WOMEN TOUR IN MOLDOVA

DAY 1

Day 1: Arrival day

On arrival at Chisinau International Airport, you will be transferred to your accommodation in Chisinau. After settling in, you will be transferred to Puhoi where you will visit **Asconi Winery** - a family winery located not far from the capital, in Puhoi village. The wines they produce are from European grape varieties – Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Cabernet-Sauvignon, Malbec as well as local varieties such as Feteasca Alba and Feteasca Neagra. In 2020, Asconi received the Grand Gold Medal at the biggest profile competition in Asia - Asia Wine Trophy 2020 for the wine "Cabernet Sauvignon". Visitors love this winery for its rustic style and village atmosphere, for its excellent wines and traditional Moldovan food, prepared from local products by the village's most skilled cooks.

At the Asconi winery, you will take part in a creative activity: **Painting with Wine** - a unique experience that will leave you with a series of special and unforgettable emotions. The Asconi winery offers this experience to its visitors, who are guided throughout the session by a specialist. Discover a new side of wine with paintbrush and brush.

The trip will continue with an **exclusive wine tasting** and **Welcome dinner at Asconi Winery**, where you will enjoy Moldovan traditional dishes.

In the evening, you will be transferred to Chisinau and have free time in the city.

HIGHLIGHTS: Asconi winery, Painting with Wine at Asconi Winery,

DAY 2

Day 2: Explore the Chisinau city and enjoy a pottery masterclass

The day will begin with **Walking city tour of Chisinau** - the main administrative, scientific and cultural center of Moldova. During the tour, with a professional guide, you will discover pieces of history and culture of the city such as Nativity of Christ Cathedral, the Bell Tower, the Arch of Triumph, the Monument of Stephen the Great, Chisinau City Hall, the Parliament and Presidency of the Republic of Moldova etc.

The excursion will continue with a visit to the **Casa Cristea** - the place where the iconic Moldovan blouse ”IA”, included in the UNESCO immaterial cultural heritage, is handcrafted. Here you might admire the best of them.

Next, you will visit **National Museum of Arts**. Founded in 1939 by Alexandru Pl?m?deal?, this museum is a special attraction for people passionate about art and culture who promote the cultural heritage of Moldova. Today, the museum's collection has been completed with ancient icons, works by Bessarabian painters and those from Russia, Western Europe, Japan, India and China. The patrimony of the National Museum of Art of Moldova has over 39,000
works and reflects the development of fine arts in the twentieth century XV-XXI.

In the afternoon, you will enjoy the **lunch at La Placinte Restaurant**.

After lunch, you will participate in a **pottery workshop.** You will discover the ancient art of pottery in a hands-on masterclass led by a skilled local artisan. You will learn the fundamentals of shaping clay on the wheel, molding, and decorating your own unique piece. This creative experience will allow you to connect with tradition, express your creativity, and take home a handmade ceramic souvenir crafted by you.

HIGHLIGHTS: Chisinau city, Casa Cristea Craft Workshop, National Museum of Arts from Chisinau, La Placinte Restaurant,

DAY 3

Day 3: Discovery of Orheiul Vechi - a 40 thousand year-old natural amphitheater, cooking masterclass and wine experience at Cricova Underground Wine Galleries

In the morning, you will visit **Curchi Monastery** - one of the most important architectural monuments of Bessarabia, and it is also considered to be one of the most beautiful and famous monasteries of the region. The Curchi monastic complex is composed of five churches, two buildings with cells, an abbot's house and several auxiliary rooms. As an architectural ensemble, it was established in the 18th - 19th centuries and looks like a monument, with baroque elements, having similarities with the "St. Andrew's" Cathedral in Kyiv, but still retains its traditional Moldavian style.

Next, you will travel to **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 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 trip will continue with a **Masterclass of making traditional ”placinta”** - a traditional cherry pie at Butuceni Guest House. After finishing the masterclass, you will enjoy a **Traditional Moldovan lunch.** You will experience local specialties, as “zeama”, “mamaliga”, and “scrob”, along with traditional pastry and a glass of wine.

Next, you will visit **Cricova Underground Wine Galleries** - the pearl of winemaking in the Republic of Moldova and a "must" for guests visiting our country. Cricova Cellars is an underground city on an area of 53 ha at a depth of approx. 80 m, whose streets are 120 km long. It was created after the quarrying of stone from which blocks were cut for the construction of houses destroyed after the Second World War. The conditions in the cellars are suitable for keeping wines. Visitors can view the old wine collection, the oldest from 1902, the guild for the production of sparkling wines using the classic French Champenoise method, followed by a wine tasting under the guidance of a professional sommelier.

In the evening, you will be transferred to Chisinau and have free time for dinner.

HIGHLIGHTS: Curchi Monastery, Orheiul Vechi - a 40 thousand years-old natural amphitheater, Butuceni guesthouse, Cricova Underground Wine Galleries, Culinary masterclass of making ”placinte” at Butuceni Guest House,

DAY 4

Day 4: Time travel in Tiraspol – Back in the USSR

In the morning, you will discover the oldest medieval fort of **Tighina Fortress** located in Tighina town and built in the 15th century by the prince of Moldova, Stephen the Great. Originally built as a small wooden fort, it was later fortified in stone by the prince of Moldova, Petru Rares. Occupied by the Ottomans in 1538 (in a campaign lead by the sultan Suleiman the Magnificent), the fort was strengthened in 1541 and became the center of an Ottoman "raya" (in which were included the surrounding Moldavian villages). In the 18th century, the fort was strengthened by Moldovan craftsmen under the direct supervision of Dimitrie Cantemir. Tighina Fortress is an architectural ensemble of irregular quadrilateral plan, surrounded by wide walls, 2-3 meters thick, made of limestone and brick.

Next, 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.

In the afternoon, you will have a **soviet-style lunch** at the local restaurant in Tiraspol.

After lunch, you will have a **panoramic tour of Tiraspol**, you will set off on a time travel. 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.

In the evening, you will be transferred to Chisinau and have free time for dinner.

HIGHLIGHTS: Tighina Fortress, Aquatir Sturgeon Farm, Tiraspol city,

DAY 5

Day 5: Visit at Rustic Art Handicraft Complex, honey tasting at "Conacul Mierii" and wine tasting at Chateau Cojusna Winery

The first stop of this day will be at **Rustic Art Handicraft Complex** - a museum that holds the largest collection of the Bessarabian carpets, that are recognized by UNESCO as World Heritage. At the museum a brief tour of carpet collection showcase of carpets, traditional costumes, and other handicrafts objects will be organized.

The journey will continue with **excursion, honey tasting** and **lunch** at **Conacul Mierii Guest House** . Micleuseni village will offer you the chance to discover the "sweet" pension named "Conacul Mierii" where actually, in a small bees' kingdom, with a bunch of beehives in the garden, and the house being transformed in a honey museum, the householder will disclose with patience all the secrets of a bee's family.

After lunch, you will travel to **Chateau Cojusna Winery**. This factory was founded in 1908 and here the high quality wines of more than 10 kinds are produced by French technology. You will pass along the narrow streets of the winoteque which shelves are full of bottles with dusty surfaces. The wines produced in Cojusna can be tasted in two special halls - one of them has an atmosphere of Medieval Moldovan cellar, it is trimmed with natural tree and stone, another one has an European classic style.

In the evening, you will be transferred to Chisinau and have free time for dinner.

HIGHLIGHTS: "Rustic Art" Crafts Complex, Conacul Mierii guesthouse , Château Cojusna (Migdal-P) winery,

DAY 6

Day 6: Home Fragrance Workshop at Viorica Cosmetics Museum, liquor tasting at Buket Moldavii winery and cheese tasting at Gastro Farm Pohrebea

After breakfast, you will have excursion to **Viorica Cosmetics Museum** - a small but fascinating exhibition showcasing the brand's history. Visitors can see product samples from different periods, portraits of key personalities, historical documents, and vintage production equipment used since the company's founding in 1989.
You will participate in a **home fragrance workshop**. Guided by experts, you will explore essential oils and create your own signature scent for a cozy and harmonious home. During the workshop, each participant will craft three personalized products:
- A scented sachet with dried herbs, flowers, and spices;
- A 50 ml room spray for home and textiles;
- A natural beeswax candle infused with essential oils;
Enjoy a warm, aromatic tea as you relax and immerse yourself in this sensory experience.

In the afternoon, you will travel to **Buket Moldavii winery** where you will have **excursion, liquor tasting** and enjoy a **delicious lunch**. For more than sixty years, the company keeps the secrets of preparing of its best beverages, handed down from generation to generation of masters. Vermouths, aromatized and sparkling wines, liqueurs, bitters, balsams, strong drinks, brandy and divins are made according to the original and unique recipe that is famous from Sovietic times till present.

After lunch, you will visit **Gastro Farm Pohrebea** that offers authentic rural experiences, bring together local gastronomy, traditions, and a warm countryside atmosphere. Guests can enjoy a curated tasting package featuring a variety of artisanal cheeses paired with carefully selected wines, along with insights into the production and aging process and expert pairing recommendations.

In the evening, you will be transferred to Chisinau and enjoy your last night in Chisinau.

HIGHLIGHTS: Buket Moldavii factory, Viorica Cosmetics Museum,

DAY 7

Day 7: Departure day

On departure day, you will be transferred from the hotel to Chisinau International Airport. If your flight is in the afternoon, you can visit an Art and Souvenir Market and/or do some shopping. In Chi?in?u, you will find many places to purchase Moldovan souvenirs. The best shopping destinations include the shopping centers Sun City, Grand Hall, Jumbo, as well as Malldova and Zity Mall.

Also, you can visit Chisinau Central Market where you will have the opportunity to taste and buy high-quality organic products directly from local farmers and producers: walnuts, almonds, honey, various herbs, fruits, and vegetables grown in the most natural and eco-friendly conditions.

HIGHLIGHTS: Central Market in Chisinau ,