WEEKEND WINE EXPERIENCE 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.

DAY 2

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

Chisinau - Puhoi - Cricova - Chisinau

The day will begin with the **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.

Next, you will visit **Asconi winery** founded in 1994 and located in Puhoi village. The winery 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 excursion, wine tasting and lunch at the winery you will be able to discover the wonders of this place.

You will continue your trip by exploring a new city, this time an underground city. 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. The jewel of the underground treasure is the National Collection, including over 600 types of wine totaling about 1 million bottles. Here you can admire the oldest bottle of wine - "Jewish Easter Wine", dating from 1902 and discover the tastes of Cricova wines.

During dinner at the restaurant in Chisinau, you will be enveloped in the traditional atmosphere, created by the traditional style of the restaurant, the traditional dishes and of course the traditional live music show – the special flavor of the restaurant.

HIGHLIGHTS: Chisinau city, Asconi winery, Cricova Underground Wine Galleries,

DAY 3

Day 3: Discovery of “Negru de Purcari” legendary wine at Purcari winery and “baba neagra” local dessert at Castel Mimi winery

Chisinau - Purcari - Bulboaca - Chisinau

In the morning, you will travel 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. After the wine tasting, you will enjoy a tasty lunch at the winery.

Next stop will be in Bulboaca village at **Castel Mimi winery** - 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, including Rosu de Bulboaca wine, an incomparable wine with outstanding features and elegant flavor. The dinner will be served at Castel Mimi restaurant and will culminate with “baba neagra” - a local dessert of Moldovan cuisine representing a cake garnished with vanilla cooked in some regions of the country.

After dinner, you will return to the hotel in Chisinau.

HIGHLIGHTS: Château Purcari winery, 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 and buy some souvenirs.