



Exploring Romania's Wine Heritage

A Journey Through History

Presented by
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Image a beautiful, sweeping vineyard landscape in Transylvania

Introduction to Romanian Wine

- Romania has a long tradition of winemaking spanning over 6,000 years.
- It is one of the world's top wine producers, offering unique varietals.
- The rebirth in quality came after communism, with modern wineries gaining international recognition.



Romania's Wine Regions

- Romania is divided into eight major wine regions:
- Moldova: Largest wine region, cool continental climate, known for whites.
- Muntenia and Oltenia: Hot summers, known for reds.
- Transylvania: High altitudes, cool climate, great for whites.

ROMANIAN WINE REGIONS

Transylvania

Moldova

Muntenia and Oltenia

Banat

Crisana and Maramures

Dobrogea

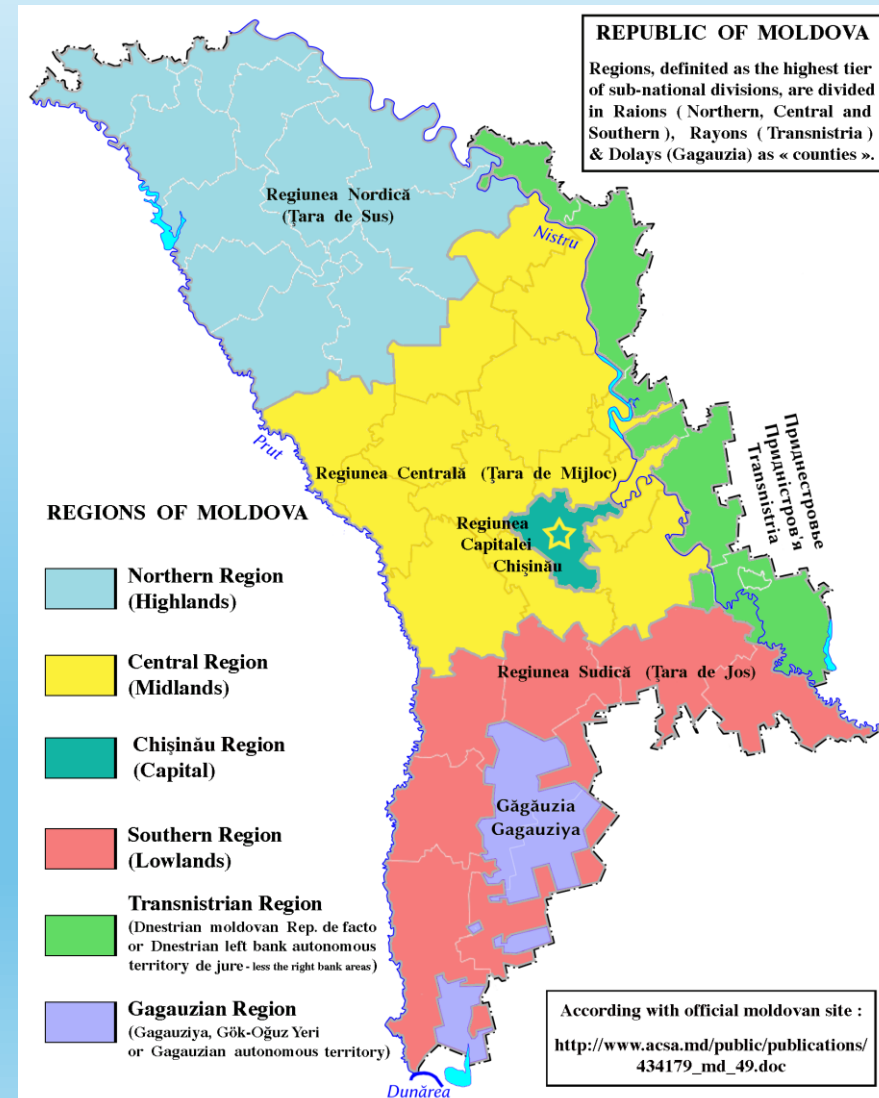
Danube Terraces

Southern Lands



Moldova Wine Region

- Dobrogea: Warm coastal region by the Black Sea. Known for white varietals like Fetească Albă and Grasă de Cotnari.
- Subregion: Cotnari – famous for sweet dessert wines.
- Significant Winery: Casa de Vinuri Cotnari.



Moldova Wine Region

- The Moldova Wine Region, often called the "wine capital" of Eastern Europe, boasts a rich viticultural history dating back over 6,000 years.
- Nestled between Romania and Ukraine, Moldova has a climate ideal for grape cultivation, with its rolling hills and fertile soils nourished by the Black Sea's influence.



- The country is home to some of the world's largest and most unique wine cellars, such as Milestii Mici and Cricova, where wines age in labyrinthine underground tunnels.

Moldova Wine Region Cont.

- Moldova produces a diverse range of wines, from dry reds and whites to sweet, dessert varieties. Indigenous grape varieties like Rara Neagră, Fetească Albă, and Fetească Neagră complement international favorites like Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot.
- Moldova's wine tourism is flourishing, offering visitors immersive experiences in wine-tasting and traditional winemaking.
- With its deep heritage and high-quality vintages, Moldova has become a hidden gem for wine enthusiasts worldwide.



Muntenia and Oltenia Wine Region

- Known for robust reds like Fetească Neagră and Negru de Drăgășani.
- Subregions: Drăgășani and Dealu Mare (Romania's Napa Valley).

- Significant Winery: Aurelia Vișinescu in Dealu Mare.



Dealu Mare Muntenia's Sub-Region

- Dealu Mare, often dubbed "Romania's Napa Valley," is one of the country's most renowned wine regions, celebrated for its warm climate and sun-drenched hills that offer ideal conditions for vine cultivation.
- Located in southern Romania, the region is famous for its rich red wines, particularly those made from indigenous grape varieties like Fetească Neagră, along with international classics like Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot.



Dealu Mare Muntenia's Sub-Region Cont.

- The terroir of Dealu Mare, with its well-drained soils and long growing season, allows for the production of bold, full-bodied wines with deep flavors and complex aromas.
- Known for its artisanal winemaking practices, the region blends traditional methods with modern techniques, offering both heritage and innovation in its bottles.
- Dealu Mare has become a must-visit destination for wine lovers, offering picturesque vineyards, premium tastings, and a deep connection to Romania's winemaking history.



Transylvania Wine Region

- Known for aromatic whites like Traminer, Sauvignon Blanc, and Pinot Gris.
- Subregion: Târnave – produces fresh, zesty white wines.
- Significant Winery: Jidvei – largest producer in Transylvania.





Transylvania Wine Region

- The Transylvania Wine Region, located in the heart of Romania, is an emerging gem known for its cool-climate wines.
- Nestled in the Carpathian Mountains, the region benefits from a unique climate with cooler temperatures and a longer growing season, perfect for producing fresh, aromatic white wines.
- Key grape varieties include Fetească Regală, Riesling, and Sauvignon Blanc, which thrive in the region's mineral-rich soils, resulting in crisp, vibrant wines with bright acidity and floral notes.

Transylvania Wine Region Cont.

- Transylvania's winemaking history dates back to Roman times, and its modern wine industry is gaining recognition for blending tradition with innovation.
- The region's distinct terroir offers a different profile from Romania's warmer wine regions, making it a haven for those who enjoy elegant, expressive whites and lighter reds.
- Transylvania is increasingly popular among wine enthusiasts, offering scenic vineyards and charming cellars amidst the region's historic landscapes.



Dobrogea Wine Region

- Warm, maritime climate with sandy, mineral-rich soils.
- Known for Aligote and Merlot.
- Significant Winery: Alira Winery.



Dobrogea Wine Region Cont.

- The Dobrogea Wine Region, located along Romania's Black Sea coast, is one of the country's oldest and sunniest wine areas.
- The region's warm, maritime climate, with cooling sea breezes and abundant sunshine, creates perfect conditions for growing a variety of grapes, including both local and international varieties.
- Known for producing bold, full-bodied reds like Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, as well as fresh, aromatic whites like Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc, Dobrogea offers diverse wine styles.



Dobrogea Wine Region Cont.

- The region's rich soils and proximity to ancient Greek and Roman settlements have shaped its long winemaking history.
- Today, Dobrogea's wines are gaining global recognition for their distinctive character and high quality.



- Wine tourism in the area is flourishing, with picturesque vineyards offering a glimpse into centuries-old winemaking traditions against the backdrop of the Black Sea.

Unique Romanian Grape Varietals

- Fetească Neagră: Deep color, spice, dark fruit flavors. The original territory of the grape variety, whose name means "black maiden", was the old principality of Moldavia.
- This historical region now forms the majority of the Republic of Moldova as well as the bordering eastern Romanian region also named Moldova, with two smaller parts now belonging to Ukraine.
- A typical Feteasca Neagra wine is known for its deep ruby-red coloring, characteristic blackberry flavors and may be aged if handled well in the winery.
- Dark cherries, plums and chocolate may also be detectable, as well as vanilla where wines have seen some oak. It is a relatively versatile grape as Feteasca Neagra can be found produced dry, semi-dry or sweet.
- **Food pairings for Feteasca Neagra wines include:**
- Spiced pork ribs, Rogan Josh lamb curry, Black pudding



Unique Romanian Grape Varietals



- Fetească Albă: or White Maiden or White Fairy is an indigenous grape variety representative for Romania, hundreds of years old.
- It is planted in various areas, mainly in Transylvania, Moldavia and north of the Grater Wallachia. It is fascinating to discover the particularities of each area given by the terrain typology and the wine-making styles.
- The name Fetească (meaning young girl, virgin, pure, unmarried, fairy) leads to femininity and the delicacy of the women. Therefore it highlights the cherishing that Romanians have for the wine, as for the women.
- In Romania we have the tendencies to personify the wine, to resemble it to the women, and Fetească in all her varieties is one eloquent example.

Unique Romanian Grape Varietals

- Tămâioasă Românească or Romanian Incense came from ancient Greece. Being present in Romania for more than 2000 years, this variety has adapted to our area and survived until now days, including the devastating filoxera attack.
- It appears in historical tales as the wine drunk at the royals meeting or used as a trade value.
- The grape is very aromatic and the wines are usually made sweet and medium-sweet, due to grapes harvesting at super-maturation.
- Tămâioasă românească has a specific wine-making technique, with a long maturation of the marc. This variety gives birth to astonishing liqueur wines but also to great dry and sparkling wines, very well positioned in the Romanian top wines range.
- The wine is suitable for aging, process that gives the wine aromas of wild flowers, linden, acacia and honey.



Unique Romanian Grape Varietals



- Grasă de Cotnari is an ancient white grape variety, that's been lucky to survive until now days. It has become a reference variety among Romanian indigenous grapes.
- Planted in the center of Transylvania for more than 2000 years. It has arrived in Moldavia (eastern Romania) and sowed in a limited area of Cotnari in the medieval period.
- The main wine-making style for the Grasă wine is sweet and demi-sweet and using the botrytisation technique.
- The grapes are harvested late and “treated” with the Botrys cinerea mushroom. The mold generated by the mushroom pinch the grape and raises it, the result is a light alcohol wine, sweet or demi-sweet, with exceptional body, taste and acidity.
- Tasting notes of raisins, honey, apricots, well delivered after aging in the bottle.

Romanian Terroir

- Romania's terroir is diverse with mountains, rivers, and the Black Sea.
- Soils range from limestone in Dealu Mare to sandy soils in Dobrogea.
- Continental climate with hot summers and cold winters, moderated by the Carpathians and Black Sea.
- Transylvania shares the same latitude as Burgundy. However, Transylvania also has a rain shield, similar to that of Alsace owing to the mountains.
- The region greatly benefits from moderated temperatures, sunny days, optimal rainfall, significant day to night temperature swings, and occasional autumn fog.
- Each of these factors favors the accumulation of sugars and flavors while preserving the natural acidity of the grape.
- The southwestern slopes also protect the vines from spring and autumn frost, with the south and southeastern slopes providing altitudes between 200 and 500 meters above sea level, optimal for vine growth in the region.

Major Wineries in Romania



- Crama Avincis – Modern architecture and award-winning wines.
- The AVINCIS wines, are an expression of the Dragasani terroir.
- Drăgășani has all the prerequisites of a registered designation, in the French fashion. The Drăgășani vineyard has always produced white wines that are fine, cool, with good acidity. The red wines from the region, produced chiefly from Cabernet Sauvignon and the local variety Negru de Drăgășani, also enjoy national and international appreciation.
- Situated on the right bank of the Olt river, the largest tributary of the Danube in Romania, the Drăgășani vineyard extends over a length of 60 de km, between the Getic Sub Carpathians in the north and the Romanian plain in the south.
- The dominant soil in the vineyard is clay, with traces of limestone, sand, gravel and marl. The vineyard's climate is temperate continental, with Mediterranean influences, and its main characteristic is balance.

Major Wineries in Romania

- Domeniul Coroanei Segarcea, a royal estate in Oltenia, near the Danube, is reviving Romanian wine traditions.
- Founded in the early 20th century to serve the royal family, the estate expanded from vine nurseries to 300 hectares of vineyards.
- Despite setbacks during the communist era, when quality was sacrificed for quantity, the winery gained international recognition in 1929 for its DOC wines.
- After the revolution, the Anghel family took over in 2002, repurchasing 270 hectares and refocusing on quality by hiring French oenologist Ghislaine Guiraud.
- The estate's wines now blend royal heritage, local traditions, and philosophical values.



Major Wineries in Romania



- VINARTE is a Romanian winery producing white, rosé, and red wines from three key regions: Dealu Mare, Sâmburești, and Mehedinți.
- The Stârmina vineyard in Mehedinți, covering 190 hectares, is the largest and produces DOC-classified wines. The region's climate allows for cultivating various grape varieties and experimenting with winemaking styles.
- VINARTE's expressive white wines, like the Cuvée d'Excellence Riesling and Sauvignon Blanc, highlight the terroir. The winery also produces *Sirena Dunării*, a notable dessert wine inspired by the Sauternes method, with rich apricot and honeycomb flavors.
- Among red wines, VINARTE creates an assemblage of three native Romanian grape varieties: Fetească Neagră, Novac, and Negru of Drăgășani, producing a medium-bodied wine with plum, cherry, and spice notes. Other notable labels, such as Castel Stârmina and Prince Mircea, reflect the unique terroir and innovation at Mehedinți DOC.

Romania's Growing International Presence

- Romanian wines are gaining international recognition with awards and increasing exports.
- The country has a new wave of passionate winemakers and investment in technology.



Acknowledgement

My seminars are the result of many years of experience combined with many hours of research over the internet.

I would like to acknowledge the many source I have accessed.

These include Wine Spectator, Wine Enthusiast, BK Wine Magazine, Wine & Spirits Magazine, American Vineyard Magazine, The Grapevine Magazine, Wikipedia.com, Britannica.com, and the various Government websites.

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