CULTURE, HISTORY AND WINE SELF-GUIDED TOUR

DAY 1

In the morning you will be picked up from your hotel and transferred to Chitcani village, where **Noul Neamt Monastery** is located. The monastery was founded in 1861. The tour will take you to the outstanding picturesque landscape to be admired from the upper level of the highest bell tower in Moldova (64 m). The monastery museum will be highly appreciated by those who are fond of the history of religion. The museum houses icons dating from the 18th-20th centuries, as well as crosses, books, priest gowns and old pictures.

After visiting the monastery, the driver will transfer you to **Tighina Fortress** located in Transnistria region. Here you will enjoy a guided excursion about the history of this fortress. Tighina Fortress was built in the 15th century by the prince of Moldova, Stephen the Great. Originally built as a small wooden fort, it was later fortified in stone by the prince of Moldova, Petru Rares. Occupied by the Ottomans in 1538 (in a campaign lead by the sultan Suleiman the Magnificent), the fort was strengthened in 1541 and became the center of an Ottoman "raya" (in which were included the surrounding Moldavian villages). As you will be in Transnistria region you can visit by yourself **Tiraspol city** that seems to be a vestige of the Soviet past with Lenin Monument in the city center and interesting architecture.

On the way back to Chisinau, you can visit **Castel Mimi winery** located in Bulboaca village. It is a destination of interest unique in Moldova. Castel Mimi is currently listed among the most beautiful architectural masterpieces in the world of wine. The story of the castle begins at the end of 1893, when Constantin Mimi, the last governor of Bessarabia, plants the first grape vines on the place that would become legend over the years.

At the end of tour, you will be transferred to your hotel.

HIGHLIGHTS: Noul Neamt Monastery, Tighina Fortress, Tiraspol city, Castel Mimi winery,