GRAPE HARVESTING AND WINEMAKING ACTIVITIES IN MOLDOVA

DAY 1

Day 1: Arrival day and wine tasting with dinner at Cricova winery

Chisinau - Cricova - Chisinau

On arrival at Chisinau International Airport, you will enjoy a city tour of Chisinau, which is the main administrative, scientific and cultural centre of Moldova. During the tour, you will discover pieces of history and culture of the city such as the Nativity of Christ Cathedral, the Bell Tower, the Arch of Triumph, the Monument of Stephen the Great, etc.

You will continue your trip by exploring a new city, this time an underground city. During the excursion at Cricova winery in the tourist train, at a depth of 80 m, you will discover the wonders of this place. Cricova underground galleries are formed by over seventy streets covering an area of nearly 120 km, each bearing Bacchic names: Sauvignon, Cabernet, Cahors. The jewel of the underground treasure is the National Collection, including over 600 types of wine totaling about 1 million bottles. Here you can admire the oldest bottle of wine – “Jewish Easter Wine”, dating from 1902, discover the tastes of Cricova wines and have a fabulous dinner at Cricova restaurant.

After dinner, you will be transferred to your hotel in Chisinau and check in.

HIGHLIGHTS: Chisinau city, Cricova Underground Wine Galleries,

DAY 2

Day 2: Participation in the winemaking process at Château Purcari winery

Chisinau - Purcari - Bulboaca - Chisinau

In the morning, you will travel to Château Purcari winery in Purcari village where you will participate in the grape harvest process. If you are a wine enthusiast or just love to be in beautiful, pristine surroundings and listening the songs of birds, Purcari estate is definitely the place you need to visit. The old mansion’s galleries feature great collections of Purcari wines, some bottles dating back to 1948. The winery is famous all over the world due to the legendary wine “Negru de Purcari” - the elixir that in 1878 was highly appreciated on the international arena by being awarded the gold medal at Paris World Exhibition. First of all, you will pick grapes and leave the vineyards as clean as possible. Next step is the wine production process where you will have opportunity to relive the tradition of crushing grapes on your own with your feet, in a nice dancing rhythm. After lunch at the Château, a real master class will take place in the bottling room and you will participate in the bottling, packaging and labelling of bottles for the trade. All these activities will be finished with a blind wine tasting where you will use all your tasting sensors and you will appreciate the real wine quality.

After lunch, you will be transferred to Bulboaca village where you will visit Castel Mimi winery - 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. Here, you will participate in the wine and food pairing and enjoy a gala dinner.

In the evening, you will be transferred to the hotel in Chisinau.

HIGHLIGHTS: Château Purcari winery, Blind wine tasting at Château Purcari winery , Castel Mimi winery, Gala dinner at Castel Mimi winery,

DAY 3

Day 3: Experience blending your own wine bottle at Asconi winery

Chisinau - Puhoi - Chisinau

The day will begin with a visit to Asconi winery founded in 1994 and located in Puhoi village. The winery achieved a lot due to modern wine making technologies. Nowadays at Asconi estate European varieties are grown, but special attention is paid to indigenous varieties such as Rara Neagra, Feteasca, etc. One of the features of Asconi winery is that they pick up the grapes mechanically at night when the grapes are still cold. During the excursion, wine tasting and lunch at the winery you will be able to discover the wonders of this place. After lunch, you will participate in a blending lesson and you will experience blending your own wine bottle.

In the evening, you will be transferred to Chisinau where you will have dinner at a local restaurant.

HIGHLIGHTS: Asconi winery,

DAY 4

Day 4: Departure day

Chisinau

On departure day, you will be transferred from the hotel to Chisinau International Airport. If your flight is in the afternoon, you will have the option to explore Chisinau for a while on your own in the morning and buy some souvenirs.