FIND THE HIDDEN TREASURE AT CRICOVA WINERY

DAY 1

Day 1: Arrival day and team building at Asconi winery

Chisinau - Puhoi - Chisinau

On arrival at Chisinau International Airport, you will be transferred to Puhoi village where you will enjoy a welcome drink, an excursion and traditional lunch at **Asconi winery**. The winery, founded in 1994, achieved a lot due to modern wine making technologies. Nowadays, at Asconi estate, European varieties are grown, but special attention is paid to indigenous varieties such as Rara Neagra, Feteasca, etc. One of the features of Asconi winery is that they pick up the grapes mechanically at night when the grapes are still cold.

During the visit you can see and participate in the whole **process of winemaking** during the team building. If it is autumn, you will see how the harvested grapes are pressed, how the juice is fermented and transformed into wine, how the wine evolves after fermentation, either by aging in oak barrels and/or in the bottle. In other times of the year, you will be able to mix, bottle and label your own type of wine. The tasting is usually conducted by one of the winemakers who can tell you exactly what the style and method of winemaking of each wine is.

In the evening, you will have dinner at the restaurant of the winery, and you will be transferred to the hotel in Chisinau.

HIGHLIGHTS: Asconi winery,

DAY 2

Day 2: Quest - Find the hidden treasure at Cricova winery

Chisinau - Cricova - Chisinau

In the morning, you will be transferred to **Cricova winery** where you will have an excursion and lunch. Cricova is the only wine enterprise that was awarded the highest state prize “The Order of the Republic” and has been declared by law a national cultural heritage. During the excursion at Cricova winery in the tourist train, at a depth of 80 m, you will discover the wonders of this place. Cricova underground galleries are formed by over seventy streets covering an area of nearly 120 km, each bearing Bacchic names: Sauvignon, Cabernet, Cahors, etc. The jewel of the underground treasure is the National Collection, including over 600 types of wine totaling about 1 million bottles. Here you will admire the oldest bottle of wine - "Jewish Easter Wine", dating from 1902. You will also visit the unique production of sparkling wine, where a professional guide will tell you about all the process of producing sparkling wines using the famous French method - Méthode Champenoise.

After lunch, you will participate in the **Quest** and you will have to **find the hidden treasure at Cricova winery**. The participants will be divided into 4 teams, each with an instructor who will guide them along the route. The purpose of the activity is to look for the hidden treasure in the cellars of Cricova. In order to do

this, you will have not only to find the treasure, but also to search for the missing pieces of the map in order to find the cell where the treasure is hidden. Initially, the participants will receive the instructions and requisites (compass, flashlight, etc.) in order to start searching. The teams will have to pass a few tasks (crosswords, logical questions, small competitions, etc.) in order to receive a piece of map. At the end of the quest using the pieces of maps the teams will be able to find the hidden treasure.

After the quest, you will enjoy dinner with wine tasting at Cricova restaurant.

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

HIGHLIGHTS: Cricova Underground Wine Galleries, Quest - Find the hidden treasure at Cricova winery ,

DAY 3

Day 3: Gala dinner at Castel Mimi winery - one of the most beautiful architectural masterpieces in the world of wine

Chisinau - Tiraspol - Bulboaca - Chisinau

In the morning, you will set off on a time travel in **Transnistria**. While in **Tiraspol**, you will discover a real treasure - **Aquatir Sturgeon Complex**, one of the largest hatcheries in Europe. The complex is equipped with the latest technologies and the fish can reach the size of a man. You will get the chance to taste one of the most expensive culinary delights – caviar.

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

After lunch, you will visit **Kvint wine and brandy factory** where harmony, refinement and tradition underlie the oldest and most genuine spirits. Here you will be acquainted with the taste of 5 types of 10-30 years aged cognacs.

In the evening, you will travel to **Castel Mimi winery** where you will have a **Gala dinner**. Here you will have a fusion dinner where each meal is associated with a special wine by Mimi Castel winery. All meals present best combination of old traditional recipes and modern cuisine technics. Castel Mimi winery is a destination of interest unique in Moldova. It is currently listed among the most beautiful architectural masterpieces in the world of wine. The story of the castle begins at the end of 1893, when Constantin Mimi, the last governor of Bessarabia, plants the first grape vines on the place that would become legend over the years.

HIGHLIGHTS: Aquatir Sturgeon Farm, Kvint wine and brandy Factory, Castel Mimi winery, Gala dinner at Castel Mimi winery,

DAY 4

Day 4: Departure day

Chisinau

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