LUXURY WINE TASTING TOUR IN MOLDOVA

DAY 1

Day 1: Arrival and visit of Radacini winery

Chisinau – Cricova – Chisinau

On arrival at Chisinau International Airport, you will be transferred to the hotel where you will check in.

Later, you will be transferred to Cricova town where you will visit **Radacini winery**. Its location in Codru region that has a fragmented relief of valleys and small rivers and where the oak and linden forests account for 25% of the territory, influencing the microclimate of the region, facilitated the growth of Radacini white grape varieties mostly, that can yield unique aromatic wines with distinctive personality.

After visiting Radacini winery, you will be transferred to Chisinau, where you will enjoy a **welcome dinner** at Propaganda restaurant.

DAY 2

Day 2: Wine experience at Cricova winery and wine tasting with dinner at Carpe Diem Wine Shop and Bar

Chisinau – Orheiul Vechi – Butuceni – Cricova – Chisinau

In the morning, you will enjoy a **city tour of Chisinau** which is the main administrative, scientific and cultural centre of Moldova. During the tour, you will discover pieces of history and culture of the city such as the Nativity of Christ Cathedral, the Bell Tower, the Arch of Triumph, the Monument of Stephen the Great, etc. You will also visit the **Central Market**, where you will be able to buy local food products such as honey, walnuts, cheese, dried fruits, etc.

Next, you will visit Orheiul Vechi (Old Orhei) - a natural amphitheater revealing a territory which was first inhabited 40 000 years ago. The **Cultural, Natural and Landscape Reserve Orheiul Vechi** includes a series of historical and cultural monuments as well as natural landscapes in the gorge of the Raut River. Ancient fortifications, cave monasteries, monks and hermits – here you can follow the history of this region. The remnants of the first human settlements were found in the stone caverns from here. On the rocky hill, you will find the ruins of a strong Geto-Dacian fortification, which acted as a sanctuary for celebrating religious holidays and rituals in this prehistoric community. The originality of Orheiul Vechi landscape is due to the gorge of the Raut River, dug under the form of a canyon in the limestone layers of the former Sarmatian Sea, about 14 million years ago.

The day will continue at **Butuceni guesthouse**, where you will enjoy a **culinary masterclass** during which you will learn how to cook traditional “placinte” (pies) with sour cherries. At lunch you will taste traditional Moldovan dishes such as “zeama” (chicken soup with homemade egg noodles), “mamaliga” and the dessert made by you in a wonderful traditional atmosphere created by the live music show of the local folk ensemble. You may also try our national dances.

The next stop will be at **Cricova winery** – 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 totalling 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-style Méthode Champenoise. In one of the tasting rooms, the sommelier will explain the rules of wine tasting and help you better reveal the taste and bouquet of each type of wine.

In the evening, you will be transferred to Chisinau where you will enjoy **tasting wines and dinner at Carpe Diem Wine Shop and Bar**.

HIGHLIGHTS: Chisinau city, Central Market in Chisinau , Orheiul Vechi - a 40 thousand years-old natural amphitheater, "Placinte" or bisquits with rose petal jam masterclass at Butuceni guesthouse , Traditional dishes at Butuceni guesthouse , Cricova Underground Wine Galleries,

DAY 3

Day 3: Wine, dine and sleep experience at Castel Mimi winery - architectural masterpiece in the world of wine

Chisinau – Doibani – Tiraspol – Bulboaca

The day will begin with an excursion at **Kvint distillery** in Doibani village, where you will see the vineyards and distillate production of Kvint Factory. Here you will have opportunity to meet the factory's oenologist and see the distillate production for the aged brandy.

Next, you will be transferred to Tiraspol where you will enjoy lunch at a local restaurant specialized in Ukrainian cuisine. Here; you will taste such dish as Ukrainian borsch with garlic buns, which is one of the most famous dishes of the restaurant.

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 10-30 years old spirits such as Surprise, Tiraspol, Kvint Solnechny, Victoria and Jubilee. The professional sommelier and specialist in quality of Kvint factory will lead the tasting process.

After visiting Kvint factory, you will enjoy **city tour of Tiraspol**, during which you will discover Vladimir Lenin's monument and the tank left from the Second World War. The city seems to be a vestige of the Soviet past. Nevertheless, you will be amazed by the contrasts, one of which is the football complex „Sheriff" - a pearl of contemporary architecture.

The day will continue at **Castel Mimi winery** located in Bulboaca village - a destination of interest unique in Moldova. Castel Mimi is currently listed among the most beautiful architectural masterpieces in the world of wine. The story of the castle begins at the end of 1893, when Constantin Mimi, the last governor of Bessarabia, plants the first grape vines on the place that would become legend over the years. Here, you will taste 5 types of Castel Mimi wines associated with different type of snacks and enjoy a tasty dinner.

You will spend the night in one of Castel Mimi's beautiful chalets.

DAY 4

Day 4: Departure day

Bulboaca – Chisinau

On departure day, you will be transferred from Castel Mimi winery to Chisinau International Airport.

HIGHLIGHTS: Kvint distillery in Doibani village, Kvint wine and brandy Factory, Tiraspol city, Castel Mimi winery,