



**WINE OF
MOLDOVA**

A LEGEND ALIVE

ENOTOURISM GUIDE

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA



WINE OF MOLDOVA, A SUCCESS STORY FROM EASTERN EUROPE, CRAFTED FOR YOU TO ENJOY

Moldovan wine today brings a fresh modern face. Its new generation wines are actually rooted in a rich and complex history, giving the authenticity that so many wine drinkers are looking for today. At the same time, it can offer unique and sometimes surprising wines, especially blends of international and indigenous grape varieties, a true expression of Moldovan terroir and offering something fascinating to wine drinkers seeking out new tastes and styles. "Wine of Moldova" today is the very real result of this country reinventing its approach to wine - focusing on quality, consistency and 'enjoyment-in-a-glass' as its priorities. As an additional sign of confidence for consumers, this national wine brand, with its stork logo, has become a quality symbol legally enforced by the National Office for Vine and Wine and only wines that pass rigorous quality control checks may display it.

The National Office for Vine and Wine was established in 2013 and, ever since, it has undertaken to support increasing exports of quality wines to more and more markets around the world. It has worked with wine producers to set up a system of protected geographical indications based on the EU model. These cover the three winegrowing regions of **Valul lui Traian**, **Ștefan Vodă** and **Codru** as well as a category of **Divin** for the country's wine brandies. Moldovan wine has undergone a complete revolution in improving wine quality over the last decade, with clear proof shown by over 500 medals awarded to Moldovan wines in 2018 at renowned international wine

competitions such as: Decanter World Wine Awards, Mundus Vini, Concours Mondial de Bruxelles, International Wine Challenge and more.

Moldova has the highest density of vineyards in the world and can offer a variety of wines to meet just about every taste. It grows both international and indigenous local varieties including Viorica, Rară Neagră, Fetească Neagră, Fetească Albă and Fetească Regală. But perhaps the most unique and exciting are the blends where Moldovan winemakers can express their individuality and the Moldovan landscape, all with a local twist.

The National Office for Vine and Wine is proud of its contribution towards helping the wine industry to rethink and reform, and to ensuring its wines meet international quality standards. Wine of Moldova is a sign of that change as well as a symbol of our commitment to our customers and business partners.



Dr. Gheorghe ARPENTIN

Director, National Office for Vine and Wine, Republic of Moldova

President of the "Commission for Safety and Health" at the International Organization of Vine and Wine (OIV)

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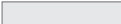


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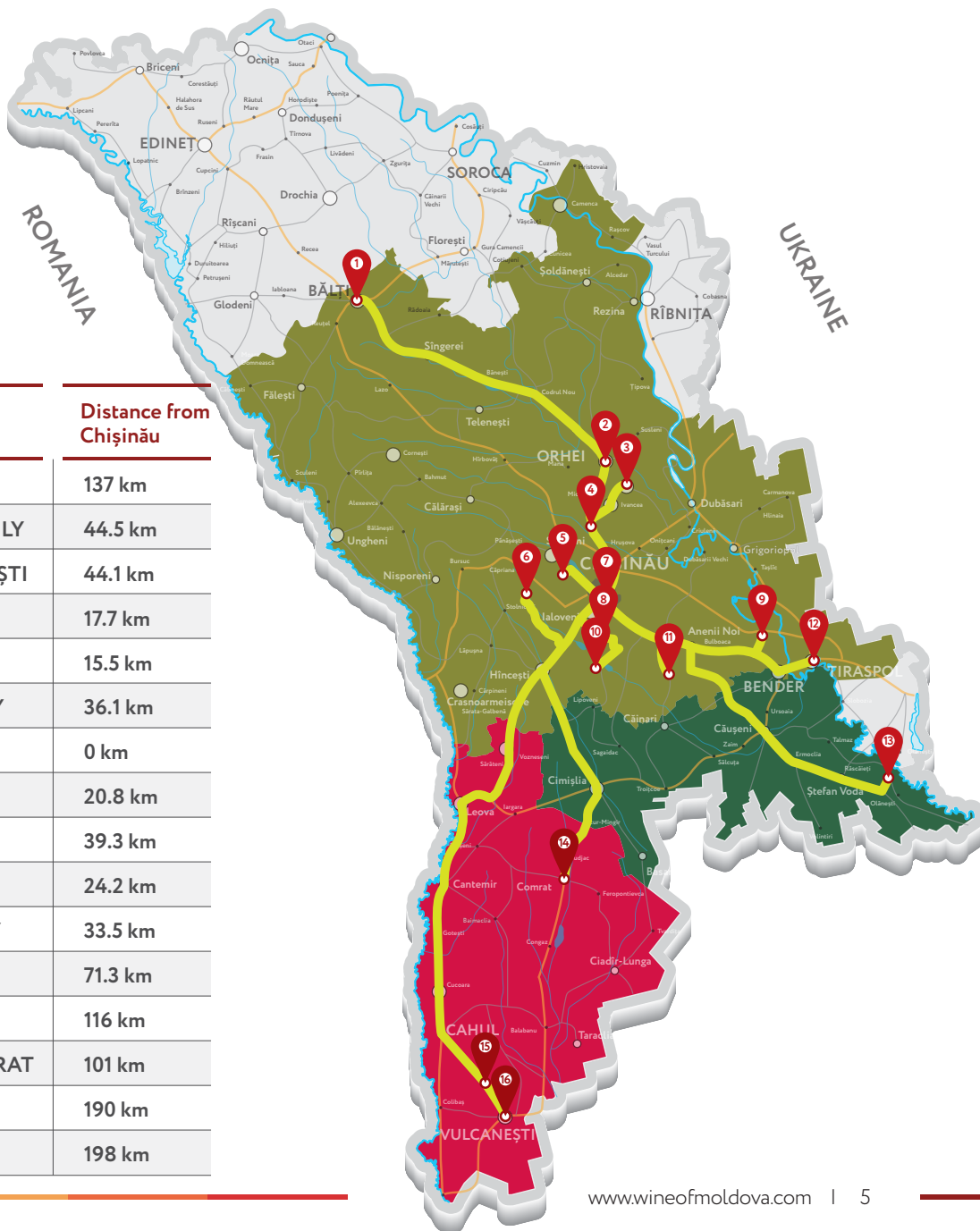
MOLDOVA WINE ROUTE MAP

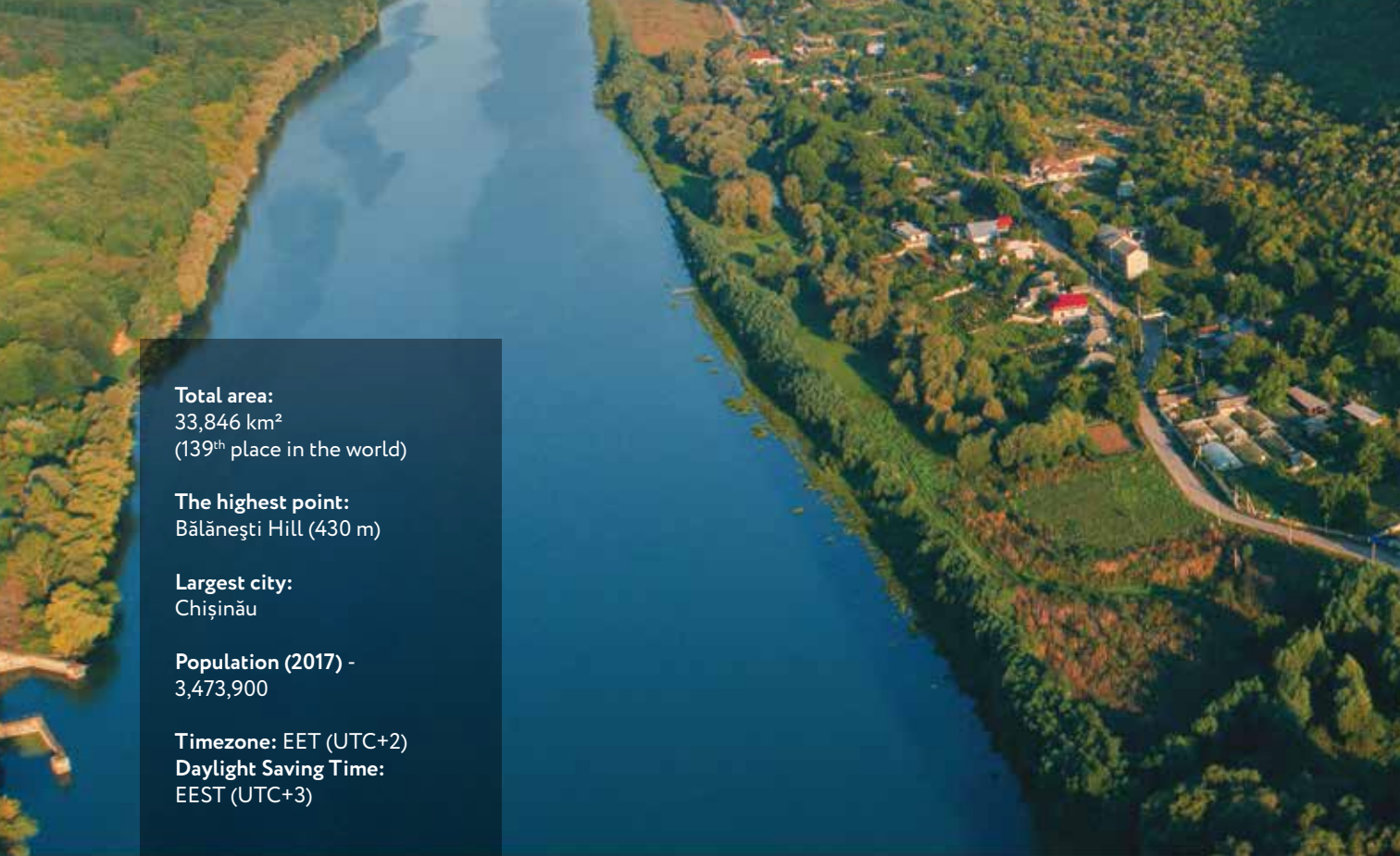
LEGEND

	Local road		Divin PGI Region
	National road		Codru PGI Region
	River		Valul lui Traian PGI Region
	Route to location		Ștefan Vodă PGI Region
	City		Village



WINERY NAME	Distance from Chișinău
1 BARZA ALBA	137 km
2 CHATEAU VARTELY	44.5 km
3 VINARIA BRANEȘTI	44.1 km
4 CRICOVA	17.7 km
5 MIGDAL-P	15.5 km
6 POIANA WINERY	36.1 km
7 ATU WINERY	0 km
8 MILEȘTII MICI	20.8 km
9 CASTEL MIMI	39.3 km
10 SAVA WINERY	24.2 km
11 ASCONI WINERY	33.5 km
12 KVINT	71.3 km
13 PURCARI	116 km
14 VINURI DE COMRAT	101 km
15 VINIA TRAIAN	190 km
16 KARA GANI	198 km





Total area:
33,846 km²
(139th place in the world)

The highest point:
Bălănești Hill (430 m)

Largest city:
Chișinău

Population (2017) -
3,473,900

Timezone: EET (UTC+2)
Daylight Saving Time:
EEST (UTC+3)



The Republic of Moldova is a country located in Eastern Europe, bordered by Ukraine to the east and Romania to the west. Its geographic location means that the country has a moderate continental climate with short (though sometimes very cold) winters and long summers. Moldova's landscapes vary considerably from endless steppes of the east, to forested hillsides of the central zone, and on to the vast Bugeac Plain in the south. It is becoming a popular tourist destination for its diversity of natural and cultural sites; its vineyards and wines; and its warm hospitality built on ancestral traditions and customs. Major tourist attractions include several medieval fortresses where visitors can take a journey into the Moldova's past and the historic monasteries that reveal the spiritual side of this nation.



Moldova is also internationally famous for its vast underground cellars at Cricova and at Mileștii Mici - the latter holds the Guinness World Record for the largest wine collection in the world. In the last few years the number of wineries open to tourists and visitors has doubled, offering a wonderful opportunity to get close to Moldovan wine, with a personal connection to the winemakers and their very human stories. Wine tastings are often accompanied by a taste of homemade local food too, based on locally sourced flavoursome ingredients, a reflection of Moldova's rich folklore and traditions.



WINE OF MOLDOVA. A LEGEND ALIVE

OUR WINE HAS BEEN CRAFTED

BY GENERATIONS OF WINEMAKERS

IN THE LARGEST CELLARS IN THE WORLD

APPRECIATED BY CONSUMERS IN BOTH EAST AND WEST

SUPPORTED BY LEGENDS THAT EVERYONE CAN EMBRACE

Moldova's long history of winemaking began around 3000 BC, and the first traces of grapevines in these lands have been dated back to around 7000 BC. Throughout its history, wine and grapes have been deeply rooted in the culture, myths, folklore and legends of Moldova. Even the map of today's Republic of Moldova is shaped like a bunch of grapes. We have chosen the white stork, with its leading role in so many local legends, as the symbol of the Moldovan wine industry and of the continual rebirth of Moldovan wine. That is why a stylised image of a stork carrying a bunch of grapes is part of our national wine brand image – "Wine of Moldova. A legend alive".

Our vision statement says, "Our wine has been crafted by generations of winemakers in the largest cellars in the world, appreciated by consumers in both east and west and supported by legends that everyone can embrace," and we hope and believe that Moldova's wine can continue to win new friends all over the world.

That vision has been supported by a series of structural reforms, brought in by the National Office for Vine and Wine. This refocused Moldova's wine industry towards a new approach and brought with it a significant leap in quality. Since 2013, Moldova has embraced a quality system based on the EU model of protected geographical indications (PGI), established around three traditional vine growing areas and based around research into differences in climate and growing conditions. These are Valul lui Traian,



Ștefan Vodă and Codru plus a special geographical denomination for grape distillates called Divin. By 2018 there were more than 8600 hectares registered for PGI wines by 64 producers. A multi-stage monitoring system covers the entire production process and authorized professional tasters carry out organoleptic certification. A national wine and vine register is also work-in-progress in line with best practice in Europe and there are plans still in development for more specific protected designation of origin (PDO) wines. Practical results of these changes are now clear to see. In 2018 alone, Moldovan winemakers entered 32 international competitions and won 187 gold medals (including 5 Grand Gold, two Double Gold and one Platinum), 158 silver and 123 bronze medals. Moldova wineries regularly unite under the umbrella of the national wine brand “Wine of Moldova” to take part in a large number of trade fairs in Europe, North America and Asia Pacific. As a result, Moldovan wines are now sold in 63 countries, mostly in high-value European Union markets, registering steady growth over the last 5 years and underpinned by shared branding and marketing organized by ONVV.

Wine is also Moldova’s trump card in the development of tourism as the country’s attractions include a fascinating variety of wineries, as well as the largest wine cellars in the world. These were established in former limestone quarries with more than 200 kilometres of tunnels which can be driven through. The biggest wine collection in the world, registered in the Guinness Book of World Records, consists of more than 1.5 million bottles (and growing with every vintage). It is stored in Gothic-style niches at a depth of 80 metres in the underground galleries of Mileștii Mici, situated just 10 kilometres away from the capital Chișinău. Another striking symbol of Moldovan winemaking is the underground wine city of Cricova, which has galleries stretching over 70 kilometres. It was founded in 1952 and is Moldova’s biggest producer of sparkling wine. Cricova is also home to Moldova’s national wine collection, which features a number of historic wines including old vintages of Moselle, Bourgogne, Bordeaux and Port. The oldest bottle in the collection, and the only one of its kind in the world, is the wine known as Easter Jerusalem, which was produced in just a single batch in 1902.

MOLDOVA'S WINE REGIONS

VALUL LUI TRAIAN (Trajan's Wall)

This region lies in Moldova's south west, where you can still see remnants of two fortified walls built by Roman Emperor Trajan to protect his lands from barbarian invaders. The climate is Mediterranean, with warm, dry summers and mild winters moderated by the Black Sea and protected by the forests that grow on the Tigheci Hills. The soils are leached and carbonated chernozems, with some areas of sand and clay, with low fertility, providing very good conditions for viticulture. The region is divided into 3 sub-zones: the hills of Tigheci, the Bugeac Plain and the Prut Terraces and the landscape includes forests, steppe, plains and plateaux. This is the warmest and driest part of Moldova but also the highest with altitude going up to 310 metres, helping to retain freshness and balance in the wines. The region is particularly noted for red wines which make up 60% of production, but it is also famous for its sweet fortified wines (now called Pastoral) and full-flavoured whites.



ȘTEFAN VODĂ

This wine region is situated in the south east of Moldova, at an average altitude of just 120 metres, which includes terraces along the Dniester river, plains and slopes. The climate here is moderate continental, influenced by the Black Sea, and has an annual rainfall of 450–550 millimetres. Typical soils are podzolized and carbonated chernozems with clay in some areas. The region is particularly noted for red grapes. Rară Neagră is particularly notable here - an indigenous variety to the region (it grows as Băbească Neagră in eastern Romania). Whether it's the particular clones found in Moldova, or the growing conditions, this grape offers its best expression here and it is also a key ingredient in one of the country's most renowned wine blends: Negru de Purcari. Other local and European varieties which perform well in this region include Merlot, Fetească Neagră, Saperavi, Pinot Noir, Pinot Gris and Chardonnay.

CODRU

This is Moldova's central region, extended in 2016 to include Bălți and vineyards in Transnistria. It Moldova's coolest zone, full of wooded hills and slopes around many small river valleys. Oak and linden forests cover 25% of the landscape protecting the vineyards from northerly winds and frost. Soils here are typically grey forest soils and chernozems. Winters are long, but not usually extreme, while summers and autumns are warm and altitude above sea level is 100–150 metres. The region is noted for white grapes, especially Fetească Albă, Muscat Ottonel, Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay, and also suitably crisp base wines for sparkling wines. Red varieties can also be grown in warmer microclimates, especially for the noted Codru blend. The famous underground wine cellars Cricova and Mileștii Mici are located in this region.



DIVIN

This PGI covers the whole of the Republic of Moldova and is for spirits distilled from wine through double distillation and aged for at least 3 years in contact with oak. Divin is produced from a range of both international and local grape varieties, which must be grown within the country. Most typical varieties include: Aligoté, Chardonnay, Fetească Albă, Luminita, Pinot, Riton, Rkatsiteli, Sauvignon and blends of these varieties. Divin is appealing and clear to look at, with colour ranging from pale gold to amber, a bouquet of flowers and fruit when young but with further ageing, it gains notes of vanilla, chocolate, sandalwood, coconut and coffee beans.



COUNTRY
SHAPED
LIKE A
BUNCH
OF GRAPES

UNIQUE
TERROIR

PASSION
FOR
WINE

ROMANIA

UKRAINE

PROTECTED GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION AREAS

Divin
Indicație Geografică Protejată



CODRU
Indicație Geografică Protejată



**VALUL LUI
TRAIAN**
INDICAȚIE GEOGRAFICĂ PROTEJATĂ

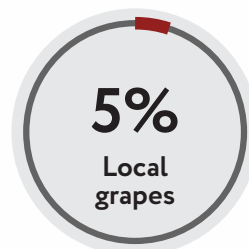
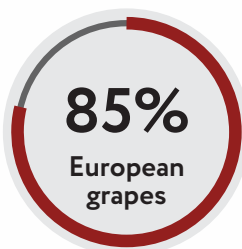


ȘTEFAN VODĂ
INDICAȚIE GEOGRAFICĂ PROTEJATĂ



GRAPE VARIETIES IN MOLDOVA

Viticulture in Moldova includes cultivation of Western European, Black Sea Basin and indigenous grape varieties. Vineyards of wine varieties of the noble *Vitis Vinifera* cover a total area of 81,000 hectares, 70% of which are white varieties (especially Rkatsiteli, Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Aligoté though exact plantings won't be finalized until the vineyard register is complete) located predominantly in the Codru region, and 30% are red varieties (Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Pinot Noir, Saperavi and more), typically grown in the southern regions. Aromatic varieties account for around one third of the vineyards. Local grape varieties (such as Rară Neagră, Fetească Neagră, Fetească Albă, Viorica) are becoming increasingly important as a point of difference and to offer something with real Moldovan character. These currently account for an estimated 5% of vineyards though this is growing every year due to increasing international interest and thanks to support from government programs.



FETEASCA ALBA

This variety has been cultivated for centuries in this region and appears to be a very ancient grape. The wines of this variety are fine and delicate, with floral aromas and a light and fresh body. It's one of the parents of Fetească Regală (along with Frâncușă) which comes from Transylvania in Romania but has been grown in the Moldovan region for decades.



FETEASCA REGALA

This a semi-aromatic grape variety is the result of a natural cross, found near Sighișoara in Romania in 1920s. It has typical floral and grapefruit aromas and flavours of fresh pear and citrus but is usually more full-bodied and textured than its parent.



FETEASCA NEAGRA

This is an old variety local to the region, possibly cultivated as early as Geto-Dacian times, in south east Romania and what is today's Republic of Moldova. It is relatively pale in colour with gentle soft tannins and spicy berry fruit. It seems particularly well suited to the sunny slopes of southern Moldova.



RARA NEAGRA

A local cross developed in Moldova in 1969 from Seibel 13666 and Aleatico. It was originally bred for distillation and cold resistance, but it is proving well suited to making aromatic but very fresh crisp white wines and a number of wineries are now producing this.



UNIQUE EXPERIENCES TO TREASURE FOREVER

We have a full calendar of concerts, festivals, races, wine run, and even a marathon. Every year, thousands of Moldovans participate in these events, so why not join them? In the autumn, first weekend of October, come to the largest holiday “National Wine Day”, dedicated to the millennial tradition in winemaking that reached the 18th edition. Another big event where you must come is “Ethno Jazz’ festival to hear folk and jazz musicians from around the world. In the summer, visit “DescOpera”, a three-days opera festival, to hear spine-tingling performance in an open air amphitheater. In the depths of winter, head to our underground wine cellars for either music, at “Underland Fest”, or exercise, with the 10 km Wine Run. Whatever you choose, the memories you make in Moldova will last a lifetime.





Folklore and traditions



Wine



Music and culture



Sport

www.moldova.travel

20 January MILEȘȚII MICI WINE RUN a unique race through the world's biggest wine cellars Mileștii Mici	23 February UNDERLAND WINE & MUSIC FEST wine and street culture festival Cricova	1-10 March MĂRȚIȘOR international cultural festival Chișinău	18 April WINE VERNISSAGE wine tasting in a gala atmosphere Chișinău	1 May MAI VIN first picnic of spring at Asconi winery Ialoveni, s. Puhoi	11 May ORHEIUL VECHI MOUNTAIN BIKE MARATHON cycling marathon Orhei
18 May URBAN VIBES urban culture festival Chișinău	26 May MAI DULCE festival of sweet traditions Chișinău	May SPARKLING PARTY sparkling wine night Cricova	8 June ROSE DAY at CASTEL MIMI Rosé wine day Anenii Noi, s. Bulboaca	16 June DUMINICA MARE festival of Moldovan traditions Florești, s. Domulgeni	14-16 June DescOPERĂ open-air classical music festival Orhei, s. Butuceni
30 June FOLK COSTUME DAY ethno-folklore festival Chișinău	6 July IA MANIA festival of arts born out of traditions Criuleni, s. Holercani	7 July FRUMOS COVOR BASARABEAN festival of traditional carpets Orhei, s. Clîșova Nouă	11 August LA VATRA OLARULUI VASILII GONCIARI international pottery fair Călărași, s. Hoginești	August CUCUTENI ancient culture and Cucuteni art festival Orhei, s. Ivancea	17-18 August GUSTAR open-air festival of ethno-balkan music Orhei
22-23 August DOR CĂLĂTOR open air music festival	24 August PURCARI WINE RUN a unique trail run through vineyards Ștefan-Vodă, Purcari	15 Aug.-15 Oct. WINEMAKERS BATTLE a genuine competition in the stages of wine production Ștefan-Vodă, Purcari	14 September MUST FEST young wine festival Cricova	9-15 September "MARIA BIEȘU" INTERNATIONAL OPERA AND BALLET FESTIVAL Chișinău	21-22 September BOSTANIADA ethno-gastronomic festival Criuleni, s. Bălăbănești
24-28 September EUROPEAN HERITAGE DAYS AT CASTEL MIMI cultural festival Anenii Noi, s. Bulboaca	27-29 September CHIȘINĂU INTERNATIONAL MARATHON international marathon Chișinău	27-29 September ETHNO JAZZ international music festival Chișinău	5-6 October NATIONAL WINE DAY the greatest celebration of wine traditions Chișinău	21 December COVORUL DORULUI national carpet fair Chișinău	12 December WINE VERNISSAGE wine tasting in a gala atmosphere Chișinău

The events included in the Agenda are supported by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, Moldovan Investment Agency, Moldova Competitiveness Project, financed by USAID and Sweden, National Association for Inbound Tourism from Moldova, National Office for Vine & Wine and private partners.

MOLDOVAN HOSPITALITY

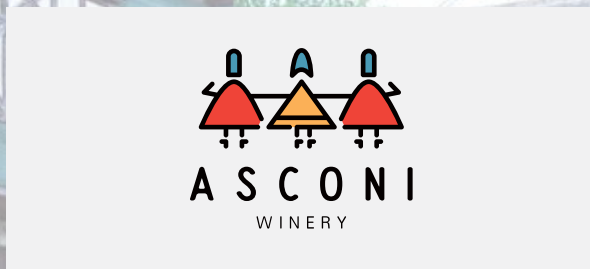
It's the people that make Moldova special. Travel to any corner of Moldova and you will be welcomed by genuinely warm and friendly people and food is at the centre of that welcome. When you arrive in a Moldovan village, before you know it you will be at a table groaning with food, accompanied by local wine, sometimes made by your host or from a winery nearby.



Our national cuisine may surprise you with its simplicity and yet richness of flavour, based on our local production from our fertile black soils. Meals often start with soup, and a favourite is a hot and sour soup called Zeamă, cooked with homemade noodles. Main courses are typically accompanied by Mămăligă - a dish made from cornmeal (similar to polenta). It's always cut in a cross with a thread and served with Moldovan cheese (a salty white cheese called Brânza), sour cream and a meat stew called Tocană.

Most households make their own home-made versions of our famous pastries called Plăcintă (or Plăcintele). These are made from layers of flaky pastry with a variety of fillings: cabbage, local cheese, apple, pumpkin or cherry. The cheesy versions are particularly good at wine tastings. Sarmale or dumplings, as they are sometimes called, are popular across the whole of Moldova. Sarmale are parcels or rolls made from cabbage or grapevine leaves. These are stuffed with a mixture of minced meat (usually pork) rice and herbs. Each region has its own slightly different recipe and sarmale are usually served with mămăligă and sour cream, or with home-baked bread. Moldova's home-grown vegetables are incredible – fresh salads feature in season as well as dishes based on peppers, aubergines and tomatoes. Desserts may be smoked plums stuffed with walnuts (Moldova's roadsides are lined with walnut trees), or look out for the slow baked traditional cake called Baba Neagră.





Located only 30 km from Chişinău, Asconi offers everything a tourist could wish for: beautiful landscapes, rustic architecture, tasty food and great wines. Tours include a visit to the winemaking, storage, packaging, bottling and maturation facilities, where visitors can see the full journey of the grapes, how they are processed, fermented and turned into wine. After seeing the technical side of winemaking, visitors are invited to enjoy a guided wine tasting of up to 7 different wines of their choice: red, white or rosé, and aged in oak or young fresh styles. Asconi is one of the very few wineries in the country to make three different types of Ice Wine that have all won awards in international competitions. After seeing the modern production halls, guests head to a relaxing oasis – the stone and clay restaurant and its wooden veranda are perfect for discovering how Asconi wines can partner traditional Moldovan cuisine. The menu is based on recipes from households in the nearby village of Puhoi, passed down from generation to generation.



CONTACTS

Puhoi, Ialoveni, MD-6824, Republic of Moldova
 (+373) 79950290; (+373) 79988642
asconi@asconi.md
www.asconi.md



TOURIST INFO

Booking Required - Yes

Hours:

Winery: Monday - Sunday, 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Restaurant: Monday - Sunday, 11:00 AM - 10:00 PM

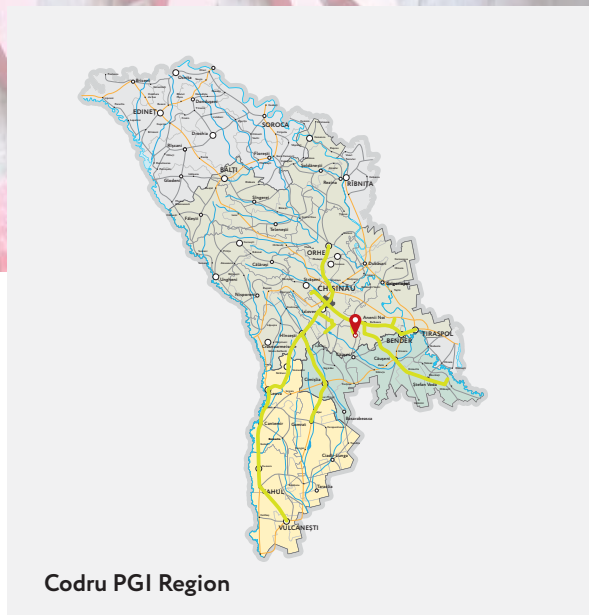
Season: All year

Languages: English, Romanian, Russian

Prices: from 7€

NEARBY

- The workshops of craftsmen from Ulmu and Vasieni
- Valea Botnei – area with 11 ethno-folk groups
- Suruceni Monastery (built in the 19th century in Moldovan architectural style).
- Museum of History and Ethnography of the Vasieni village
- Danceni Aquapark



Codru PGI Region

HIGHLIGHTS

- Wine cellars
- Wine collections
- Guided tours and tastings
- Tasting room
- Wine shop
- Lunch and dinner
- Weddings and parties, corporate events



atú
WINERY

ATU Winery is the first urban winery in Moldova. It's located in Chisinau and is open to visitors and for events all year round. ATU wines are produced in very small batches of just 1000-3000 bottles, which allows us to pay complete attention to every single drop of wine. All our wines are made by hand, from harvesting to labelling, with the whole process taking place on site. Owner and winemaker Victor will be on hand to greet visitors, tell the ATU story and explain all about our wines.

Our wine range is centred on local varieties including Viorica, Fetească Albă, Fetească Neagră, and the rare red Codrinschii. ATU is a new brand, released for the first in 2016, but already building a reputation for its unique wines, hand-crafted in limited quantities.



CONTACTS

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Tel: (+373) 69222237
atuwinery@gmail.com
www.atu.wine



TOURIST INFO

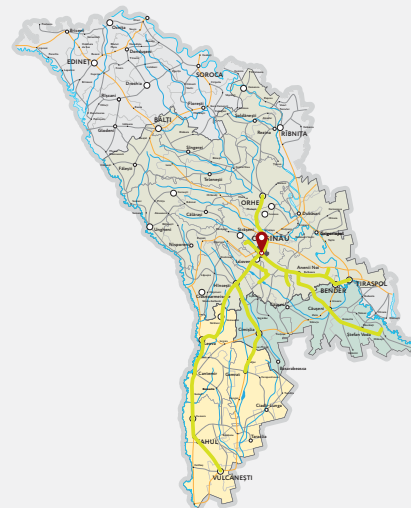
Booking Required - Yes

Working hours: Monday - Sunday, 11:00 - 17:00

Season: All year

Languages: English, Romanian, French, Russian

Prices: from 10€



Codru PGI Region

NEARBY

- Village Museum
- Assumption of the Virgin Mary Church – an old wooden church
- Chişinău City Gates
- Chişinău Zoo www.zoopark.md
- Horse riding school in Chişinău Zoo (bd. Dacia 50/7)
- Chişinău Botanical Garden, str. Pădurii 18.
- Ural Tours & Vespa Club - by prior appointment
- ATU Drone Racing Track

HIGHLIGHTS

- Small wine producer
- Wine shop
- Souvenir shop
- Meet the winemaker
- Tasting from barrique
- Wine tasting during the production process
- Try your hand at wine making (August-October)
- Customized wine orders
- Production of personal wine labels
- Production of exclusive personal wine blends



BARZA ALBĂ

FONDAT 1944

Located just 135 km from Chişinău, the Barza Albă Divin distillery offers a wonderful experience for the enthusiastic wine tourist. This includes beautiful landscapes near the distillery, flavoursome snacks and remarkable divins. Visitors can see the whole production process and equipment used to make divin and visit the maturation halls, full of oak casks. After getting acquainted with divin production, we offer visitors a guided tasting of up to 10 different styles of divin as well as an apple cider brandy. Tourists can choose from several tasting packages: divin categories include VS, VSOP, XO, XXO. Our own sommelier will be happy to explain the history and characteristics of divin and other brandies, and will guide visitors to learn how to distinguish the styles, flavours and colours of the different products.

The Barza Albă Divin distillery is proud that it is one of the few in the country that has been awarded 150 medals, of which 80 are gold. It has also won 10 Grand Prix and a Star award for special quality. In 2003, the company was awarded a Grand Prize for its significant successes in winemaking and for promotion of Moldovan divins on the international market. In 2004 and 2005 the company won National Awards for fair competition.



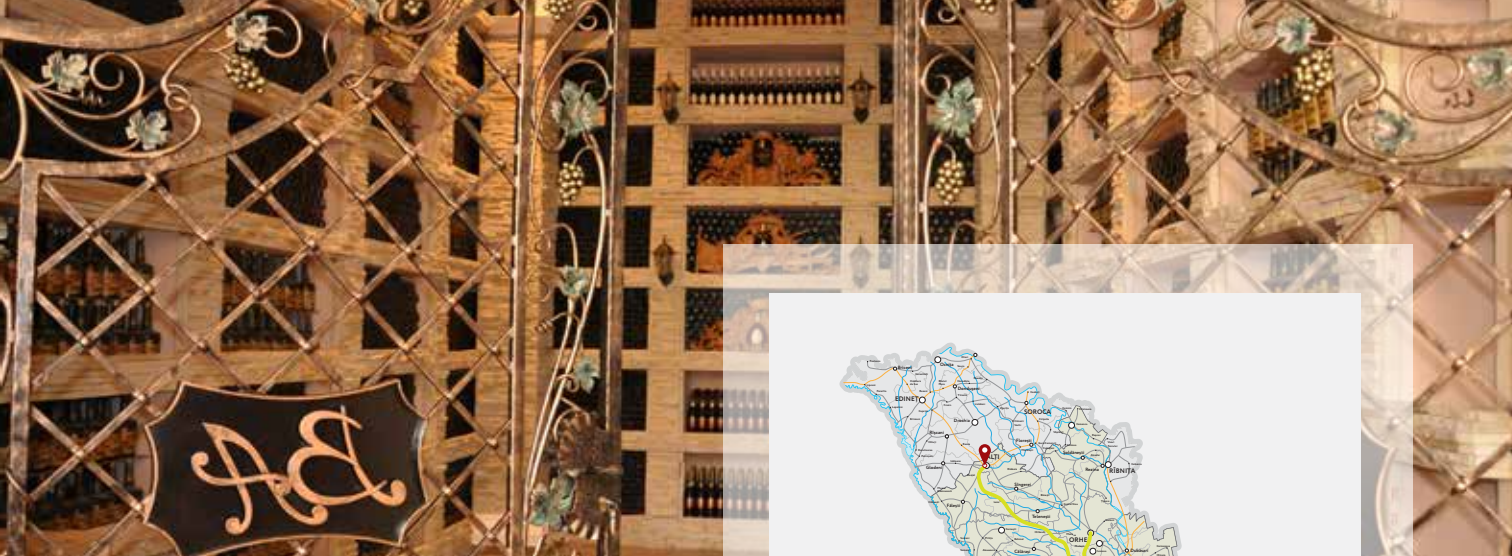
CONTACTS

str. Victoriei, 49, mun. Bălţi, Moldova

Tel: (+373) 67381183/ (+373) 67225533

zam.ba@yandex.ru

www.barzaalba.md



TOURIST INFO

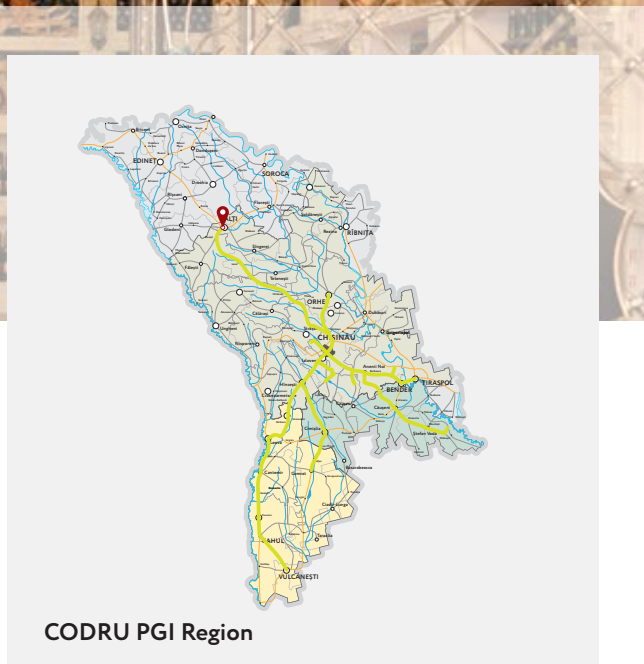
Booking Required - Yes, one day in advance

Opening hours: Monday - Friday, 08:00 - 17:00

Season: All year

Languages: English, Romanian, Russian

Prices: from MDL 225



NEARBY

- Vasile Alecsandri National Theatre;
- Ștefan cel Mare Monument;
- Bell Tower of St. Nicholas Church in Bălți;
- Alley of National Culture Classics;
- Armenian Church of Bălți, beginning of the XX century;
- Cathedral of Holy Emperors Constantine and Helen, built between 1924 and 1934.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Cellars
- Divin collections
- Guided tours and tastings
- Tasting rooms



Château VARTELY™

WINE · CULTURE AND LEISURE RESORT

Château Vartely is a modern winery built with the aim of bringing together the best of “old world” and “new world” approaches to winemaking. Founded in 2004, the company combines state-of-the-art viticultural techniques and processing of grapes with a passion for production of quality wine. Château Vartely is also a culture and leisure resort, with tasting rooms, a restaurant, three unique guesthouses and a cellar that houses 500 oak barrels where wines are aged. The winery is a national and international leader in promoting wines from indigenous grape varieties such as Fetească Regală, Fetească Neagră and Rară Neagră. It’s a must-see destination for those who want to discover authentic Moldovan wine. Additionally, Château Vartely keeps a collection of wines from five continents, the oldest bottle dating back to the 2005 vintage. After a professionally guided wine tasting, tourists can indulge in an excellent gastronomic experience at the winery’s restaurant, which combines Moldovan and European cuisine.



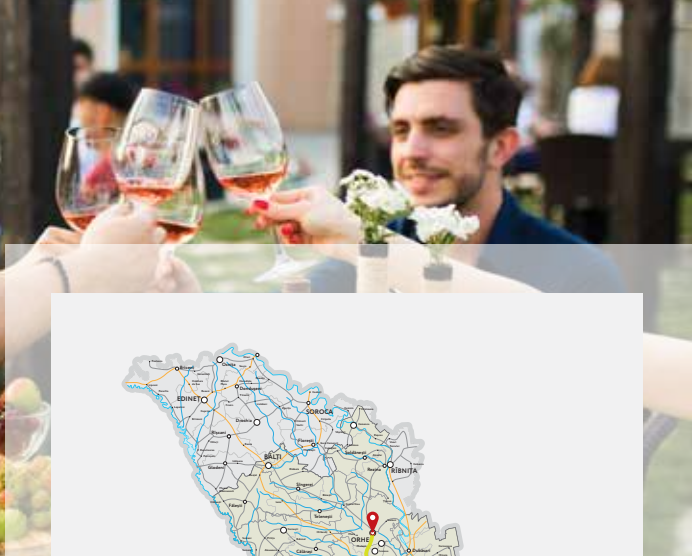
CONTACTS

170/b, Eliberării St., Orhei, MD-3501, Republic of Moldova

+373 68500555

turism@vartely.md

www.vartely.md



TOURIST INFO

Booking Required - Yes

Hours:

Tourist Complex: Monday - Sunday

Restaurant: 10.00 AM - 11.00 PM

Hotel: 24/7

Winery tours and wine tastings: 11.00 AM - 7.00 PM

Season: All year

Languages: English, Romanian, Russian



Prices: from 10€

NEARBY

- Chișinău
- Orheiul Vechi Monastery and Archaeological Complex

HIGHLIGHTS

- Wine cellars
- Wine collections
- Guided tours and tastings
- Tasting room
- Weddings and parties, corporate events
- Wine shop
- Restaurant
- Accommodation



NOMEN EST OMEN

CRICOVA

Cricova is one most renowned wineries in Moldova, especially noted for its 'underground city'. The unique labyrinth of tunnels, created from a former limestone quarry, houses 30 million litres of wine and stretches over a distance of 70 km. The streets of the underground city are named after the wines kept in adjacent niches: Cabernet, Chardonnay, Sauvignon etc. Some of the streets are as deep as 80 metres below ground, which ensures constant humidity and temperature throughout the year. This makes it an ideal place to store the National Wine Collection that includes the best local and international wines; wines from Herman Goering's collection paid as retribution after World War II and unique vintages from Moselle, Bourgogne and Bordeaux. The oldest wine in the collection is Ierusalimul de Paști (Easter Jerusalem) produced in 1902, unique in the world. Cricova was also the first winery in Moldova to produce sparkling wine by the traditional method of bottle fermentation and has won recognition for its quality at highly-regarded international competitions such as Effervescents du Monde. Famous personalities also hold wine collections in these underground galleries, among them are Angela Merkel, John Kerry, Vladimir Putin and Donald Tusk.



CONTACTS

Cricova, MD 2084
1 Petru Ungureanu street
turism@cricova.md, cricova.vin@gmail.com
(+373 22) 45 36 59, (+373)79202999
www.cricova.md



TOURIST INFO

Booking Required -Yes

Hours:

Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM

Saturday/Sunday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Season: All year

Languages: English, Romanian, Russian, French

Prices: from 10€

NEARBY

■ Chişinău



HIGHLIGHTS

- One of the largest wine cellars in the world
- Remarkable wine collection
- Wine tours
- Wine tastings
- Conferences and meetings



Castel Mimi was founded in 1893, when Constantin Mimi, the last governor of Bessarabia, planted the first vine cuttings at his estate in Bulboaca in the Anenii-Noi district. In 2011, an ambitious restoration project was initiated to renovate the mansion, which has been rebuilt stone by stone to restore its original facade. After a period of 50 years of inactivity, Castel Mimi, the only wine castle in the Republic of Moldova, reopened its doors to visitors. Today, Castel Mimi has been listed among top 14 most beautiful architectural masterpieces of the winemaking world by Vivino. Besides its stunning architecture, Castel Mimi has built a reputation for its unique gastronomy thanks to an exquisite menu of traditional dishes reinterpreted as modern 'haute cuisine' using fresh, locally-sourced ingredients. The speciality of the house is its chicken paté with pickles, made from chicken breast and liver, and cooked to a secret recipe. Also worth trying is the traditional dessert Baba Neagră, slow baked for hours and served with vanilla cream and plum sauce. Castel Mimi's exquisite, award-winning wines are served to accompany the menu. The tourist complex of the winery includes a royal courtyard with evergreen gardens; a grand square with dancing fountains; a multi-purpose events hall; a wine spa, a swimming pool; a summer terrace and picnic areas. Overnight accommodation is available in seven chalet-style cottages.



CONTACTS

1, Dacia St, Bulboaca village, Anenii Noi district,
MD-6512, Republic of Moldova
(+373) 62001893
rezervari@castelmimi.md
www.castelmimi.md



TOURIST INFO

Booking Required - Yes

Hours: Monday-Sunday 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM.

The last tour starts at 5:00 PM. If you wish late hour visits, contact the winery to check availability.

Season: All year

Languages: English, Romanian, Russian, Italian

Prices: from 15€

NEARBY

- Bender, the city that will take you back to the Soviet times (20 km from Bulboaca village)
- "The Assumption of Our Lady" Church in Causeni, the oldest church in Moldova, built between XVII-XVIII centuries
- Moldova's oldest industrial cellars, inherited from boyar Pavel Leonardo
- Dniester river
- Fishing, hunting, cooking master-classes and workshops

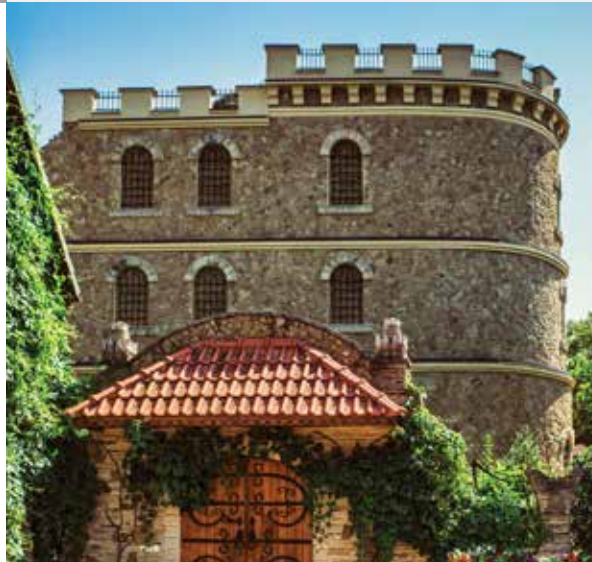
"Codru" PGI Region

HIGHLIGHTS

- Wine tastings
- National cuisine
- Restaurant on-site
- Wine Lounge
- Ceremonial and Private Event Hall
- Wine production facility
- Vine World
- Terrace and picnic area
- Lodges
- Hotel
- Wine spa and swimming pool
- Art Gallery and Museum



Chateau Cojusna is located in the centre of Moldova, in the Codru wine region, only 15km away from capital Chişinău. The winery has a modern wine production facility and a distillery, as well as a tourist complex based on a French chateau in design. This includes cellars where wines are aged in oak barrels, along with 175,000 bottles in the Galeria Migdal wine collection; a distillery which produces Divin and, of course, several tasting rooms decorated in a medieval style. Visitors are also invited to the top of the Chateau Cojusna tower, to see a breath-taking panoramic view of the winery's vineyards.



CONTACTS

1, Mecanizatorilor St, Cojusna, Republic of Moldova
+373 68 969 981
turism@migdal.md
www.migdal.md



TOURIST INFO

Booking Required - Yes

Hours: Monday – Friday 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

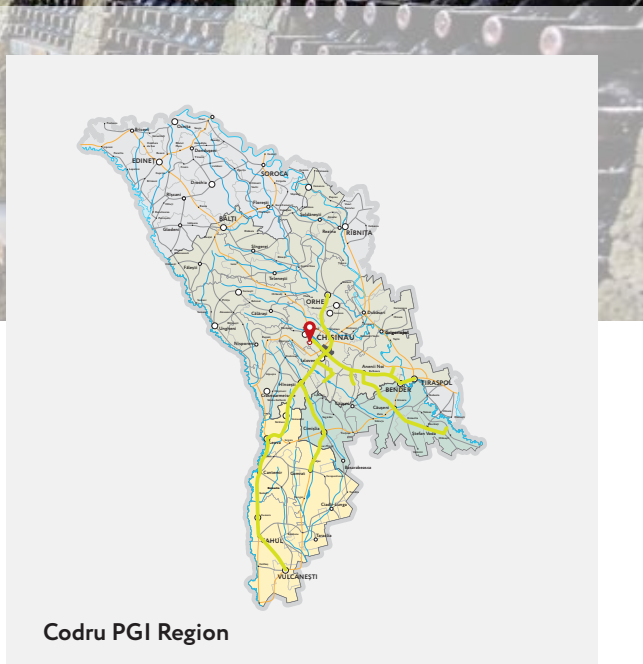
Season: All year

Languages: English, Romanian

Prices: from 7€

NEARBY

- Chişinău



HIGHLIGHTS

- Wine and brandy
- Guided tours
- Wine tastings
- Conferences, seminars and workshops
- Wine and gift shop



The Mileștii Mici wine cellar was included in the Guinness Book of World Records in 2005 for the largest wine collection in the world, of more than 1.5 million bottles. It is also known as the Golden Collection. It is kept deep below ground and includes many unique Moldovan wines going back to the 1969 vintage. The underground galleries of Mileștii Mici are probably the longest in the world, stretching for over 200 kilometres. Visitors can walk through the underground avenues and streets that bear the names of grape varieties, and are large enough to be driven through by car. After experiencing the dramatic cellars, guests are welcomed to the tasting room to sample the wines along with traditional dishes such as sarmale and mămăligă with goat cheese and meat stew.



CONTACTS

Mileștii Mici village, Ialoveni district, MD-6819,
Republic of Moldova
(+373) 22 382 777; (+373) 22 382 333
marketing@mm.in.md
www.milestii-mici.md



TOURIST INFO

Booking Required -Yes

Hours: Monday-Friday 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Season: All year

Languages: English, Romanian

Prices: from 10€



NEARBY

- Chişinău

HIGHLIGHTS

- The largest wine cellar in the world
- Largest wine collection in the world
- Guided tours and tastings
- Underground galleries
- Tasting room
- Wine shop and museum
- Lunch and dinner service



Kvint winery and distillery is located in Tiraspol and is one of the largest producers of wines and wine distillates in the region. Kvint produces a wide range of dry, semi-dry and dessert wines, vermouths, vodkas and other liquors, but the calling card of the winery is its wine distillates: Divins. These spirits are aged in hundreds of oak barrels, which store around 11 million litres, the oldest dated 1951. The winery owns a museum where tourists can see historic labels, bottles and photos telling the story of the company, which dates back to 1897. One special exhibit is a bottle that travelled to space in 1998, taken by Russian astronauts to the MIR space station. Another 'artefact' is a bottle of Kvint Divin that was taken to the Vatican, where it was blessed by Pope John Paul II. Kvint is also the sole producer of kosher Divin, prepared under the strict supervision of rabbis of the Union of Jewish Congregations in New York and exported to Israel and USA.



CONTACTS

38, Lenin St, Tiraspol, Republic of Moldova
 (+373) 53392025
info@kvint.md
www.kvint.md



TOURIST IFFNFO

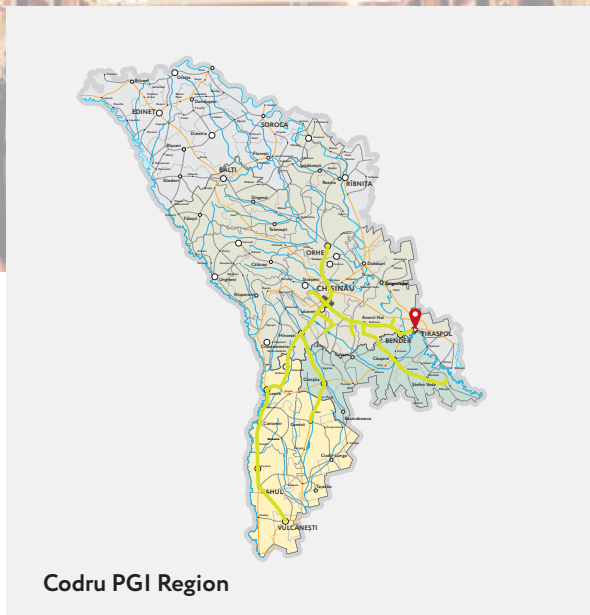
Booking Required - Yes

Hours: 9 AM - 5 PM

Season: All year

Languages: English, Russian

Prices: from 8€



NEARBY

- Tighina fortress
- Dniester river
- Chitcani monastery
- Statue of Lenin

HIGHLIGHTS

- Guided tours and tastings
- Wine cellars
- Tasting room
- Wine shop
- Wine museum
- Buffet table



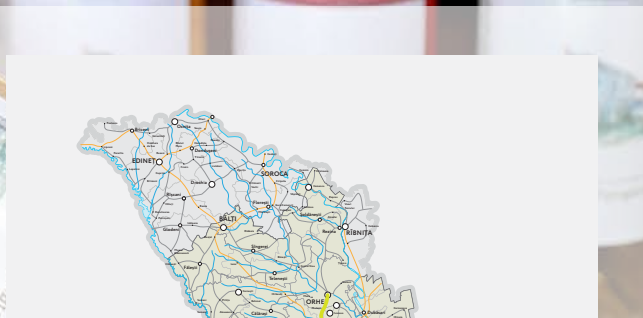
Mihai Sava

Mihai Sava's wines are born in the vineyards of Pojogana hills in the village of Costești and bear the name and the signature of this passionate winemaker. Several years ago, Mihai Sava transformed his house into a small winery and today dozens of tourists visit him to live the authentic local experience. His small winery is an oasis of tranquillity for people who want to spend a couple of hours away from the noise of the city. Those who choose to visit this hideaway can admire the stunning beauty of the vineyards by taking a walk along the winding country lanes. After enjoying the breath-taking landscapes, guests are invited into the cellar to taste Sava's Wines. The pride of the winemaker is his Bianca, made from the grape of the same name, and the only version bottled in the whole country. Tourists can also sample traditional dishes like plăcintă or mămăligă with stew and local cheeses – all cooked by Mihai's wife.



CONTACTS

Costești, Ialoveni district, Republic of Moldova
(+373) 69309134; (+373) 69096930
savamihai.wines@gmail.com
facebook.com/MihaiSava.GT



TOURIST INFO

Booking Required -Yes

Hours: 14:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Season: All year

Languages: Russian, Romanian

Prices: from 10€

Codru PGI Region

NEARBY

■ Chişinău

HIGHLIGHTS

- ☐ Guided tours and tastings
- ☐ Wine cellars
- ☐ Tasting room
- ☐ Wine shop
- ☐ Lunch and dinner



Brănești Winery is set in an old limestone mine, whose galleries stretch over 75 km. The entire construction is at least 60 metres deep, ensuring a constant temperature of 12-14 degrees throughout the year and a humidity level of 90-92%, ideal for ageing wine. These natural conditions are complemented by the artisans who turn grapes into delicious wine. The winery has about 800 hectares of its own vineyards in a beautiful forested area on the slopes of Orheiul Vechi, and also close to the villages of Romanеști and Tudora. We export our wines to a number of countries worldwide, but we also want to show our wines to tourists visiting Moldova.

We are pioneering the first underground hotel in Moldova and we are developing a unique “Stone Age” tourist complex. This will offer visitors an opportunity to experience life in a cave, as it would have been in the Stone Age, with small touches of the modern epoch. The Brănești winery is quite unique due to its geographical location and atmospheric galleries.

When the Stone Age hotel and tourist complex of Brănești Winery opens its doors, visitors will be able to explore the underground galleries; taste wine in the specially designed tasting rooms; rent wine storage alcoves and participate in cultural events. There will also be a spa and a restaurant. We want our guests to enjoy cave life away from the noise of modern civilisation and everyday worries so there will be no internet or mobile signal within the complex (though mobile signal will be available at the main entrance).



CONTACTS

s. Brănești, Orhei, MD-3515, Moldova
 (373) 069164445
 (0235) 59999
alexcor79@mail.ru
pivbran@mail.ru



TOURIST INFO

Booking Required - Yes

Hours:

Wine production: Monday - Friday, 11:00 - 15:00

Restaurant: Wednesday - Sunday: 11:00 - 20:00

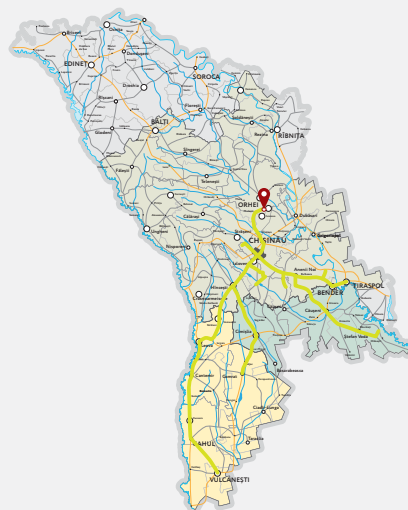
Season: All year

Languages: English, Romanian, Russian

Prices: from 10€

NEARBY

- Orheiul Vechi Cave Monastery
- Curchi Monastery – a monastery built in the XVIII-XIX centuries



Valul lui Traian PGI Region

HIGHLIGHTS

- Wine rooms
- Wine collections
- Guided tours and tastings
- Tasting room
- Wine shop
- Lunch and dinner
- Weddings and parties, corporate events



POIANA
WINERY

Poiana Winery is located near Ulmu village, in the heart of a nature reserve called Codri. This is a beautiful place, on a hillside meadow leading to a lake and surrounded by elm forests. In 1975, this was the film location for one of the most famous movies ever produced in the Republic of Moldova called “O satra urca la cer” (Gypsies Are Found Near Heaven), directed by Emil Loteanu. Guests can enjoy a wine tasting on the terrace while gazing over the stunning scenery. For those who want to explore further and breathe in the air of the green valleys, bicycle tours and trips to the Forester’s Cabin can be organized.



CONTACTS

Ulmu village, Chisinau-Leuseni Road, Republic of
Moldova

(+373) 79 749 725

vinariapoiana@gmail.com

www.vinariapoiana.md



TOURIST INFO

Booking Required -Yes

Hours:

Monday-Friday 10.00-18.00

Saturday/Sunday 11.00-20.00

Season: All year

Languages: English, Romanian

Prices: from 15€

NEARBY

- Chişinău
- Codrii Moldovei nature reserve



HIGHLIGHTS

- ☐ Wine collection
- ☐ Guided tours and tastings
- ☐ Tasting room
- ☐ Wine shop
- ☐ Lunch and dinner
- ☐ Accommodation
- ☐ Boat trips
- ☐ Excursions to the “Forester’s Cabin”
- ☐ Cycle tours around Poiana Winery



Located near the Dniester river and not far from the Black Sea, the Purcari winery welcomes tourists to visit its historic chateau, surrounded by vineyards and lakes. The winery's underground cellars were built in 1827 and have managed to protect precious historic bottles including Negru De Purcari from 1948. Purcari is one of the most famous wine brands in Eastern Europe, and is an official supplier of wine to the Royal Houses of Romania and the United Kingdom. At Chateau Purcari, great wines naturally meet great gastronomic experiences. Lovers of classic European cuisine will appreciate the foie gras and elegant rucola salad, and those who prefer local cuisine will be able to enjoy traditional masterpieces – plăcintă, zeamă, and sarmale cooked in Chardonnay vine leaves.



CONTACTS

10B, Calea Iesilor St, Chişinău, MD-2028,
Republic of Moldova
+(373) 60121221; +(373) 60909005
turism@purcari.md
www.purcari.md



TOURIST INFO

Booking Required - Yes

Hours: 24/7

Season: All year

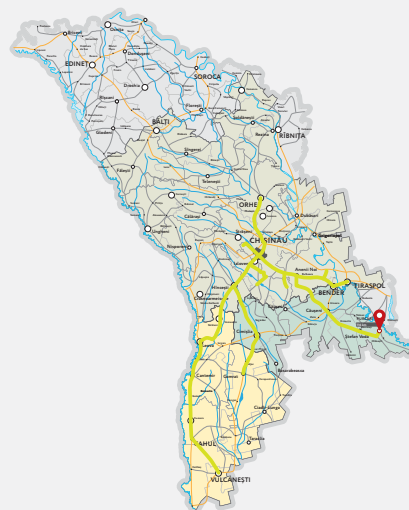
Languages: Romanian, Russian, English

Location: Purcari, Ștefan Vodă district, MD-4929

Prices: from 8€

NEARBY

- Dniester River
- Odessa (Ukraine)
- The Black Sea Monasteries
- Chișinău (1h 30 min)



Ștefan Vodă PGI Region

HIGHLIGHTS

- Wine tastings
- Winery tours
- Accommodation (including 10 luxury rooms and 2 barrel-shaped rooms)
- Souvenir shop
- 2 restaurants (for 60 and 120 persons)
- Terraces (for 130 and 250 people)
- Sightseeing
- Boating and fishing
- Tennis, ping-pong, volleyball, paintball, archery, cycling, hiking
- Children's playground



Vinia Traian was established in 1975 and is located in southern Moldova in the village of Gavanoasa close to the borders with both Romania and Ukraine. The winery itself is close to its own vineyards which are planted slopes of the Bugeac Plain and across Trajan's Wall. This area is considered to be the cradle of noble winemaking in the region, based on long multi-secular traditions. Here, the bouquet of wine can take visitors back into history to discover ancient local cultures and traditions, to experience the taste of grapes grown by the ancient Romans and to learn about the five thousand year old Scythian burial mounds, the historic fortification that was Emperor Trajan's Wall and the events of the Russian-Turkish War. Along with a wine tasting, visitors are invited to try the local cheeses and traditional dishes typical of the Gagauz region such as kavarma and sarmale. On special occasions, visitors can take trips to nearby historic monuments.



CONTACTS

Gavanoasa village, Cahul district, MD-5317
 Republic of Moldova
 (+373) 299 57428; (+373) 022 240 480
vintraian-vl@mtc.md; office@viniatraian.md
www.viniatraian.md



TOURIST INFO

Booking Required - Yes

Hours: Monday-Sunday 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Season: All year

Languages: English, Romanian

Prices: from 4€



NEARBY

- The monument to the Battle of Cahul
- Trajan's Wall
- The Vorontsov monument

HIGHLIGHTS

- Wine cellars
- Guided tours and tastings
- Tasting room
- Wine shop
- Workshops
- Lunch and dinner
- Instrumental folk music



KARA·GANI

HANDCRAFTED WINE ESTATE

Kara Gani is a small family winery with vineyards in southern Moldova, near the town of Vulcănești. A combination of the ideal climate, modern technology and old Gagauz winemaking traditions help the Cerven family to produce high quality wines. The winery can offer an excellent tourist experience including a local tour, which includes a visit to the historic monument of the Battle of Cahul and the ruins of Trajan's Wall, followed by a walk through the Kara Gani vineyards and winery. At harvest time, visitors can join in with grape picking and winemaking, as well as visiting the winery's treasure house – its cellars. Visitors are welcomed with traditional Gagauz food: surpa, sarmale, dolma, kavarma, gozleme all paired with Kara Gani red wine, which is already becoming a local legend. There's a small museum with a collection of items of historic and sentimental value to the Cerven family. And for the full Gagauz experience, visitors can take a trip in a donkey cart.



CONTACTS

31, Krupskaia St, Vulcănești
Republic of Moldova
Phone: (+373) 691 24 996
facebook.com/KaraGani.md



TOURIST INFO

Booking Required -Yes

Hours: Monday-Sunday, 10:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Season: All year

Languages: English, Romanian, Russian

Prices: from 7€



NEARBY

- Trajan's Wall
- The monument of The Battle of Cahul

HIGHLIGHTS

- Wine cellars
- Guided tours and tastings
- Museum of Gagauz life
- Tasting room
- Lunch and dinner
- Donkey cart trips
- Cooking master-classes



Vinuri De Comrat is the oldest winery in the south of Moldova. It is particularly famous for its aromatic and flavoursome wines, produced from grapes growing in the warm southern sunshine. Here the winemakers believe in respecting the region's winemaking traditions to guarantee the authenticity of their wines. At the winery, visitors can purchase rare old bottles such as Roşu de Comrat 1996 or the special sweet white wine called Auriu from 1994. The winery's restaurant offers more than 12 typical Gagauz dishes, which is a mix of Turkish, Bulgarian and Moldovan traditional cuisine.



CONTACTS

1, Vinzavodscaia St, Comrat, Republic of Moldova
(+373) 69113230

hmelevschi@mail.ru

www.facebook.com/vinuridecomrat

www.vinuridecomrat.md



TOURIST INFO

Booking Required - Yes

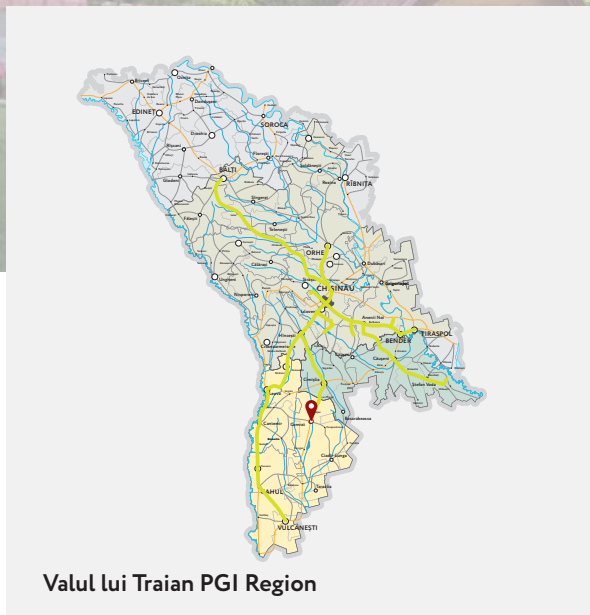
Season: All year

Languages: English, Romanian, Russian

Prices: from 10€

NEARBY

- Statue of Lenin
- The tank monument
- Turkish library



HIGHLIGHTS

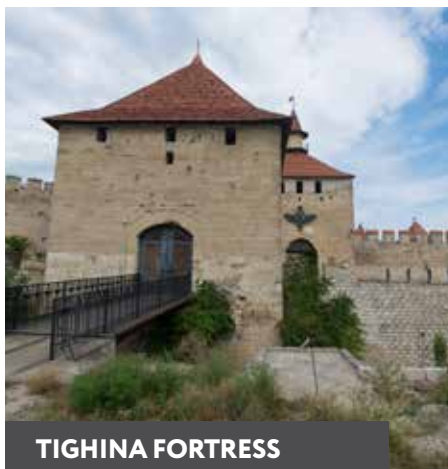
- Guided tours and tastings
- Wine cellars
- Tasting halls
- Wine shop
- Lunch and dinner service
- Retro disco show

TOURIST DESTINATIONS IN MOLDOVA



SOROCA FORTRESS

The Soroca Fortress was built in the 15th century and is the only fortress in the whole of Moldova to survive intact to the present day. It's notable for its architectural system of fortification: five towers joined by walls form a circular enclosure, a structure able to withstand heavy artillery and siege attacks. The Soroca fortress is contemporaneous with the Italian Renaissance and it shares features with many fortifications in Northern Italy (such as the castle at Caprarola and Castel Del Monte). The Soroca fortress also shares resemblances with Queenborough, Walmer and Deal castles in Kent, England. In its history, the Soroca Fortress has stood witness to some of worst battles and wars across this territory.



TIGHINA FORTRESS

The Tighina Fortress, located on the bank of the Dniester River, was one of the strongest fortresses of Moldova. During the 1470s to 1480s, Tighina was incorporated into the Principality of Moldavia. It became an important point on the Moldovan Trade Route, also known as the Tartar Road. This connected Western Europe with the Orient through the Danube ford at Isaccea as well as linking Byzantine regions on the right bank of the Danube with Caffa and Genoese colonies in Crimea. The road crossed by Tighina with links to other medieval fortresses at Hotin, Soroca, Cetatea Albă, and to the Black Sea. The Tighina Fortress became a key location in both military and civilian terms. It played an important role during decisive historical events for Moldova, Russia and the Ottoman Empire. In 1709, Swedish King Carol XII and Ukrainian Cossack hetman (leader) Ivan Mazepa took sanctuary in the city for an extended period. According to legend, Mazepa's chariot, made of pure gold, is still hidden in the Tighina fortress and the crown of Carol XII remains hidden somewhere in the dungeons. Tourists can visit the site of the fortress as well as two nearby museums: the Tighina Fortress History Museum and the Museum of Torture.

CULTURAL, NATURAL AND LANDSCAPE RESERVE “ORHEIUL VECHI”



The natural and cultural reserve of Orheiul Vechi (Old Orhei) includes several historic and cultural monuments as well as the natural landscapes of the Răut River gorge. This area has been populated, and partially urbanized, since Palaeolithic and Neolithic times. Its history of several millennia covers the Dacian civilization in the 5th-3rd centuries BC; the remnants of the medieval city Sehr al-Cedid, built by Tatar-Mongols in the 14th century and the village of Old Orhei, built by Moldovans in the 15th-16th centuries. In the limestone cliffs, visitors can see a Christian cave monastery with cells and religious inscriptions carved into the stone by the monks in the medieval and modern ages. The geology of the area is of rare beauty, with steep cliffs soaring to heights of 170-180 m. The reserve is currently on the list of candidate sites for UNESCO World Heritage status.

VILA ROZ



Lunch/dinner: **from 7 €**

Accommodation fee: **from 20 €** (breakfast included)

Situated in the village of Trebujeni, Vila Roz is the perfect place to relax on holiday and to enjoy the heady scent of hundreds of roses blooming in the host's garden. Guests may also chill by the outdoor swimming pool, cook a barbecue or take free bicycle rides. Vila Roz offers accommodation all year round and has two guesthouses with six rooms (sleeping either two, three or six). Adventurous travellers can opt for camp sites in the villa's garden, complete with access to the terrace, two modern bathrooms and even tents for rent. The host is a talented cook and offers masterclasses where guests can learn how to prepare traditional dishes.

Contacts

Orhei district, Trebujeni village; (+373) 0601 65 777
info@vilaroz.com; www.vilaroz.com

CASA DE SUB STÂNCĂ



Lunch/dinner: **from 8 €**

Accommodation fee: **from 23 €** (breakfast included)

Situated in the village of Trebujeni, this guesthouse offers tourists the opportunity to discover the charm of country life, in the exceptional landscape around the rocks of the Orheiul Vechi Natural and Cultural Reserve. The hosts offer rustic accommodation, traditional cuisine and home-produced organic products. In between the copious meals, guests can opt for a range of activities suitable for all ages: river boat rides, fishing and excursions to the most picturesque parts of the reserve. This B&B has one triple and two double rooms.

Contacts

Orhei district, Butuceni village; (+373) 797 73 333
info@etnica.md; www.etnica.md

CASA DIN LUNCĂ



Lunch/dinner: from 7 €

Accommodation fee: from 39 € (3 meals included)

Situated on the bank of the Răut river, Casa din Luncă is a relaxing oasis which offers guests a dramatic view from the courtyard, overlooking the river itself at the foot of the cliffs of Orheiul Vechi. Guests may taste all the richness of traditional local cuisine, including the speciality of the house – mămăligă with steak and cheese, accompanied by wine from the household cellar. Visitors can take part in master-classes to learn traditional dances or take a boat trip or a cart ride. The guesthouse has three double rooms decorated in a traditional style; a restaurant with a capacity of up to 100 and a spacious terrace, perfect for enjoying the gastronomic delights. The major summer attraction is the pool.

Contacts

Orhei district, Trebujeni village; (+373) 794 55 100
info@casadinlunca.com; www.casadinlunca.com

CASA VERDE



Lunch/dinner: from 8 €

Accommodation fee: from 24 €

Casa Verde is a refuge close to the heart of the cliffs of the Orheiul Vechi Natural and Cultural Reserve, in the village of Trebujeni. The rustic atmosphere, the beauty of the surrounding nature and the hospitality of the hosts guarantee moments of spiritual peace and reflection. Casa Verde is a guesthouse with nine rooms, two terraces for summer/winter dining and a menu with delicious traditional dishes, cooked from recipes that have been passed down from generation to generation in the Buzila family. Guests can choose from six local excursions guided by their hosts at the guesthouse. In the evenings, the local folk group entertains visitors with their traditional doina and hora dances.

Contacts

Orhei district, Trebujeni village; (+373) 792 70 371; (+373) 692 82 310
www.pensiuneorheivechi.net

ECO RESORT BUTUCENI



Lunch/dinner: **from 8 €**

Accommodation fee: **from 30 €** (breakfast included)

The Eco Resort Butuceni is right in the heart of the Orheiul Vechi reserve in Butuceni village. It is surrounded by beautiful rocky hills, green fields, cave remains and a cave monastery – all located in the valley of the Răut River. The guesthouse is renowned for its rustic-style, mouth-watering cuisine, Moldovan wine and original entertainment for tourists. “Eco Resort Butuceni” has 19 traditional-style rooms, all with full facilities and includes a swimming pool, spa, terrace and parking. Tourists can attend cooking master-classes; participate in preparing grape must; try their hand at milking cows and goats; and even make their own cheese. The place is included in the international CerTour tourism network, and every year since 2015, it has hosted the country’s largest open-air opera show called “DescOpera”.

Contacts

Orhei district, Butuceni village; (+373) 0796 17 870
ecoresortbutuceni@gmail.com; www.pensiuneabutuceni.md

ECO VILA



Lunch/dinner:

Accommodation fee: **from 20 €**

Eco Vila is the perfect choice for anyone seeking to disconnect from crowded city-life and recharge in the midst of nature. The guesthouse is located in the village of Ivancea in Orhei district, 40 km away from Chişinău. It is situated in a park with a wide variety of summer flowers and surrounded by trees such as acacia, oak and other rare species. The property offers comfortable all-inclusive services: accommodation, dining, sauna, spa, swimming pool and parking. Eco Vila features eight wooden cottages located near a lake. Each is decorated in a rustic style and features a bathroom, personal care accessories, a refrigerator, TV and air conditioning. The restaurant serves delicious traditional Moldovan dishes. Tourists may relax in the garden swing, go fishing or play volleyball.

Contacts

Orhei district, Ivancea village; (+373) 060 120 220
ecovila@mail.ru; www.ecovila.md

TIPOVA MONASTERY



The Tipova Monastery is located above the Dniester river approximately 100 km north of Chişinău, 40 km from the town of Rezina and 45 km from Orhei. It is one of the most beautiful monasteries in Moldova and is comprised of three monastic complexes carved into the rock. The first complex consists of several cells and a chapel dedicated to the “Exaltation of the Holy Cross” that dates back to the 11th-12th centuries. The chapel dedicated to “Saint Nicholas” was the centre of the second monastic complex, founded in the 14th century. The largest cluster of cells is located around the chapel dedicated to the “Assumption of Virgin Mary”, which dates back to the 16th-18th centuries. Nearby along several kilometres of river bank, hundreds of ancient and historical artefacts have been discovered. This is a unique landscape with incredible archaeological diversity: ancient villages and towns, castles, churches and cemeteries have been dug into the steep bank.

CAPRIANA MONASTERY



The Capriana Monastery is dedicated to the “Assumption of Virgin Mary”. It’s located in the village of Capriana, 36 km northwest of Chişinău and 16 km from Straseni and is one of the oldest monasteries of Bessarabia. The first documentary reference mentioning the church dates back to 1420. Because it had the status of a royal monastery, several princes of Moldova ensured its monastic endowment. The monastery, which was built at first of wood, suffered from the repeated invasions by the Tatars and Turks. Stefan the Great was the founder of the stone church at the site in 1491-1496. In Soviet times, Capriana monastery, as with all the places of worship in the Moldovan SSR, suffered greatly and its wealth passed into state ownership. In 1962 it was closed and left to fall into ruin. Only in 1989, when the national liberation of Moldova began, was the monastery reopened.

SAHARNA MONASTERY



The Saharna Monastery is located 8 km from the town of Rezina, 60 km from the town of Orhei and 110 km from Chişinău. This monastic complex is also a nature reserve under government protection and covers an area of 670 ha of land. Originally, the monastic complex included a small hermitage (Horodiste) and a small chapel carved into rock celebrating the Annunciation. In 1776, monk Vortolomeu Crungul, and a group of other monks, came from Russia and settled the complex. They repaired the chapel and its cells. In 1863, at the time of Abbot Serafim, another chapel for winter orations and a series of cells were constructed. This chapel celebrates the Holy Virgin Mother of God. It has been renovated recently and new frescoes have been painted. Saharna is also famous for its 22 waterfalls. One of the most beautiful is very close to the monastery, falling from a height of 10 metres and forming a deep pool called the “Gipsy Hole”.

HANCU MONASTERY



Hancu Monastery is dedicated to “Saint Pious Paraskeva” and is located about 70 km west of Chişinău and 32 km from Strasen. In 1678, a new sanctuary was founded, carrying the name of the protector of Moldova – Pious Paraskeva. It’s believed that the monastery itself was founded by the Moldovan boyar (leader), Mihalcea Hancu. In 1817, a wooden church was built at the monastery. It had a wooden iconostasis decorated with flowers gilded with gold leaf. The walls inside the church were decorated with many beautiful icons, eight of which were painted on planks of wood and gilded. Hancu was the first monastic settlement of Bessarabia where religious community life was introduced, in approximately 1820-1822.

CURCHI MONASTERY



Curchi Monastery is dedicated to the “Nativity of Virgin Mary” and is located in the village of Curchi, Orhei district, 12 km from Orhei and 55 km from Chişinău. The monastery has a rich religious and cultural past spanning over two centuries. It was founded in 1773-1775 and became one of the richest, most beautiful, and largest monasteries in Moldova. Several churches were built on the monastery’s premises: St. Demetrius, a wooden church built in 1775 by Ioan Curchi; Naşterea Domnului (Nativity), a stone church built in 1810; the winter church of St. Demetrius built in 1844; the summer church also Naşterea Domnului (Nativity) built in 1872; and the winter church of St. Nicholas (unfinished), built in 1936-1939. The monastery’s main church, the Nativity cathedral (1872), is built in baroque style, inspired by the church of St. Andrew in Kiev, which was designed by the Italian architect Bartolomeo Rastrelli. The cathedral has the highest dome in Moldova, rising to a height of 57 metres

NOUL NEAMT MONASTERY



The Noul Neamt Monastery is an Orthodox monastery located on the banks of the Dniester river, about 105 km east of Chişinău, 30 km from Causeni and 20 km from Tiraspol. The monastery was founded in 1861, when several monks from the Neamţ monastery left and founded Noul-Neamţ in Chiţcani. This action was a protest against measures taken in United Principalities of Romania to confiscate monastic estates and forbid the use of the Slavic language in worship. On May 16th, 1962 Soviet authorities closed the monastery and the buildings became a hospital. The monastery church was reopened in 1989 and from 1991 it hosted the Romanian-language school for Orthodox priests.

WINE BARS



1. Carpe Diem Wine Shop & Bar

136 Columna Str., 3A, Chisinau
Phone: +373 22 844 846
Mobile: +373 79 978 818
www.wineshop.md,
[facebook.com/Carpe.Diem.Wine Shop](https://facebook.com/Carpe.Diem.WineShop)



2. Embargo

56 Alexandr Puşkin Str., Chisinau
Mobile: +373 60 300 299
facebook.com/embargowine



3. Vinoteca Wine.md

15 Puşkin Str., Chisinau
Phone: +373 22 808 705
Mobile: +373 60 137 788,
+373 69 055 724
www.wine.md



4. Taste of Blu Wine House & Shop

77 Mitropolit Varlaam Str., Chisinau
(Hotel Radisson Blu)
Mobile: + 373 60 290 200
facebook.com/bluwinehouse/



5. Invino

41 Banulescu-Bodoni Str., Chisinau
phone: +373 22 90 99 44
www.invino.md



6. Di & Vino

3/5 Liviu Deleanu Str., Chisinau
Mobile: +373 79 120 109
facebook.com/DiVinoWineShop/



7. Wine Gogh

35 Puskin Str., Chișinău
Mobile: +373 785 58 999
facebook.com/winegoghmd/



8. AVA 1727 WINE BAR & RESTAURANT

43 Vlaicu Pârcălab Str., Chisinau
Mobile: +373 606 01 727
facebook.com/AVA1727Restaurant



9. Purcari Wine Bar

7B Calea Ieșilor, Str., Chisinau
Mobile: +373 69270626
facebook.com/PurcariWineShop



10. Magazin CRICOVA

96 Alexei Sciusev str., Chisinau
Phone: +373 22 22 03 77
www.cricovavin.md
facebook.com/MagazinCricova/



11. IDEAL WINE

77 Mitropolit Varlaam, Str., Chisinau
Mobile: +373 602 90 200
facebook.com/IdealWineMoldova/



12. Tasting Room WineMd

62 Sciusev Str. MD-2012 Chișinău
Mobile: +373 06 688
facebook.com/TastingRoomWineMD
www.wine.md

COUNTRY INFORMATION

EMERGENCIES

Nationwide emergency phone number: 112

TAXI

Moldova's taxi service is the most convenient method of travel for tourists in Chişinău. Within the city limits, it will cost you about 50-70 lei (3€ -5€). A trip to the airport and outside the city will be charged per km. You can call a taxi using a phone app – iTaxi, Yandex Taxi Chisinau – or by calling one of the following numbers:

14002; 14111; 14428; 14100; 14333; 14747; 14499; 14555; 14911; 14101; 14000; 14110; 14250; 14441; 14444; 14005; 14554; 14800; 14004; 14120; 14222; 14006; 14090; 14442; 14007; 14098; 14448; 14008; 14999; 14474; 14545; 14700; 14777.

You can also ask your hotel to help you with taxi services.

TROLLEYBUSES

There is an extensive trolleybus public transport network within the capital Chişinău as well as other major cities (Bălţi, Bender, Tiraspol). Trolleybuses run between 5 am and 1 am. A trolleybus ticket costs 2 lei (€0.11). It is the cheapest method of transport within the metropolitan zone.

BUSES

Public bus services are available in almost every mid-sized to large city in Moldova. Every public bus stop displays a timetable for buses and trolleybuses. A bus ticket costs 3 lei (€0.16)

INTERNET IN MOLDOVA

Internet in Moldova is one of the fastest and cheapest in the world. The country ranks 3rd in the world by gigabit coverage with around 90% of the population having access to a fast service. Visitors to the country may opt for pre-paid mobile data packages, usually operating at 4G speeds, from one of three mobile operators. A wide network of WiFi hotspots is available, some, located in public places like parks are free. The overall infrastructure is well developed so users should experience good quality services throughout the country.

ELECTRICITY

In Moldova, power sockets are of type C and F. The standard voltage is 220 V and the standard frequency is 50 Hz

OFFICIAL TIME

Moldova is in the Eastern European Time Zone:

GMT/UTC +2h during Standard Time

GMT/UTC +3h during Daylight Saving Time

LOCAL CURRENCY AND EXCHANGE RATES

The official currency of Moldova is the Moldovan Leu (MDL). One leu is divided into 100 bani. The official rate of exchange fluctuates daily, depending on the foreign exchange market. Foreign currency may be exchanged for Moldovan Leu at banks or licensed exchange bureaux. Credit cards are accepted in most hotels and stores. For the official exchange rates please visit www.bnm.md

CURRENCY RESTRICTIONS FOR ENTRY/EXIT:

10,000 Euros or equivalent

NATIONAL OFFICE FOR VINE AND WINE - PROMOTING THE WINE SECTOR

The National Office for Vine and Wine (ONVV) is the main body that manages the Moldovan wine sector. It is organized through a public-private partnership, and was created with government support after sector reforms in response to various external and internal industry challenges.

The ONVV's scope is to develop and implement state policies in the wine sector, including vine and grape growing and promotion of quality wines through the national country brand "Wine of Moldova. A Legend Alive". It also manages the production of PGI and PDO wines and provides technical assistance and consultancy to the Moldovan wine industry.

In the short period of time since its foundation, the ONVV has established itself as the leading source of expertise in the Moldovan wine sector. It has contributed to legal and regulatory reform, and serves as a united platform for the reputation and marketability of Moldovan wine.

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