SPARKLING WINE AND CAVIAR – INCENTIVE TOUR IN MOLDOVA

DAY 1

Day 1: Arrival day

Chisinau

On arrival at Chisinau International Airport, you will be transferred to your accommodation in Chisinau. After settling in, you can have a walk through downtown and explore the city centre on your own.

In the evening, you will have dinner at the hotel in Chisinau.

DAY 2

Day 2: Cricova winery – the pearl of Moldovan wine-making

Chisinau – Cricova – Chisinau

The day will begin with **Chisinau city tour**. Chisinau 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.

Next, you will have an excursion at the **National Fine Arts Museum of Moldova** founded in 1939 by sculptor Alexandru Plamadeala. The museum building is a former middle school for girls. In Soviet times, the Center of the Communist Party of the MSSR was located in the building of the current museum. The museum, that has more than 30,000 exhibits, displays impressive art collections from local and European artists.

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

After lunch, you will discover **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 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-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 have dinner at a local restaurant in Chisinau.

HIGHLIGHTS: Cricova Underground Wine Galleries,

DAY 3

Day 3: Tasting of the legendary “Negru de Purcari” wine at Château Purcari winery

Chisinau – Vadul lui Voda – Crocmaz – Purcari – Chisinau

In the morning, you will be transferred to Vadul lui Voda from where you will **travel by plane** to Crocmaz village.

In Crocmaz you will visit **Et Cetera family winery** and take part in the excursion and wine tasting carried out by the owner of the winery who will inform you about the methods of wine production and maturation. At Et Cetera winery, you will enjoy a lunch prepared from products of the region and Crocmaz village.

After lunch, the trip will continue to **Château Purcari winery** in Purcari village. If you are a wine enthusiast or just love to be in beautiful, pristine surroundings and listening the songs of birds, Purcari estate is definitely the place you need to visit. The old mansion’s galleries feature great collections of Purcari wines, some bottles dating back to 1948. The winery is famous all over the world due to the legendary wine “Negru de Purcari” - the elixir that in 1878 was highly appreciated on the international arena by being awarded the gold medal at Paris World Exhibition. In the tasting room, decorated in royal style, you will have the opportunity to taste Purcari wines, including “Negru de Purcari” wine, which has been the choice of some of the world's most recognized dignitaries.

You will have dinner at a restaurant in Chisinau where you will enjoy dishes specific to European cuisine.

HIGHLIGHTS: Et Cetera winery, Château Purcari winery,

DAY 4

Day 4: Caviar with sparkling wine tasting at Aquatir Sturgeon Complex

Chisinau – Tiraspol – Bulboaca – Chisinau

The day will begin with a trip to Tiraspol, Transnistria where you will visit one of the largest fish hatcheries in Europe – **Aquatir Sturgeon Complex**. The complex is equipped with the latest technologies and the fish can reach the size of a man. You will get the chance to see how is processed one of the most expensive culinary delights – caviar. You will have opportunity to taste caviar with a shot of vodka or a glass of sparkling wine.

The day will continue with a **city tour of Tiraspol** during which you will have the opportunity to travel in time back in the USSR. During the city tour, 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.

Next stop will be 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 Castel Mimi wines and have a fabulous dinner at Castel Mimi restaurant.

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

HIGHLIGHTS: Aquatir Sturgeon Farm, Tiraspol city, Castel Mimi winery,

DAY 5

Day 5: 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 and buy some souvenirs.