

液态黄金

liquid gold

A weekend family retreat turns into a thriving producer of premium olive oil.



The stairs leading from the main lobby to the administrative office. 从加工厂大厅通往办公室的楼梯。

WHEN ONUR MERAL and his wife, Asli, bought a large block of farmland in Turkey's scenic Aegean Region, they didn't even know what types of trees covered the hills that roll down to the sea. Working with award-winning Turkish architect Han Tümertekin, a longtime friend, the couple built a weekend retreat for their family near the shore, transforming a historic ruined villa into a contemporary holiday home.

The more time Meral spent at his coastal property near the tiny ancient village of Bademli, and the more he engaged in agriculture, the more he wanted it to become a full-time way of life. "The grounds had around fifteen hundred very old olive trees," he notes, "but no roads, power, water, or communication. During development of the infrastructure and renovation of the existing ruins, I fell in love with the land and the trees." Meral visited olive orchards and mills across Europe and undertook courses in Tuscany and Spain's Province of Jaén, eventually swapping his military contracting business for farming in 2005.

When the house was finished in 2004, the couple began expanding their property by purchasing surrounding land and working to achieve organic certification, with which they were accredited by ECOCERT in 2006. "Because today's olive oil market is flooded with adulterated and mislabeled products," Meral explains, "we reject

Onur Meral 与妻子 Asli 买下这一大片土耳其爱琴海地区的农地时，他们压根不知道那些从山丘上一直绵延到海边的树究竟是什么树。获奖无数的土耳其建筑师 Han Tümertekin 是两人的多年好友。在 Han 的帮助下，这座古老荒废的别墅被改建成一座现代渡假屋，当作周末休憩处。

在这个邻近古老村庄 Bademli 的海边小屋待得越久，Onur 就越投入农家生活，越想成为一位全职农夫。他说：「这片土地上大概有 1500 棵非常老的橄榄树，不过这里没有道路、没有电力，也没有水和通讯设备。但随着基础建设的发展及遗留废墟的翻修整理，我渐渐爱上这片土地，爱上这些老树。」Onur 陆续拜访许多欧洲的橄榄果园和加工厂，还到托斯卡纳与西班牙的哈恩进修相关课程，终于在 2005 年抛下军方承包商的身分，转职成一名农夫。

小屋在 2004 年完工后，两人开始拓展领土，购买邻近土地，并努力申请有机认证，最后在 2006 年获得国际生态认证中心的肯定。Onur 解释：「现在橄榄油市场充满许多成分不明和名不副实的商品。我们反对主流的农作方式，坚持手工采收，而且不打生长激素，不用农药，更不使用化肥。」如今，Angelos Olive Oil 果园已拥有将近四百亩的土地，种植约五千棵有机橄榄树。Angelos 是邻村的原名，Onur 解释这是「向五百年前在此地种下橄榄树苗的先民致敬。」

当土地与作物都准备就绪，Onur 夫妇便兴致勃勃地想尽快开始生产橄榄油。不过想取得有机认证，仅自行种植与采摘还不够，还得自己榨油。于是两人又带着加