

ENJOY
MOLDOVA

BY SOLEI TOURISM

CULTURE, WINE AND GASTRONOMY TOUR



CULTURE, WINE AND GASTRONOMY TOUR

Duration: 8 days/7 nights Group size: from 5 to 15 pax Board: FB

DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN CHISINAU. (D)

Upon arrival at Chisinau International Airport, meet a guide and driver, transfer to hotel for check-in. First impressions about Moldova as a wine country at the wine bar and oenotheque "INVINO" – a first taste of Moldova.
Overnight in Chisinau.

DAY 2: FIRST ACQUAINTANCE WITH CHISINAU & KINGDOM OF WINES CRICOVA (B/L/D)

Buffet breakfast at hotel.
Meet the guide at the hotel and proceed for a 3h city tour of Chisinau.
During this tour you will get acquainted with the city history, will visit the historical part of our capital. You will make a stop at the monument of a great Moldova Ruler Stefan the Great and Saint, the Bell Tower, Lord Nativity Cathedral, the Triumph Arch, the Parliament, the Central Square "Stefan cel Mare", City Hall, visit the open-air food market and look into the city park "Valley of Mills".
Visit to the Archeology and History Museum in Chisinau.
Take lunch at city café "La Placinte"



In the afternoon, tour the underground tunnels of the wine cellars Cricova and see a large collection of exclusive wine, get acquainted with the process of wine and wine sparkling production.
The oldest wine to be stored there is a Jerusalem Wine (1902).



Cricova is a unique place housing historic wines among which Goering's collection, the winery is proud for. Proceed for wine tasting and dinner in one of the tasting halls of Cricova wine cellars.

Overnight in Chisinau.

DAY 3: ORHEI VECHI ARCHEOLOGICAL COMPLEX, CURCHI MONASTERY AND CHATEAU VARTELY WINERY (B/L/D)

Buffet breakfast at hotel.

Meet the guide at the hotel. Departure to Orhei region.

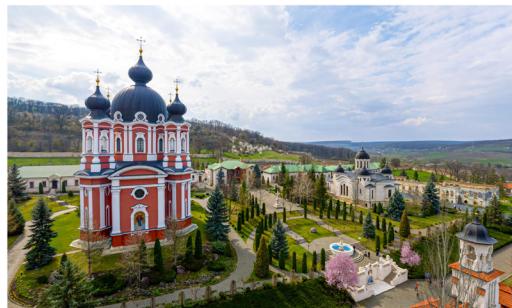
Explore an open-air museum complex Orhei Vechi (Old Orhei) that presents the remains of different civilizations established between Nistru and Prut rivers. The complex comprises caves, grottos, churches, Geto-Dacian fortress and hermitages. The open air museum represents a true natural fortress inhabited since ancient times. Walk into Orthodox Cave Monastery and feel the spirit of those times. Learn the way of living of the locals and visit a typical 19th cent. Moldavian house-museum.



Another interesting place to be visited on the route is the Moldavian village Butuceni where the style and traditions of the Moldavian architecture of the 19th century are preserved and carefully maintained – ornamenteally decorated houses, gates, fences, wells with potable water, old cellars and others

Enjoy lunch at a local boarding house and sample traditional dishes and home-made wine.

Later, visit the **monastic complex Curchi** located in one of the most picturesque areas in the center of Moldova, in Codrii forests and have a talk with a local monk about the daily life of the monks of the monastery.



Finally, tour the **winery Chateau Vartely** in Orhei town and enjoy fascinating barrel light projection. "Chateau Vartely" is a unique Moldovan project for producing wines according to classic European quality standards. This is the first winery in the country of complete cycle – from growing grapes to bottling – modeled on a French chateau.



The Chateau is located on lands in the Central part of the country, while its vineyards, a part in the vicinity of the river Nistru (region Jora-de-Sus) for

the finest white grapes, other part are placed in the South of Moldova (region Bugeac), which are amazingly similar with the best plots of the province Bordeaux. The vine is cared all year round and berries are handpicked.

We invite you to enjoy dinner in the winery restaurant.

Drive back to Chisinau and just in an hour you'll be back at the hotel.

Overnight in Chisinau.

DAY 4: BACK TO USSR TOUR – TRANSNISTRIA/PRIDNESTROVIE (B/L/D)

After breakfast, departure to Transnistrian Region. This day you will have a full day trip to Transnistria and will learn the history of this self-proclaimed independent and unrecognized Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic that has its own currency, border guards and policy.

You will explore the 16th century Tighina fortress and visit the on-site museum. The first documentary mention of "Tighina Fortress" was in 1408. Its walls have survived to the present and offer an example of classic Moldavian defensive construction.



While in Tiraspol, you'll find yourself in a distinguished divine factory KVINT, tour the factory and taste some of the local divines of KVINT brand. For all lovers of strong alcoholic drinks and those interested in divines' production, we recommend to pip into the KVINT distillery where the local guide will reveal the history and all secrets of manufacturing alcoholic beverages of the area that boasts fertile soil and river Nistru climate.

The winery has its own vineyards with more than 30 grape varietals in the central and northern part of Transnistrian region and is proud for producing annually about 20 mil bottles of alcoholic beverages, among which 30 types of divines (cognacs). Divines tasting is followed by a lunch at Kvint tasting hall.



Proceed for sightseeing Tiraspol.

During the tour you'll see the Drama and Comedy Theatre, the Lenin and Suvorov Monuments, the Parliament, the House of Soviets and have a walking tour along the river Dniestr. The city was founded by the Russian general Alexandre Suvorov in 1792, whose statue is rising on the central square in Tiraspol.



Finally, visit to a Sturgeon Fish Farm in Tiraspol "Aquatir", find out the way of growing sturgeon fish family and producing black caviar. Caviar tasting is a must.

Upon arrival in Chisinau, proceed for dinner at city restaurant.

Overnight in Chisinau.

DAY 5: DISCOVER THE SOUTH NOTES - GAGAUZ AUTONOMOUS REGION (B/L/D)

Buffet breakfast at hotel.

Departure to the South of Moldova, to Gagauz Yeri, to learn the history, culture and traditions of Gagauzian people – people of Turkic origin confessing the Orthodox religion.

Sightseeing the capital of the Gagauz Autonomous Region – Comrat that is situated in the southern zone of Moldova. During the city tour the tourists will visit the Central Orthodox Cathedral, pass by the History and Ethnography Museum, by the "Bashkanat" – the head office of the "Gagauz Head", the Turkish Library, the Central Food Market that boasts very fresh and high quality products and make a stop at the alley of Famous people of the region. As well as learn about the unique university where the rare Gagauzian language is taught.



Later drive to a nearby **Besalma village** and visit a valuable Museum of History and Ethnography featuring the unique Orthodox people of Turkic origin. In 1966 the writer D. Cara-Ciobanu founded a museum of the culture of the Gagauzian population revealing their origin. Hundreds of artifacts were collected from all over Gagauzia are now exposed in the museum for the visitors.



Continue to the village Congaz that is considered as the biggest village in Europe. Before you tour the property "Gagauz Sofrasi", we invite to try yourselves at culinary master class and namely baking traditional pastry with sheep cheese "Giuzlemea" which will be later offered for lunch alongside with other savory traditional dishes. At lunch, you will surely taste traditional dishes like "shurpa" - soup with lamb, "giozlemea" - salty pastry with sheep cheese stuffing and other local delicacies in the Gagauzian yard. Next you'll visit the ethno yard, their museum and small airbrick houses with wooden furniture and natural clay walls.



And finally, find yourself in the winery "Vinuri de Comrat" located in the Gagauzian capital - Comrat and have a chance to taste nice Gagauzian wines which have special aroma of south region wines. Also, visit the "Museum of forgotten things from USSR" from the winery collection. Wrap up the day with dinner at the winery restaurant "Bessarabia Province".

Overnight in Chisinau.

DAY 6: GUINNESS RECORDS VISITS: PRIVATE GALLERY OF COLLECTIONS "PETRU COSTIN" & MILESTII MICI UNDERGROUND WINE CITY. ELEGANT WINERY CHATEAU COJUSNA. (B/L/D)

Today, we'll show you the Guiness Records Book Holders in Moldova – the wine cellars Milestii Mici and the "Gallery of Collections Petru Costin". In the morning, we invite you to tour the underground wine galleries Milestii Mici which extend over 200 km, though only approximately 55-60 km are currently being used for storing wine. The tunnels are located at depths varying between 30 to 85 meters below the ground.

It was built using old underground limestone quarries (mined earlier for building materials). After mining operations ceased or decreased, those subterranean tunnels were repurposed for wine maturation and storage. During the tour you'll witness "the Golden Collection Milestii Mici" entering the Guinness Book of Records for storing more than 1.5 Million bottles of harmonious wines "Pinot", "Traminer", "Muscat", "Riesling", "Feteasca", "Codru", "Negru de Purcari".



Continue to Ialoveni town nearby and visit another Gallery – that of the Collections by Petru Costin. This museum was founded by Petru Costin, a former customs officer and passionate collector, who spent over 50 years gathering artifacts and monuments from the socialist and communist eras. His goal is to preserve and showcase the history of this period without glorifying it.



The gallery's exhibits are housed in a refurbished school building. It showcases a diverse array of over 25 themed collections, reflecting Moldova's rich cultural heritage and history: Coin Map of Moldova, Historical Flags, Vintage Technology, Military Memorabilia, Largest Collection of Horseshoes, ETC.

The gallery is in the Guinness Book of Records for the largest horseshoe collection.

We're moving further to Codrii forests, where the oldest monastery is placed but first we'll take you to the restaurant "Cuib" (stands for the nest) to experience local cuisine.

After lunch, walk to the oldest Moldovan monastery which is few steps away from the restaurant and learn more about the religious life of the Moldovans. Capriana monastery is considered to be the oldest one in Moldova and was founded by the great Moldovan Ruler Stefan the Great. Closed and dilapidated during the post-war period, it was only reopened again in 1989, becoming a symbol of national revival.



Finally, we'll get into the elegant winery Chateau Cojusna.

Tour the winery Chateau Cojusna, have a classic wine tasting. The winery has a modern wine production facility and a distillery, as well as a tourist complex based on a French chateau in design. The winery is about the cellars where the wines are aged in oak barrels and about the Wine Collection Gallery "Migdal" storing 175000 bottles, about the distillery for divines producing and nice tasting rooms ornamented in medieval style.



The guests are also invited to the tower of Chateau Cojusna winery to enjoy a panoramic view of the winery vineyards.

Upon return in Chisinau dinner at city restaurant, further gastronomic experience.
Overnight in Chisinau.

DAY 7/ CHATEAU PURCARI AND MEDIEVAL CHURCH (B/L/D)

Buffet breakfast at hotel.

Meet the guide and departure to the south-east of Moldova.

It's a good chance to see the oldest worldwide known winery in Moldova "Chateau Purcari" boasting high-quality wines, and sample legendary wines from selected grapes. Feel the refined taste of gorgeous vintage wines like Rosu de Purcari, Alb de Purcari and Negru de Purcari, which was considered to be Queen Elisabeth's II one of the favorite wines. For all lovers of dessert wines the winery has been producing Ice Wine – a challenging wine with notes of honey, spices and fruits. The major goal of creating such a company was the revival of the production of unique and famous sorts of wine like: Negru and Rosu de Purcari (Purcari Black and Red wines). The production of the Purcari wine was recreated, the ancient cellars, dating from 1827, were renovated. Nowadays, these cellars are considered to be the oldest and the most well-known cellars in Moldova.

You'll savor the lunch in the winery restaurant, the specialties of the region.

On the way to Chisinau, we'll make a stop in the town Causeni and visit a Medieval Church.



The Assumption of the Virgin Church from Causeni is a unique architecture monument in its kind in this part of Europe, a symbol of the persisting of the Orthodox faith and the spirituality of our nation. An interesting fact is that the Assumption of the Virgin Church from Causeni is semi-buried - a fact explained by a legend which has remained since the Tartar administration in the region.

They said that the Tartars allowed the construction of a Christian church, provided that it is not taller than a soldier on a horse.

The frescoes from inside represent the last stage in the development of the medieval fresco in Moldova. Afternoon at leisure in Chisinau before a farewell dinner at city restaurant. Farewell dinner at a traditional city restaurant. Overnight in Chisinau.

DAY 8: FAREWELL TO MOLDOVA (B)

After breakfast you'll have some free time for doing shopping and buying souvenirs and Moldavian sweets which are really delicious. Transfer to airport for the flight back home.

Short: B – breakfast, L – lunch, D-dinner



TOUR PACKAGE PRICE PER PERSON (EUR):

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3* HOTEL

4* HOTEL

5 pax
1.449€
1.544€

10 pax
1.186€
1.280€

15 pax
1.086€
1.181€

SSUP
193€
287€

SERVICES INCLUDED:

- ✓ Shared accommodation in TWIN rooms at a hotel on BB basis, 7 nights; SSUP-supplement for SGL room
- ✓ English Guide services as per program incl. airport transfers;
- ✓ Local guides in the wineries and museums;
- ✓ Transport services for the entire tour in Moldova
- ✓ Entrance fees to all mentioned sites (museums, fortresses)
- ✓ Meals: FB (3 course menu+water)
- ✓ Wine tours and tastings: Cricova wine cellars (4 wines), Chateau Vartely winery (4 wines), Kvint distillery (5 divines), Vinuri de Comrat winery (4 wines), Milestii Mici cellars (only tour); Chateau Cojusna (4 wines), Chateau Purcari (4 wines);
- ✓ Activities: culinary class in Gagauzia, caviar tour and tasting in Tiraspol
- ✓ Meals for driver and guide
- ✓ Water: 0.5l per 1 pax daily

TOUR RESERVATION AT

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