

### Wine Festival Tour Moldova

**Tentative dates: 05.10-09.10.2024**

**Group: from 5 pax**

#### Day 1/ SAT/ 05.10.2024 CHISINAU (D)

**17.50** Meet and Greet at the Chisinau International Airport.  
Transfer to hotel in Chisinau  
First impressions about the wine festival.

**20.00** Wine tasting and dinner at the **wine bar “Carpe Diem”** in Chisinau.

**Carpe Diem - Wine Shop & Bar** is a value-oriented boutique wine store and wine bar, offering an exceptional selection of distinctive and eclectic fine wines from Moldova



For wine tasting the wine bar offers mainly the wines from a private winery “**Casa Vinicola Luca**”. <https://carpediem.md/>

**Tasting of 5 wines, snacks and dinner at the tasting room “Carpe Diem”.**

Overnight in Chisinau.

#### Day 2/SUN/06.10.2024 / HALF DAY WINE FESTIVAL IN CHISINAU – MIMI WINE CASTLE (B/D)

Breakfast at Hotel.

**10.00** Meet a guide at hotel reception.

Make an acquaintance with Chisinau and visit to the National Great Assembly Square “Stefan cel Mare”, participate at **the Wine Festival in Chisinau**. *(Guide will be offered as an assistant)*

This year, a record number of more than 60 wine producers is supposed to come to the Great National Assembly Square to present the product of national pride and the national traditions in winemaking. The visitors of the event will be encouraged to get to know the Wine of Moldova and to enjoy it moderately and responsibly.

**Wine tasting packages will be available on the day of the festival (around 15 euro/per ticket and includes up to 12 wines from different wine producers presented at the event)**

### **16.00** Afternoon visit to the winery MIMI CASTLE

Tour the winery **MIMI CASTLE** and taste their wines.



Castel MIMI is a winery with a history that takes us centuries back when the first chateau was founded in Bessarabia by an outstanding personality Constantin Mimi. The real beauty of the castle has been hidden for many years under a layer of concrete and it is finally open for public since September 2016. Constantin Mimi has contributed to modernization of Bessarabian viticulture- he has planted new European varietal which is more productive and more resistant to diseases such as Aligote. All guests of this unique castle can savor delicious meals from local eco products served in a winery restaurant offering nice atmosphere and refined dishes. Castel MiMi is opening the first Wine Spa in Moldova in a

short time and everybody will be able personally to appreciate the wine effect.

### **Wine Mimi Castle for tasting: 5 wines associated with food**

- **Cucoanele 2021** & ton fume and salmon gravlax served with black bread with dried fruit
- **Chardonnay Fudul 2020** & local vineyard snails with herb and garlic butter
- **Sanzienele 2021** & salmon in grape crust
- **Malbec 2017** & Steak New York
- **Riesling Ice Wine 2018** & homemade wine ice cream

**19:00** Back to Chisinau.

Overnight in Chisinau.

### **Day 3 / MON / 07.10.2024 / CHATEAU PURCARI & ASCONI WINERY (B/L/D)**

Breakfast at Hotel.

**9.00** Meet a guide at hotel reception. Departure to the south-east of Moldova.

**11.30** Visit first the famous **Chateau Purcari Estate**- Excursion and wine tasting. <https://purcari.wine/en/>



It's a good chance to see the oldest worldwide known winery in Moldova "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.

**Wine tasting Purcari (choose one tasting package from below options):**

- **Reserve Exclusive Package (4 wines: Alb de Purcari / Roșu de Purcari / Negru de Purcari+ Cuvée Alb Brut)**
- **Local Varieties Grape Package ( 5 wines: Viorica/ Rara Neagra/ Feteasca Neagra / Maluri de Prut/ Cuvée Feteasca Alba )**
- **Limited Edition Wine Package (6 wines : Traminer /Rose (Pinot Grigio)/ Pinot Noir / Fetească Neagră / Malbec / Shiraz**

**13:30** Lunch at the winery restaurant Purcari.

**14.30** Departure to Asconi winery (<http://asconi.md/>)

**16.30 -19.00** Tour the winery Asconi and taste their exquisite wines.

**Asconi wine tasting:**

- **6 wines associated with 6 traditional snacks**

Asconi winery has been producing excellent wines by implementing the best technologies and at the same time preserving old Moldavian traditions of wine making. The winery is aiming at producing best ever wines by combining French varietals such as Merlot, Muscat, Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon with local ones like Feteasca Neagra and Feteasca Alba.



Asconi has planted 506 hectares (1250 acres) of vineyards of various varieties. Among them varieties such as Cabernet-Sauvignon, Merlot, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, and Muscat Ottonel can be found near Geamana village, in the Codru Region. The picturesque vines are situated about 40 km to the south of Chisinau and 10 km from the winery. Recently, they have also added more variety to their types of grapes which include Malbec, Saperavi, Muscat Rose, Glera and others. These grapes will be used to make wines in small batches or for big blends to add complexity. The harvest season usually starts in mid August with

white grapes of Sauvignon, Chardonnay and Muscat. Later on we move to Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. The grapes harvested in two ways: handpicking and machine harvesting. The handpicked grapes are used primarily for top tier dry wines.

**19.30 Drive** back to Chisinau (40 min)

Overnight in Chisinau.

**Day 4/TUES/08.10.2024 /CRICOVA WINE CELLARS-OLD ORHEI COMPLEX-CHATEAU VARTELY WINERY (B/L/D)**

Breakfast at Hotel.

**09.00** Meet a guide at hotel reception. Departure to the wine cellars Cricova. ([www.cricova.md](http://www.cricova.md))

We will take you to an underground Cricova wine cellars and drive through the enigmatic streets covering over 60 km in length and bearing the names Cabernet, Feteasca, Aligote, Sauvignon...named after the wines stored there. It's a unique place housing historic wines among which Goering's collection the winery is proud for. It is a place where classic sparkling wines are being matured and have won million hearts



of wine lovers.

It's also a unique experience to enjoy this breathtaking underground tour with wine streets and galleries.

All Cricova wines can be tasted in luxurious tasting halls, which are a veritable masterpiece of exquisite architecture.

### **Cricova wine tasting:**

#### **- 6 wines and cheese plate**

**12.30** Continue to a visiting card of Moldova-an archeological and historical complex in open air Old Orhei (Moldovan Orheiul Vechi).

**13.30** We invite you first to enjoy **traditional Moldovan lunch** at a guest house in Orheiul Vechi area, in one of the adjacent villages like Trebujeni or Butuceni.



It's difficult to imagine a trip to Moldova without getting to its visiting card "Orheiul Vechi" - a museum complex that presents the remains of different civilizations established between Nistru and Prut rivers. This is a cave complex comprising caves, grottos, churches, and hermitages. The open-air museum represents a true natural fortress, inhabited since ancient times.

You'll witness the unique 13<sup>th</sup> cent. Cave monastery with one monk created by Orthodox monks and will see the ruins of the Old Turkish baths as well as the ruins of the Tatar-Mongolian fort "Shehr-al-Djedid". Also visit the Moldavian **village Butuceni** with a typical 19<sup>th</sup>cent.

Moldavian house-museum.

**17.00** And finally, by the end of the day, we'll take you to the best winery of the year 2023 – Chateau Vartely.

"Chateau Vartely" [www.vartely.md](http://www.vartely.md) – 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. Chateau is located on lands in the Central part of the country. The vineyards, in the vicinity of the



river Nistru (region Jora-de-Sus), provide rich harvests of the finest white grapes, aided by the unique soil composition and comfortable climate conditions. Other part of the vineyards, where are grown red sorts of grapes reaching the production of wine at Chateau, are placed in the South of Moldova (region Bugeac). These lands, which are amazingly similar with the best plots of the province Bordeaux, were chosen by the winegrowers and wine makers, after a careful analysis of soil and climate. Mature and young vineyards occupy about 380 ha, there are planted young vines brought from European winegrowers (Vivai Ransedo, Italia), as well adapted material from Moldovan winegrowers. Chateau's vineyards lay over on plains, fact that provides an optimal lightening to vines. The vine is cared all year round and berries are handpicked.

Tour the winery, enjoy tasting 6 wines associated with food and dinner at Chateau Vartely winery.

**Wines Chateau Vartely for tasting (6 wines):**

- Cameo (on choice)
- Sauvignon Blanc IGP
- Individo Cabernet Sauvignon \*Merlot
- Individo Rara Neagra\*Malbec\*Syrah
- Taraboste Red Dry
- Ice Wine Riesling sweet white

Overnight in Chisinau.

**Day 5/WED/10.10.2024 FAREWELL TO MOLDOVA (B)**

Breakfast at Hotel  
Departure to the Airport.

**Short: B- Breakfast / L-Lunch / D-Dinner**

**Wine Tour Package Price 2024 on request**

**Services included in package price:**

- Accommodation 4 nights sharing DBL/TWIN room with buffet breakfast;
- Transport services: comfortable Mercedes Sprinter 20 seater, as per itinerary, incl. all transfers
- English/Italian speaking guide as per itinerary;
- Wine tastings as per program: Wine bar Care Diem (5 wines), Cricova winery (6 wines), Chateau Vartely winery (6 wines), Asconi winery (5-7 wines), Mimi Castle (5 wines), Purcari winery (4 wines)
- Meals as per program (4 dinners+2 lunches), snacks in the wineries;
- Water in the bus ( 1 bottle 0.5l daily/pp)