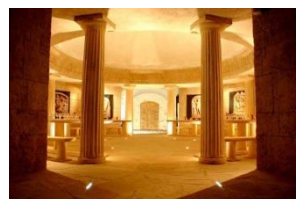
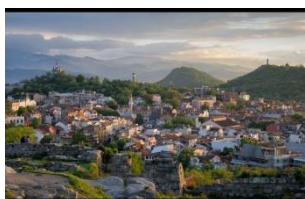


About Bulgaria



Bulgaria was established in 681 and is the only European country that has not changed its name since its inception. Europe's oldest continuously inhabited city - Plovdiv - is also located in Bulgaria. Bulgaria has a rich culture influenced by Thracians, Romans, Greeks, Slavs, Byzantines and Ottomans who left multiple important cultural heritage sites and cultural footprints on the country. Bulgaria has given the world the Cyrillic alphabet used by millions of people in Eastern Europe and parts of Asia. Bulgaria also prides itself on distinct styles of singing, dancing and unique uneven rhythms found in the country's folklore, as well as being the homeland of yoghurt, the finest rose oil in the world and the starting point of winemaking in Europe - a tradition inhabited from the enigmatic Thracians more than 5 000 years ago. Bulgaria is mysterious, enchanting, unexplored, inviting and surprising. Bulgaria is a place with countless stories that hide behind each stone, tree, bridge, monument. Bulgaria is a place where the Orient meets Europe for the first time and where memories of old civilizations, cultures and traditions stretch further back than in any other European country.



Bulgarian Wine

Wine making in Bulgaria dates to Thracian times more than 5 000 years ago. Thracian wine was described by Homer in The Iliad (around VIII century BC) as being the finest wine. In fact, the first known "wine appellations" were established in northern Bulgaria by the Roman emperor Antonius Pius in II century AD. Later, a legend describes how the Bulgarian town of Asenovgrad was spared in 1205 during the fourth crusade because of the excellent wine that was made there. In the 1970s, Bulgaria became one of the largest wine exporters in the world. However, demand for Bulgarian wine declined after the fall of the Soviet Union. Since 2007, several small and medium-sized wineries have been established focusing on quality rather than on quantity. They have consistently won awards at prestigious international competitions. These wineries continue the centuries-old tradition of winemaking on these lands and thus, tell the stories of the skillful Thracians in a modern and unique way.

Wine Regions

Bulgaria is divided into five wine regions, each with its own unique characteristics.



1. The Northern Wine Region (The Danubian Plain) is a large region that covers almost all of the area between the Balkan Mountain Range (Stara Planina) and the Danube River in the north. Frequently, the northwest corner of the Danubian Plain is considered a sub-region and a thriving wine region on its own.
2. The Eastern Wine Region (The Black Sea Coast) covers the entire coastline stretching from north to south (Bulgarian-Turkish border). Sometimes, a distinction is made between the Northern Black Sea Coast and the Southern Black Sea Coast breaking the over 300 km long coastline into two areas.
3. The Sub-Balkan Wine Region (The Valley of Roses) is a small but captivating region with ruins from the Thracian civilization, rose plantations that produce more than 80% of the world's rose oil and mineral water springs that have served as mineral baths and mineral spa resorts throughout centuries.
4. The Southern Wine Region (The Thracian Valley) is home to the most wineries in Bulgaria. The region is easily split into two or three sub-regions. It has long been believed that the western part of the Thracian Valley around the outskirts of the Rhodope Mountain is the birthplace of the ancient red grape variety – Mavrud. Mavrud produces a rich and deep red wine that is a national pride and a very promising varietal in terms of the global market.

5. The South-Western Wine Region (The Struma Valley) is comprised of wineries located in and around Melnik, Sandanski, Petrich, Harsovo, Damyanitsa and Blagoevgrad. The region is the proud home to the endemic variety Broad-Leaved Melnik.

Bulgaria has two official Protected Geographical Indicators (PGIs) for wine: 1) The Thracian Lowlands and 2) The Danubian Plain. There are 52 Protected Designation of Origins (PDO) registered for Bulgarian wine. These two EU quality schemes (PDO & PGI) guarantee, protect and promote where and how the wine was made.

Our Tours

We offer tours in various shapes and sizes – half or full day tours, group tours, private tours, short wine getaways, events (corporate/social) or wine tastings/workshops. Tours can also be tailor-made or customized.

- **Group Tours (w/ fixed dates):** Join-in group tours with set departure dates. Usually 4-12 people in a tour. Group tours usually follow a 5-day itinerary. A typical day consists of wine tasting at boutique wineries, visits to cultural heritage sites and selected meals. The tours usually cover one or two wine regions. Transportation, airport transfers, accommodation, selected meals, activities and a tour leader is included. [View our group tours.](#)
- **Private Tours:** Typically, 6-day tour itineraries that are available all-year-round and explores a wine region in-depth. The wine tour will usually include visits and tastings at wineries, cultural sightseeing, city walking tours and dining experiences. Accommodation, selected meals, airport transfers, transportation and a private tour leader is included in the tour. Tours are customizable and can be done for as little as two people. [View our private tours.](#)
- **Short Grape Escapes:** A short grape escape is a 3-day wine getaway filled with wine, food, culture and good times. This short getaway will usually include visits and tastings at wineries, sightseeing, accommodation, selected meals, airport transfers, transportation and a private tour. Tours are customizable, available all-year-round and for as little as two people. [View our short grape escapes.](#)
- **Day tours:** Explore Bulgaria's wine country with a half-day or full day wine tour starting from either Plovdiv or Sofia. A day wine tour includes visits and tastings to wineries, visits to cultural heritage sites, lunch, pick-up/drop-off from your accommodation and a private tour leader. Minimum two people required, tours are customizable. More information about our one-day tours [here.](#)





About Us

Bulgaria Wine Tours was established in 2014 by Zina from Denmark and Vasil from Bulgaria. Born out of love for Bulgarian wine, culture and traditions, Bulgaria Wine Tours is a full-service tour operator specializing in wine and food tours. The tours offered are a mix of experiences and combine outstanding wines, important cultural heritage sites, traditional cuisine and stunning landscapes. Every step on every tour has been personally checked to guarantee that they turn into memorable experiences for you. Bulgaria Wine Tours is a licensed tour operator by the Ministry of Tourism. Welcome to Bulgaria!



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