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Wine and Gastronomy
Mystery and Ritual in the Life of the Romanian People
Romania and Its Sister, the Republic of Moldova

Day 1

Arrival in Bucharest. Meet with our tour leader at the airport and transfer to the centre of Bucharest. City tour. Dinner in a traditional restaurant.
Accommodation in a 4**** hotel in the center of the city.

Day 2

We leave Bucharest after breakfast and head for **Urlaţi**. The vineyards here are well known for wines which perfectly accompany dishes prepared from game. **Fetească Neagră** is one of the few native varieties that are to be found only on Romanian soil; it is a black wine which recalls the taste and color of blackberries. We visit the wine cellars and get all information about technology. Wine tasting of five different types of wines and barbeque lunch, accompanied by wine.
Transfer through the beautiful **Prahova Valley** to **Sinaia,** in order to visit **The Romanian Royal Castle (Peleş Castle),** built on the demand of Carol of Hohenzollern – Sigmaringen, the first Romanian royalty.
In the afternoon we continue our way to Azuga resort, where we are accommodated in a 3*** pension housed by the **Rhein Wine Cellars**. The Rhein Wine Cellars date from 1892, and used to be the wine supplier of the Romanian royal family. They are also the oldest cellars where the Champenoise method sparkling wine is produced continuously ever since the cellars' settlement.

Urlati Wine Cellars

Day 3

After breakfast we head towards Bran village, where we visit Bran Castle, a beautiful 14th century castle, restored in the beginning of the 20th century to its former glory by the royal family of Romania. It is one of the highest rated castles in the world nowadays, due to its Dracula linked reputation. We visit the imposing structure guarding the passing point between the two Romanian provinces: Walachia to the south and Transylvania to the north. The road takes us then to Brasov (Kronstadt), one of Transylvania's major cities. We have lunch in a nice restaurant, and, if time allows it, we walk the medieval centre, one of the best preserved in Romania, housing The Black Church, the biggest church between Vienna and Constantinople, the City Council Square, the ramparts erected in medieval times by the Saxon colonists, and one of the narrowest streets in Europe, The Binder Street.
We have dinner with symphonic concert at the old citadel of Brasov.
Accommodation in a 3*** hotel in the city centre. It is a 400 years old building, with neoclassic inspiration architecture, totally renovated with a lot of attention to keep the ancient atmosphere.

The main square in Brasov city

Bran Castle

Day 4

We leave Brasov in the morning and head towards Moldova region. On the way, we pass through a region inhabited by the strongest minority in Romania – The Szeklers, with their specific architecture, traditions and, of course, gastronomy. We have lunch in a century old Szekler inn, with traditional Szekler specialities.
Then we continue towards Lacu Rosu - **The Red Lake** resort followed by a short walk of about half an hour through **Bicaz Gorges –** some of the most spectacular gorges in Romania, with rock walls as high as 300m**.**
In late afternoon we arrive in Piatra-Neamt, also called The Moldavian Pearl. Dinner and accommodation in a 3*** hotel.

Day 5

After breakfast we head towards **Tarpesti village**. It is one of the **cultural highlights** of our trip, as we have the chance to visit the vast **collection of popular artefacts** belonging to **Mr Popa**, to see the **archaeological finds** that he personally uncovered in more than 20 sites he explored personally, to see his **collection of wooden and stone sculptures** he permanently enriches, **to meet the man** himself (he is 89 years old) and his family and maybe to see him at work. We also have **a tasty home made lunch,** accompanied by local brandy and wine**,** in the laidback atmosphere of his garden.

Sarmale – Romanian specialty

After lunch we continue towards one of the most famous wine-growing region in Romania – **Cotnari.** Here the vineyards are over seven centuries old, dating from the time of the Moldavian ruler - Stephen the Great (1457 - 1504). The premium wines here are **Grasă**, **Tămâioasă and Frâncuşă,** other native varieties of wine, which even in the 15th century were known in many other parts of Europe. Visit the cellars and wine tasting.
In the evening we arrive in **Iasi**, the capital city of the Moldavian region. It is a romantic city, with an architecture greatly influenced by the French 19th century.
Accommodation in a 3*** hotel in the centre of the city.

Day 6

After breakfast we pass the border into Romania's smaller sister - the Republic of Moldova. Here we visit **Cricova winery.** Founded in 1952, it is famous for its unique underground labyrinths and also for its excellent wines. The greatest part of "Cricova's" production facilities is placed underground, at a depth of 60-80 m, representing a huge **Underground City of Wine**, comprising numerous galleries which spread at a length of more than 60 km. These cellars were declared the "object of national cultural patrimony" and granted the supreme state award – «The Order of the Republic». Wine tasting and lunch.
Transfer to the capital of the Republic of Moldavia – Chişinău. After a short city tour we have dinner in a traditional restaurant. Accommodation in 3*** hotel.

Milestii Mici wine cellars

Day 7

After breakfast we visit the biggest underground wine gallery in the world, **Milestii Mici wine cellars,** with their outstanding wine streets and **the biggest wine collection in the world**, included in the Guinness book. Visit of the cellars, wine tasting and lunch.

In the afternoon we leave the Republic of Moldavia and head back to Romania, this time to another region - **Dobrogea**. We cross the river Danube by ferryboat and reach the town of **Tulcea,** the entrance gate to the **Danube Delta. Dinner with fish specialties** and accommodation in a 4**** hotel in Tulcea.

Day 8

Breakfast. One day trip on the canals of the fascinating **Danube Delta** - the second largest Delta in Europe, included in UNESCO's world heritage list, unique for its fauna and flora, very important biosphere reserve. **Lunch with fish specialties on the boat.** In the evening return to Tulcea.

Dinner with fish specialties and wine from the **local vineyard** of **Murfatlar and Niculiţel.**

Accommodation in a 4**** hotel

Day 9

Breakfast; Transfer by coach to Bucharest for flying back home.

~ End of the program ~

The price/pax is: 1299 Euro/pers

SGL room supplement: 240 Euro/pers

The price includes:

- **8 nights accommodation in 3*** hotels**
- **Full board for the whole period, including the special dinners and lunches**
- **1 coffee and ¼ l of wine/pers for every lunch and ¼ l of wine/pers for every dinner**
- **Transport by car/minibus**
- **All visits of the cellars with wine tasting**
- **The boat trip in Danube Delta**
- **All entrances to monuments, museums, monasteries etc. included in the program**
- **English speaking guide**