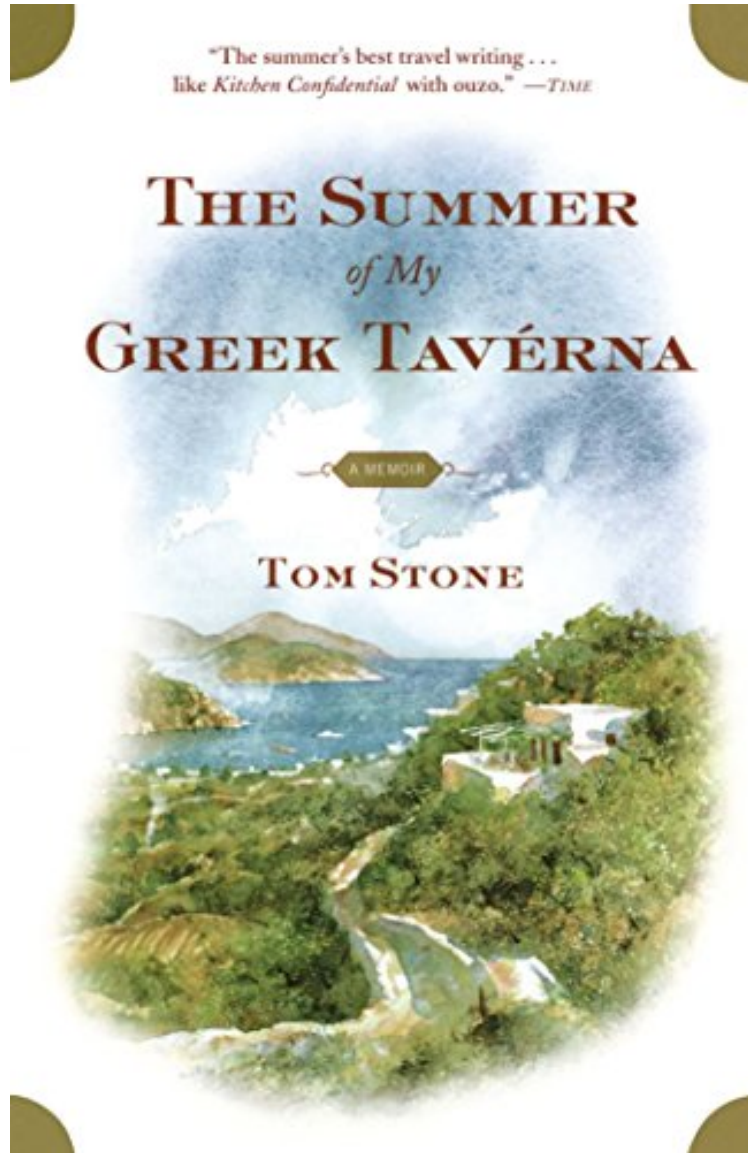


[Pdf free] The Summer of My Greek Taverna: A Memoir

## The Summer of My Greek Taverna: A Memoir

Tom Stone

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**Tom Stone : The Summer of My Greek Taverna: A Memoir** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Summer of My Greek Taverna: A Memoir:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ... story there were characteristics of people I know and love from my own familyBy thalia902As I read this story there were characteristics of people I know and love from my own family. I found myself laughing out loud while reading particular passages that were descriptive of island life. Since so much of Greece is dependent on the tourist trade, this memoir will definitely pique the interest of both armchair travelers and day cruisers everywhere.3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Good tzadziki recipeBy D. P.

BirkettIt's an account of the American author's life after falling in love with Greece and with a French girl. It centers on half a summer attempting to run a taverna on the island of Patmos and getting swindled. It's light-hearted in tone but covers a few tragic events and many that must not have seemed funny at the time. It's short and unpretentious but I enjoyed it more than many heavy works that aspire to tell us significant things about the Greek soul. Many of the things he says about Greeks and how they do business are - well- unfavorable. I kept thinking that if he'd said these things about a more vulnerable ethnic group he'd have been accused of prejudice, but judging from the reviews I've seen so far, Greeks and Greek-Americans don't seem to mind. The only recipe I've tried was the tzadziki one. It's a great advance on just chopping slices of cucumber into Dannon. I couldn't figure out what he meant by rinsing the grated cucumber. I just rolled it in a paper towel. I got rave reviews although I didn't have white pepper and used black.<sup>2</sup> of 2 people found the following review helpful. Very enjoyable readBy TravellerThe writer has a very straightforward style that I truly enjoyed. The fact that this was a true story kept my interest and made me put the Greek Isles high on the list of places to visit in the next few years.The author's sense of adventure and risk taking appeals to me.At the end of this book, I felt that i had acquired a good bit of knowledge of the physical aspects of the islands and even more so about the culture.

Tom Stone went to Greece one summer to write a novel -- and stayed twenty-two years. On Patmos, the tiny island where St. John received the apocalyptic visions recorded in the Book of Revelations, he fell in love with Danielle, a beautiful French painter. His novel completed and sold, he decided to stay a little longer.Seven idyllic years later, after the birth of their second child, they left Patmos for Crete, where Stone taught English to civil servants and Danielle painted icons for tourists. But Stone's heart was still on Patmos, and when a Patmian friend, Theoloacute;gos, called and offered him a summer partnership in his beach taveacute;rna, *The Beautiful Helen*, Stone jumped at the chance -- much to the dismay of his wife, who cautioned him not to forget the old adage about Greeks bearing gifts.Back on Patmos, Stone quickly discovered that he was no longer a friend or a patron but a competitor. He learned hard lessons about the Greeks' skill at bargaining, and about how truly effective the curse of the Evil Eye can be. There was no longer time to leisurely sip Greek coffee in the morning or linger over oregano-scented lunches with friends. The taveacute;rna closed for the tourists at 3 A.M. and opened for the fishermen at 7; work sometimes seemed little more than a battle to stay awake. Spurring him on were the enormous profits that Theoloacute;gos had assured him would materialize in August. And there were still the many joys of being back in Patmos: the beauty of the island, the friendships he had made over the years, and the adrenaline rush of success as news began to spread about Stone's cooking; yachts sailed over from Mykonos for dinner. But then came August, and the realization that Theoloacute;gos had been cheating him out of thousands of dollars. His illusions shattered, Stone turned to his wife and children, who had been there all the time, offering their support. And their love.Featuring Stone's recipes, including his variation on the traditional Greek tzatziacute;ki, his own Chicken Retsina, and the ultimate moussaka, *The Summer of My Greek Taveacute;rna* is as much a love story as it is the grand, humorous, and sometimes bittersweet adventure of an American pursuing his dreams in a foreign land, a modern-day innocent abroad.

From Publishers WeeklyStone moved to Greece more than 20 years ago to work on a novel and, upon its completion, found himself unable to leave the beautiful country. In this memoir, he colorfully recollects his life there, particularly one summer when he runs a restaurant on the island of Patmos. The reading complete with appropriate translations of some Greek phrases and expressions adequately conveys the experiences of an American who thinks of himself as a native but is still an outsider, as he learns when a "friend" cheats him out of a substantial sum of money. Part autobiography and part travelogue, this audiobook should appeal to listeners who've spent time in Greece; Stone's descriptions of the landscape and the people will be recognizable to those already familiar with the country. The author's humility in accepting some of the more difficult aspects of his stay the financial struggles and the physical labor, among them seems genuine. However, perhaps because of the length, this audio grows somewhat tiresome. Listeners may grow weary of Stone's observations about tourists (after all, he was once one) and his deprecating comments about the Greek people; James's reading of these sentiments is at times smug. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalPatmos, the small Greek island where St. John lived and wrote, is the setting of this brief but charming autobiographical travelog with recipes. Stone (*Greece: An Illustrated History*) is in love with Patmos, most of the people who live there, and especially his French-born wife, Danielle, whom he met and married there. One summer, when asked to take over a friend's restaurant at the height of the summer tourist season, Stone was able to turn his cooking avocation into a real job. In this bittersweet memoir, he recounts the reality of working from early in the morning to late at night, with almost no time for friends and family which ultimately forced him to reconsider the allure of his dream island and start thinking about how to live his life in the future. Stone also relates the seesawing friendship between himself and the taverna owner, an old friend who cheated him of thousands of dollars. Although written in the genre of Peter Mayle and Frances Mayes, this down-to-earth travelog certainly does not present a vacation world viewed through rose-colored glasses. Recommended for larger travel as well as cooking collections. Olga B. Wise, Compaq Computer Corp., Austin, TX Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information,

Inc. From Booklist When an old acquaintance offers Stone a chance to be part owner and chef of a restaurant on the island of Patmos, he leaps at the opportunity, seeing it as a romantic, profitable summer escape from the drudgery of his teaching job in Crete. Stone turns out to be a success in the kitchen, in part because he supplements the Beautiful Helen's standard Greek menu with diverse dishes, such as Roman spaghetti carbonara and Texan chili. He also becomes infatuated with Patmos' history, famed as the site of St. John's exile and his ecstatic visions of the apocalypse. But what at first seems merely quaint about the natives' ways soon turns sinister as their superstitions become oppressive. Stone's discovery that his Patmian partner has been cheating him out of his share of the restaurant's profits turns the idyllic summer into a nightmare. Despite Stone's deep love for Greek culture and language, he has painted a compelling, but scarcely flattering, portrait of a genuinely insular way of life. Mark Knoblauch Copyright copy; American Library Association. All rights reserved