TASTE MOLDOVA TRIP

DAY 1

Day 1: Welcome dinner at Castel Mimi winery

On arrival at Chisinau International Airport, you will be transferred to your accommodation in Chisinau. After settling in, you can have a walk through downtown and explore the city centre on your own.

In the evening you will visit Castel Mimi winery located in Bulboaca village where you will enjoy a Gala dinner with local food and drinks and an attractive show program including national music played live and traditional Moldovan dances. Before dinner, an excursion and wine tasting will be offered to the guests. Also, a Moldovan magician will entertain you with an intriguing and mystifying magic show, after which a discotheque will be organized with a club DJ and a wonderful night is guaranteed!

Castel Mimi winery is a destination of interest unique in Moldova. It 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 taste Castel Mimi wines, including Rosu de Bulboaca wine, an incomparable wine with outstanding features and elegant flavor.

HIGHLIGHTS: Castel Mimi winery, Gala dinner at Castel Mimi winery,

DAY 2

Day 2: Branesti winery, Orheiul Vechi - a 40 thousand year-old natural amphitheater and Château Vartely winery

The first stop of this day will be at Branesti Winery where you will enjoy an excursion and a short networking and entertainment party with champagne tasting and strawberries. The Stone Age Complex of Branesti winery is situated in an old limestone mine at a depth of 60 meters. Thanks to the absence of internet and mobile communications guests can escape from civilization and city noise.

Next, you will travel to Butuceni village where you will be served a Moldovan traditional lunch and get familiar with the rural life, people lifestyle, traditions and you will be able to contact with the locals.

After lunch, you will set off on a time travel to Orheiul Vechi (Old Orhei) to see a natural amphitheater revealing a territory which was first inhabited 40 000 years ago. The Cultural, Natural and Landscape Reserve Orheiul Vechi includes a series of historical and cultural monuments as well as natural landscapes in the gorge of the Raut River. Ancient fortifications, cave monasteries, monks and hermits – here you can follow the history of this region. The originality of Orheiul Vechi landscape is due to the gorge of the Raut River, dug under the form of a canyon in the limestone layers of the former Sarmatian Sea, about 14 million years ago.

You will continue your journey to Château Vartely winery in Orhei town. Château Vartely is a modern complex, which comprises 4 hotel-type houses, 2 restaurants, 3 tasting rooms, and a huge inner yard. In the

cellars and then in tasting rooms you will be acquainted with the particularities of Château Vartely wines, you will learn how they are made, kept and served. Here, you will have the opportunity to taste some of them including the Ice Wine made of grapes frozen even on the vine with aromas revealing notes of exotic fruit. After the grapes are pressed, the pure and sweet grape juice turns into an unforgettable wine.

HIGHLIGHTS: Pivnitele din Branesti winery, Orheiul Vechi - a 40 thousand years-old natural amphitheater, Château Vartely winery,

DAY 3

Day 3: Visit in the south-east region of Moldova and discovery of Et Cetera and Château Purcari wineries

In the morning, you will visit Et Cetera family winery in and take part in the excursion and wine tasting carried out by the owner of the winery who will inform you about the methods of wine production and maturation. At Et Cetera winery, you will have the opportunity to prepare the local pie called the Bride's pie - “Placinta Miresei” during a culinary masterclass, which will be tasted during lunch together with other dishes prepared from products of the region and Crocmaz village.

After lunch, the trip will continue to Château Purcari winery in Purcari village. 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. In the tasting room, decorated in royal style, you will have the opportunity to taste Purcari wines and take part in a wine tasting masterclass offered by a professional sommelier. After enjoying the masterclass, you will be awarded a Certificate.

HIGHLIGHTS: Et Cetera winery, Château Purcari winery,

DAY 4

Day 4: Back in the USSR in Tiraspol and Gala dinner at Cricova winery

In the morning, you will discover Tighina Fortress located in Tighina town and 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). In the 18th century, the fort was strengthened by Moldovan craftsmen under the direct supervision of Dimitrie Cantemir. Tighina Fortress is an architectural ensemble of irregular quadrilateral plan, surrounded by wide walls, 2-3 meters thick, made of limestone and brick.

After visiting Tighina, you will set off on a time travel in Transnistria. While in Tiraspol, you will discover a real treasure – Aquatir Sturgeon Complex, one of the largest hatcheries in Europe. The complex is equipped with the latest technologies and the fish can reach the size of a man. You will get the chance to taste one of

the most expensive culinary delights – caviar.

During the city tour in Tiraspol, you will discover Vladimir Lenin’s monument and the tank left from the Second World War. The city seems to be a vestige of the Soviet past. Nevertheless, you will be amazed by the contrasts, one of which is the football complex „Sheriff” - a pearl of contemporary architecture.

In the afternoon, you will have lunch at a restaurant in Tiraspol.

After lunch, you will visit Kvint wine and brandy factory where harmony, refinement and tradition underlie the oldest and most genuine spirits. Here you will be acquainted with the taste of such spirits as Kvint, Doina, Victoria, Suvorov and of course the 50 years old “Cneazi Vitghenstein”.

In the evening you will travel to Cricova winery where you will enjoy a Gala dinner moderated by a comedian who will entertain the audience and describe the organization of the event. The evening will begin with an excursion at Cricova winery in the tourist train, at a depth of 80 m, during which 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 and discover the tastes of Cricova wines.

The evening will continue with the Gala dinner, during which you will listen to Moldovan traditional music played live and interact with the moderator during the entertainment program. Also, a Moldovan top Eurovision singer or band will sing songs and make the evening special. During the Gala dinner, the participants /employees of the company will receive awards according to their performance achievements at the company.

HIGHLIGHTS: Tighina Fortress, Aquatir Sturgeon Farm, Tiraspol city, Kvint wine and brandy Factory, Cricova Underground Wine Galleries,

DAY 5

Day 6: Departure day

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, visit the colorful Central Market and buy some souvenirs at the souvenir market in the city center.