

The Wine Travel Awards Ukraine Guide

www.winetravelawards.com 2022-2023



www.fathers-wine.com.ua

Alcohol abuse is dangerous to your health. Please consume in moderation

Ukraine. Vintage 2022. The wines of Victory.

Wine Travel Awards (WTA), an optimistic wine tourism project, was founded in the year when the world was ending the pandemic. It was the same year that the full-scale Russian aggression in Ukraine began. Our unbreakable optimism is the reason why this issue is dedicated to Ukraine. One may say that there's no point discussing tourism at the moment, now that Ukraine is in the flames of war. But very soon, after the Victory, that will definitely happen, Ukraine will become a Mecca of tourism, wine tourism in particular. Despite the war, the Sea of Wine project, a collaboration implementation of the Black Sea region countries which helps to discover the wine routes, has been completed, and Ukraine is part of this project. So, this issue of WTA Guide provides an exciting overview of today's winemaking in Ukraine, of Ukrainian winemakers, the true heroes who create history, and their wines that will go down in history.



c. 3

Sea of Wine. Information and Communication Technology Platform

The launch of a unique ICT platform (part of the Sea of Wine project) with a mobile application developed by the Ukrainian team, presenting the wine routes of the Black Sea Basin countries: Armenia, Georgia, Ukraine and Greece.



c. 4

5 New Stars

The selection of the editors of WTA Guide - 5 new stars - includes wineries that are very different in concept yet unbeatable in style, quality and a modern approach, which makes them a signature segment in the winemaking of Ukraine

Wineries: Father's Wine VB, Stakhovsky Wines, 46 Parallel Wine Group, My Wine, AXIS Wine.



c. 9

Wine and war

In fact, there is no winery in Ukraine that was not affected by the war: warehouses were bombed, factories were destroyed, vines were ruined by tanks, and the occupiers have still not been knocked out of certain regions. However, even under shelling, wherever possible, the Ukrainians were taking care of their vineyards, sometimes demining shells with their own hands. And then they harvested. And they made unique wines that may be included in the world's best collections.

Wineries: SliVino, Wineldea, Vinoman, Olvio Nuvo, Cassia, Leleka Wines, Prince Trubetskoi Winery.



c. 16

5 Wine Destinations

A selected pool of wineries producing exclusive wines which are worthy of a place in the enotecas of the most discerning connoisseurs. A visit to them will become an unforgettable experience, too.

Wineries: SHABO, Chateau Chizay, Kolonist, Beykush, Chateau Edem.



c. 21

8 Craft Wineries

There's a lot of craft winemakers in Ukraine, and the number of craft wineries in the pre-war years was growing exponentially. From that lot, we have selected, quite subjectively, the top 8, which we believe are worth visiting when the Ukrainian wine routes become safe again.

Wineries: Uman Winery, Sherwood Winery, Don Alejandro Winery, Grigory Kulinichenko Winery, Bohdan's Winery, Korus Wines, Kovach Family Winery, Shtifko Winery.



c. 29

Interview

The Dean of the Faculty of Wine Technology and Tourism Business of Odesa National Food Technologies University, Professor Anna Sarkisyan, about Ukraine's participation in The Sea of Wine project.

The Sea of Wine – let's travel conveniently!

For the Sea of Wine project, in which the Odesa National University of Technology participates, Ukrainian specialists have developed a unique ICT platform and mobile application.



The international project Sea of Wine is implemented by the team of the Odesa National University of Technology (ONUT) together with such leading partners as the International Center for Agribusiness Research and Education of Armenia (ICARE), the Fund "Georgian Center for Agribusiness Development" (Georgia) and the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece).

As you know, the Black Sea region is the cradle of world winemaking. Perhaps it is incredibly significant that the countries from these territories decided not to compete for high-profile status, but rather to develop a joint brand of wine tourism. The goal of The Sea of Wine project is to help wine and tourism companies, hotels and restaurants in these four countries develop joint modern approaches to promoting products and services. The platform of the seaofwine.travel project will soon be operational, where wine routes of Ukraine, Greece, Georgia, Armenia, as well as a joint route between partner countries - the Black Sea Wine Route - will be featured. So, you can choose a direction and plan your trip right from home. After downloading the app, enogastronomy tourists will always have all the wine routes at hand - choose and travel!

ICT platform (Information and Communication Technology) is a very important product for communication. Today, an advanced tourist chooses exactly such platforms that have built-in cross-posting

with a transition to social networks and other modern options (by the way, the Sea of Wine project already has pages on Instagram and Facebook). This is an interactive platform which provides a system for evaluating routes and wineries where you can leave your feedback. And such feedback, we note, is costless, but it gives invaluable marketing experience to every participating winery. In addition to English, the site and mobile application will be available in local languages: Ukrainian, Armenian, Greek and Georgian.

The mobile application for gadgets can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play. It is simple and convenient to use. It presents online routes created by specialists. The platform is more developed because it is connected to Google Maps. Besides, a system of filters and hashtags based on interests is in operation. The visitor will be able to independently shape their trip by choosing what interests them.

The website is designed according to the latest modern trends in web design, so that it is interesting, useful, and understandable from the point of view of user experience. All participating countries are presented on the home page. Here the visitor can choose the one they are interested in and go to its page. General information about winemaking in the region, wine routes is provided further. You can go to the pages of wineries or use hashtags and fil-

ters to find out what is nearby, for example cultural sights, architecture, hotels and restaurants, festivals, etc. There is also information on the language in which the excursion can be conducted, and methods of paying for services. Having created your own route, you can use a modern service to save its description, map, locations in PDF, thus creating your own offline guidebook. In addition, the site presents travel agencies and tour operators through which you can book a trip.

On the page of Ukraine, the developers paid a lot of attention to grape varieties, including the local Odesa Black, Sukholimansky, and European varieties, which are perfectly cultivated in the Ukrainian Black Sea region. Therefore, the platform carries out educational work in a broader sense, so that a guest, even before visiting a winery, is informed about the peculiarities of local wines, etc. This is important information also for specialists from other countries because, unfortunately, too little is known about Ukrainian winemaking in the world. For the same purpose, a section of a blog with interesting studies and trainings was created.

The Sea of Wine ICT platform and mobile application are convenient, innovative tools that provide enotourists around the world with the necessary information about routes, countries and their offers. It is a tool that expands horizons.

5 New Stars

Location:

Husyatyn, Ternopil region

Production volume:

23,000 bottles per year

Own vineyards: 4 hectares

Age of vines: 12 years

Father's Wine VB



Wines to notice

Rozhevy Kvadrat is a fresh, rich, bright rosé, one of the most popular wines of this winery. Variety: Jupiter. The aroma includes red currant, strawberry, barberry, duchess pear, and raspberry.

Burshtynove Kolo is an amber wine made from Muscat Ottonel, 50% aging in oak barrels for 7 months and 50% aging in clay amphora for 7 months. The aroma is a mixture of citrus fruits, dried fruits, honey, dried flowers, and some spices.

Lytse – Cabernet Sauvignon, aging in oak for 6 months. The aroma includes blackcurrants, blackberries, cherries, black pepper, spices, and a little vanilla. Full body, round tannins, peasant earthy finish.



In 2010, entrepreneur Volodymyr Buyachok planted an experimental vineyard in order to test the winemaking potential of Ternopil region. And after a few years, he started producing wine. In 2018, the founder of the winery passed away. But he left behind the idea of modern craft winemaking, which was picked up by his children and wife. They turned his hobby into a successful business. The wine was named after their father - Father's Wine VB. Their wines are distinguished not only by taste and quality, but also by special labels that have received the Red Dot: Best of the Best award for wine packaging. This award was given to a Ukrainian brand for the first time. Father's Wine VB this year also became a nominee of the Wine Travel Awards in the nomination The Visiting Card of the Country.

The owners hold tastings in restaurants, receive small groups of visitors to the winery. Soon, the estate will equip a tasting area and open its doors to full-scale wine tourism.

Varieties grown on own vineyard: Jupiter, Johanniter, Muscat Ottonel, Riesling, Sauvignon Blanc, Helios, Dublyansky. Merlot, Cabernet, Odesa Black are purchased in Odesa region.



Photo: Father's Wine VB

5 New Stars

Location:

Muzhievo, Transcarpathian region

Production volume:

60,000 bottles per year

Own vineyards: 22.5 hectares

Stakhovsky Wines



Stakhovsky Wines is a winery founded by the famous Ukrainian tennis champion, Serhiy Stakhovsky. Serhiy's first acquaintance with Great Wines took place in Bordeaux, and they have had a great influence on him.

Stakhovsky's vineyards can easily compete to be the most beautiful in Transcarpathia. A lot of effort has been invested into them. Many vines had to be uprooted and new ones planted, the soil was cultivated for more than two years: transplanted, replanted, and watered. This terroir, lying on the southwestern slopes of the mountain, has a special, very warm microclimate which allows growing even the most capricious varieties, both white and red.

Varieties: Traminer, Riesling, Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Saperavi, Zweigelt.

The first Stakhovsky wines were created from the 2018 vintage. Their style is elegant, restrained and at the same time powerful, just like his tennis.

Stakhovsky Wines tasting room is located among picturesque vineyards. Over 3 thousand tourists visited the location in the last 2 years. The winery was a nominee of the Wine Travel Awards 2021-2022 in the category The Visiting Card of the Country. The collection includes red dry wines (aged at least 10 months in French oak) as well as dry whites and orange wines. Stakhovsky Wines Merlot 2019, Cabernet Sauvignon 2020 and Saperavi 2018 presented at the Wines of Ukraine stand, organized by Drinks+ magazine at the initiative of the London Wine Fair-2021 were highly estimated by the international experts.

Varieties: Merlot, Saperavi, Cabernet Sauvignon, Traminer, Chardonnay, Zweigelt, Riesling. The plans include the cultivation of Fourmint and Pinot Noir vines.

Awards: Saperavi Ace 2018 - silver from Odesa Wine & Spirit Awards-2021, Merlot Ace 2019 - silver from Ukrainian Wine Festival 2021.



Wines to notice

Riesling Orange OW 2021, unfiltered, from the Rhein Riesling variety. Hand picking, natural fermentation on the skin for 19 days, manual pressing three times a day. Only 1,820 bottles were produced from 3,400 kg of grapes. Aroma: dried apricots, fruit and herbal tea. The taste is mild, with a slight note of honey and vivid acidity.

Merlot ACE 2019, aged 24 months in French oak. Aroma: dried cherry, tobacco, spices. Taste: full-bodied, plum, spices. Circulation: 4932 bottles.



Photo: Stakhovsky Wines, Arsen Fedosenko

5 New Stars

Location:

Ovidiopol district, Odesa region

Production volume:

65,000 bottles per year

46 Parallel Wine Group



Wines to notice

Grand Admiral Brut Nature 2018 is a sparkling wine made by the classic method with aging on the lees for at least 26 months. It opens with aromas of ripe yellow and white peach, apricot and tangerine, enhanced by tones of pineapple and carambola, followed by hints of vanilla, brioche, toffee and honey. The taste is balanced, with a delicate mousse and elegant aging notes.

El Capitan Pinot Noir 2019 is a dry red wine. Rich aroma with notes of ripe cherry, black cherry, blackberry and blueberry jam, with delicate vanilla nuances and delicate tones of barrel aging. The taste is harmonious with a pleasant balance of acidity, mature tannins and a long after-taste of ripe berries.

46 Parallel Wine Group was founded in 2020. The founders, Anna and Taras Gorkun, dreamed of creating wines that would be good enough to represent Ukraine worldwide. And they have succeeded in this. The company's credo sounds like "Proudly Ukrainian" and proud they should be. The wines of 46 Parallel Wine Group, a nominee of the Wine Travel Awards in the nomination The Visiting Card of the Country, have been recognized by many prestigious international competitions. The total number of awards in the two years of existence of 46 Parallel Wine Group has reached 100!

46 Parallel Wine Group presents two premium collections — Grand Admiral and El Capitan, as well as a more democratic Apostrophe collection. The wine company buys the best grapes grown on the 46th "winemaking parallel" in the south of Ukraine, in the Kherson, Mykolaiv and Odesa regions. Today, most of these territories are under Russian shelling or under occupation. But Anna and Taras maintain the team and continue to work both for the domestic wine lover and for export.

Varieties: Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Saperavi, Pinot Blanc, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Pinot Gris, Pinot Meunier, Bastardo, Rhenish Riesling, Odesa Black.

Awards: Grand Admiral Saperavi, 2018 - Silver, Grand Admiral Brut Nature Rose, 2019 - Bronze from Berlin International Wine Competition 2022. Grand Admiral Brut Nature 2018 - Silver, Grand Admiral Brut Nature Rose 2019 - Silver, El Capitan Brut 2019 - Silver and El Capitan Brut Rose 2021 - silver from the London Wine Competition 2022. Grand Admiral Merlot - Cabernet Sauvignon - gold, Grand Admiral Merlot - silver from the Concours Mondial de Bruxelles 2021. Twelve medals from the International WINE & SPIRITS Ukraine 2021 competition.



Photo: 46 Parallel Wine Group

5 New Stars

Location:

Roksolany, Odesa region

Own vineyards:

planting of 10 hectares is planned.

My Wine by Eduard Horodetsky



Eduard Horodetsky is a winemaker by profession, but for many years he worked as the director of the Shustov Odesa brandy factory. He created his first wine in June 2021. Horodetsky's family winery has not been officially opened yet, because of the war. In November 2020, the winemaker bought a plot of land with an old, half-ruined house, which he dreamed of turning into a chateau. In a few months, the aging cellar, the tasting room, and the roof were replaced. It was planned to open the winery for visitors on May 7, but the war changed all plans. Eduard Horodetsky is currently actively engaged in volunteer activities and support of the Ukrainian army.

Horodetsky's first wines have been welcomed warmly by wine experts and connoisseurs. There were 4 wines in the first release — Chardonnay, Pinot Noir Rosé, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. The winemaker himself considers Rosé and Merlot to be the most successful. Rosé, in particular, scores highly on Vivino.

Horodetsky makes wines from grapes that grow in Bessarabia, Izmail and Bolgrad regions: there is the most sun, and the berries ripen best. Varieties My Wine works with: Pinot Noir, Pinot Blanc, Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot. In addition to still wines, this year the winemaker made sparkling wines for the first time - white and rosé brut.

Awards: Merlot my Wine Eduard Gorodetsky - silver Ukraine Wine&Spirits Awards 2021 in Kyiv.

Wines to notice

Merlot my Wine Eduard Gorodetsky. Aroma: cherries, plums and red berries. Taste: rich, velvety, fruity notes, long, pleasant after-taste.

Chardonnay my Wine by Eduard Gorodetsky is fresh, light, and has a pleasant light straw color. Aroma: apple, tropical fruits, fresh herbs. The taste is refreshing with light tones of vanilla, ripe fruits and white flowers.



Photo: My Wine, Arsen Fedosenko

5 New Stars

Location: Lviv
Production volume:
5,000 bottles per year
Own vineyards: 1 ha

AXIS Wine



AXIS Wine is a young but very successful craft winery founded in 2017 by business partners Dmytro Kopyi and Serhiy Urbanovskiy. It is located in Lviv, but the vineyard is in Southern Bessarabia, Odesa region, near Izmail. AXIS winemakers work with European grape varieties such as Chardonnay, Riesling, Pinot Noir, Pinot Grigio, Merlot, Cabernet, Odesa Black, Saperavi and others. Dmytro and Serhiy are real perfectionists. This is reflected in the purity and high quality of their wines and even in the branding of the winery.

The owners of AXIS Wine plan to expand production and open a tasting room. Plans, like those of many other Ukrainian winemakers, were somewhat delayed because of the war. But we hope that soon Dmytro and Serhiy will welcome guests at the stylish, modern urban AXIS winery.

Awards: more than 10 gold and silver medals from reputable Ukrainian tasting competitions - Ukraine Wine & Spirits, Odesky Zalyv, Halytska Loza, Wine Guide of Ukraine, etc.

Wines to notice

A perfectly balanced, refined and at the same time quite full-bodied, floral-citrus-gooseberry Riesling, Chardonnay sur lie, as well as an extremely subtle and interesting red dry Pinot Noir.

Axis Wine Pinot Noir Barrique, aged 6 months in French oak. Deep ruby color. Aroma: wild berries, pomegranate, cherry marmalade. Taste: rounded, with pleasant acidity and soft tannins, lengthy finish.

Saturday Dream Passito 2019 – a blend of Merlot 60% (ripened), Saperavi 20% and Cabernet Sauvignon 20%. Barrique, aged at least 12 months in French oak barrels. A full-bodied wine with good acidity. Raisins, prunes, figs, cherry stones in the aroma. Alcohol 15%.



Wine and war

Location: Slivino, Mykolaiv region
Capacity: 5 thousand units per year
Own vineyards: 6 hectares
Age of vines: 8-10 years

SliVino Village



SliVino Family Winery was founded by father and son, Mykhailo and Georgy Molchanov. It is located in a historical area on the picturesque slopes of the South Bug River, where grapes were grown and wine was produced since the end of the 19th century. Vineyards feel great in the steppe zone of Ukraine, with its warm summers and mild winters. Soils: red clay, sandstone.



Inspired by ancient history, the Molchanovs built a winery in the style of the last century, where they welcome tourists, hold vineyard tours, tastings and festivals. Since the beginning of Russian aggression in Ukraine, enemy missiles have been hitting SliVino Village more than once, but the winemakers continued to do their job: they were taking care of the vines, while sappers were de-mining the territory. The harvest was late this year due to the rains. Therefore, the red wines of 2022 from the southern front will be light and low in alcohol.

Varieties: Cabernet Sauvignon, Odesa Black, Chardonnay, Sukholiman-sky White, Pinot Gris, Pinot Noir, Saperavi, Rkatsiteli, Telti Kuruk, Riesling, etc.

Awards: Silver medal for Cabernet 2017 and two bronze medals for Chardonnay 2018 and Riesling 2018 by Uvines Awards.

Wines to notice

Rkatsiteli Orange – fermentation on pulp for two weeks, then aging for 6 months in an oak barrel. Due to varietal characteristics and technology, this wine acquired a bright character. Nose: apricot and pear garden, steppe herbs and minerality, like a light breeze from the estuary. Palate: full body, pleasant acidity, honey and sun dried fruits. On the label there's a pheasant that lived in this vineyard and made quite a lot of damage by eating ripening grapes.

But, due to the obstinate nature of the family of winemakers and their love and respect for the environment, the bird was tamed, and now it has its own home at the winery and no longer harms the vineyards.

Grad Cru 2022 is a unique wine "with the taste of metal and gunpowder", as the winemaker describes it, made from the grapes harvested at the vineyard hit by Russian missiles. Sparkling wine created by the method ancestral (natural fermentation) – pet-nat.



Photo: SliVino Village

Wine and war

Location: Yasnohorodka, Makariv district, Kyiv region.

Capacity: 17,000 liters per year

Own vineyards: 1.3 hectares

Age of vines: 8 years

WINEIDEA



WINEIDEA was founded in 2013. On a small vineyard, on sandy soils with clay and pebble deposits at a depth of 1-1.5 meters, mainly vines of white varieties are grown. Due to the moderate climate of Kyiv region, the grapes grown here have good acidity. Red varieties are purchased in the south of Ukraine.

The winery has a well-developed tourist infrastructure - a restaurant, an eco-park and a recreation area. Every fall, the "Family Winemaker" festival takes place here, guests can make their own wine and put it in the "wine bank" for aging.



Wines to notice

Odesa Black is a dry red wine aged in French barrels. Nose: dark berries with earthy notes, dried fruits and dry herbs. Palate: soft tannins, full body, finish: cherry stone and slight bitterness.



At the beginning of the Russian invasion, the winery literally found itself on the front line. Buildings were damaged by shells, animals in the eco-park died, and people were hiding from the shelling in the wine cellar. When the enemy was knocked out from under Kyiv, life quickly resumed here. The owners rebuilt everything that had been destroyed and began to receive guests, hold festivals, and wine was poured into bottles with the inscription "To our Victory!"

Varieties: Citron of Magarach, Sauvignon Blanc, Riesling, Johanner, Odesa Black, Cabernet Sauvignon.

Wine and war

Location: Zhavynka, Chernihiv region
Capacity: 10,000 liters per year
Own vineyards: 4 hectares
Vine age: 7 years

Vinoman Winery



Wines to notice

Blend Cabernet Sauvignon & Merlot – aged in a rock oak barrel for 6 months. Nose: ripe fruit, black currant and cherry. Palate: intense, well-rounded, vivid tannins, long and pleasant finish.

Blend Pinot Noir x Merlot 2019 – aged in a barrel for 15 months. Nose: dark fruits, spices, autumn leaves, earthy aromas. Palate: fruity, full-bodied, soft tannins, velvet, round finish.

The owner and winemaker of Vinoman Winery, Borys Slaboshevsky, creates unique wines at the northernmost winery in Ukraine. It is located in the picturesque area, where the Desna River washes the vineyard on both sides, which provides sufficient humidity. The soil is sandstone. The winery produces elegant, clear and high-class wines, some of them are aged in rock oak barrels.

Boris Slaboshevsky also had a fish farm, where noble sturgeon were grown in particular, and in peacetime they held tastings of wines, which were paired with their signature snacks. During the hostilities, the fish farm was destroyed, but fortunately the vineyards were not damaged. This spring, the viticultural processes were accompanied by heavy shelling - the ancient city of Chernihiv was destroyed by Russian missiles. And in March, a former colleague of Mr. Slaboshevsky, winemaker Serhiy Zolotar, was killed by a Russian bomb. Of course, it took a lot of courage to withstand all these blows. Boris worked hard and found the strength to help the defenders of the city.

Despite all the challenges, the wines of Vinoman Winery were well represented at the Wines of Ukraine stand at the London Wine Fair this year. It was there that George Biswas, a leading wine expert, praised the winery's 2019 Pinot Noir & Merlot blend.

Varieties: Merlot, Pinot Noir, Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc.

Awards: bronze – Pinot Noir & Merlot 2019 and Cabernet Sauvignon & Merlot 2020 at The Balkans International Wine Competition and Festival 2022; gold for Chardonnay 2018 and Merlot 2018, silver for Pinot Gris 2018, silver from the All-Ukrainian Odesa Wine & Spirit Awards tasting competition.

Today, tastings are not held at the winery, but if guests come, they will not be refused here.



Photo: www.facebook.com/vinoman.winery

Wine and war

Location: Parutyne,
Ochakiv district, Mykolaiv region
Capacity: 20,000 liters per year
Own vineyards: 10.60 hectares
Age of vines: 8 years

Olvio Nuvo



The road to the Olvia Nuvo family winery, founded in 2013 by Pavel Magalyas, is lined with rapans - Black Sea shells. The winery is located near the ancient city of Olvia (now a historical and archaeological reserve), founded by Greek settlers at the beginning of the 6th century. B.C. During archeological excavations, evidence of the existence of winemaking in those distant times was found here. Wine production in this area with its unique landscapes is facilitated by weather rich in sunny days.

Olvio Nuvo winemakers work with wild yeast and do not use any preservatives. "Nothing is added to my wine except sun, rain and wind" — says Pavlo Magalyas. White, pink and red dry wines are produced here. The winemaker's wife, Alla, organizes tastings, wine festivals with shows and artistic performances.

The war has changed everything. The 2022 vintage has a taste of gunpowder. Although, as Mr. Magalyas points out, this year's wine will be exceptionally good, such wines only come once every five years.

With the beginning of the Russian aggression, the winery found itself on the front line. The host went to the ranks of territorial defense and became a sapper. He demined fields and vineyards - both his own and those of his neighbors. Between rocket attacks, they continued the viticulture. Today, the winery can show visitors a bunch of defused ammunition, along with a collection of remains of ancient Greek amphorae found in the vineyards.

Varieties: Johanniter, Odesa Black (Alibernet), Bastardo, Malvasia Bianca, Cabernet Sauvignon, Irsai Oliver.

Wines to notice

Johanniter – no oak aging. Aroma – white flowers, stone fruits, citrus. Taste: fruity, with a slight grapefruit finish.

Alibernet is produced from the flagship Ukrainian variety Odesa Black (Alibernet). Fermentation on wild yeast without the use of preservatives. No oak aging. The aroma is rich, with distinct tones of dark berries and spices (varietal property). The taste is berry with moderate tannins.



Wine and war

Location: Myla, Bucha district, Kyiv region

Capacity: up to 3 thousand liters for a year

Own vineyards: none. Grapes are bought in Odesa region

Cassia Wine



Wines to notice

Cabernet Sauvignon 2017. The intense aroma and velvety taste of this wine is due to the technology of fermentation on the pulp. Wild yeast is used.

Chardonnay 2020 – natural amber wine, also with fermentation on the pulp. Nose: dried flowers, dried apricots, honey, steppe herbs, nuts. Palate: rich, with a slight hint of tannins and spices.

Cassia Wine is located half an hour's drive from the center of Kyiv. This family winery, founded by Mykola and Volodymyr Kasyanenko in their estate. The winemaker, Mykola Kasyanenko, has been passionate about wine for a long time, and produces natural and high-quality wines with an amazing character, without the use of sulfur dioxide.

Natural wines under the Cassia brand with distinctive labels depicting horses are popular among wine lovers, and tastings held at the winery in peacetime were very popular too... But at the end of February, the cozy village of Myla was occupied. Russian shells hit the house of Mykola Kasyanenko twice. Fortunately, the winery and wine cellar were preserved - so the Cassia wine collection will be presented to numerous guests after the Victory. Now the Kasyanenko winery continues its work.



Photo: Cassia wine

Location: Vesele, Beryslav district, Kherson region
Own vineyards: 200 hectares

Prince Trubetskoi Winery



Wines to notice

Oksamyt Ukrainy – Cabernet Sauvignon, aged 2 years in oak. Aromas of dried dark berries, black pepper, jam, tobacco, leather, vanilla. The taste is juicy berries. Silver from the Wine Guide of Ukraine. Silver from Concours Mondial de Bruxelles-2021.

Perlyna Stepu – 100% Aligote, aging in oak for 1.5 years. The aroma includes wild flowers, pear, vanilla and spices. The taste is dense, rich, with an excellent balance of acidity and a lasting finish.

Rhein Riesling is a wine produced in a limited series. Selected Riesling grapes were collected from a special plot of 2.3 hectares, located on the slopes of the Dnieper. The aroma of citrus and tropical fruits, with floral notes and a characteristic benzene shade. The taste is fresh, rounded, and has an excellent vertical structure. The finish is long, rich and juicy. Signature Riesling aged in the bottle.



Prince Trubetskoi Winery is the only historical chateau in Ukraine, more than 120 years old. This is one of the most iconic Ukrainian wineries, a true pearl of the Kherson region. Since the end of the 19th century, from the moment the first vineyards were planted and the Chateau was built by Prince Trubetsky, a lot has changed: the old winery underwent a global reconstruction and today it is a European-level winery producing premium terroir Ukrainian wines. Prince Trubetskoi Winery is one of the most outstanding locations of Ukrainian wine tourism, offering a comfortable mini-hotel, a restaurant, a historic winery building from 1900 with a tower and an observation deck, excellent tasting rooms, restored pre-revolutionary wine cellars with wine aging and a luxurious wine collection. One of the winery's signature wines, the Rhine Riesling, won the Grand Prix at the Paris Exhibition back in 1900, and now, like many of the Chateau's wines, it has won the highest awards at various prestigious competitions.

The vineyards of Prince Trubetskoi Winery are located on the slopes of the Kakhovka reservoir. The predominant type of soil under the vineyards is loamy black soil. The climate here is moderately continental, with the duration of the frost period that sometimes reaches 85-100 days a year.

Unfortunately, the Prince Trubetskoi Winery is located in the temporarily occupied territory, so the work of the enterprise is currently paralyzed. Laboratory equipment, restaurant and shop property were partially mutilated. The production part of the winery hopefully remains intact. The fate of the wine cellars and the wines stored in them is currently unknown.

The warehouse of Prince Trubetskoi Winery in Gostomel near Kyiv was also heavily damaged. These wines are now almost impossible to find in the stores. Fortunately, the employees of the winery were not injured. This is the greatest and most important value, and it is thanks to these people that the work of Prince Trubetskoi Winery will definitely resume after the Victory of Ukraine!



Wine and war

Vineyards: Dolynka, Odesa region, Southern Bessarabia
Production: Odesavinprom, Rozhivka, Odesa region

Leleka Wines



Leleka Wines is a young and successful Ukrainian brand created by a wine import company, Wine Discovery Selection. And this is a very successful debut! Pure, elegant Leleka wines are produced from grapes grown in Southern Bessarabia under the patronage of viticulturist and winemaker Zurab Kuchuhidze.

Varieties: Chardonnay, Pinot Gris, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot.



Wines to notice

Chardonnay Reserve – aged in oak barrels for 6 months. Notes of juicy pineapple, spicy lemon zest and ripe pears are harmoniously intertwined in the rich aroma. The delicate taste is revealed with honey shades of baked apples, crunchy almond flakes and creamy notes in a pleasant long finish.

Merlot – a pleasant fruity aroma that reveals shades of ripe cherry, plum and blackberry. Rich, but at the same time elegant and noble, with an expressive character.



Like many other Ukrainian manufacturers, this company suffered from the Russian aggression. In March, a Russian rocket destroyed the company's warehouses in Stoyanka near Kyiv. Nevertheless, the winery miraculously managed to save and bottle the 2019 vintage. We look forward to a successful and victorious 2022 vintage.

5 Wine Destinations

Location: Shabo, Bilgorod-Dnistrovsky distr., Southern Bessarabia
Capacity: 18 million bottles per year
Own vineyards: 1200 hectares
Age of vines: 10-50 years

SHABO Winery & Distillery



Wines to notice

Telti-Kuruk Reserve 2018. Aromas: acacia flowers, quince, steppe herbs, citrus fruits, and pineapple. Rounded taste with distinct mineral finish.

SHABO Cabernet Grande Reserve 2017, made from grapes from the Cru mini plots. Fermentation in oak, 12 months aging in French barriques. Elegant and complex wine.

SHABO Chardonnay Grande Reserve 2015 from a limited collection of aged wines. Fermentation in oak, 12 months aging in French barriques. Spicy, perfectly balanced and expressive.

Vaja Cabernet Sauvignon 2017 lukuridze Family Wine Heritage from the collection of the Great Wines of SHABO. Only special vintages. The lukuridze family has been working on their creation since they founded the company. The blend of these wines was personally selected by the founder of SHABO, Vazha lukuridze, together with international experts and world-class consultants from the Derenoncourt company. lukuridze Family Wine Heritage wines have a very high bottle aging potential.



Photo Sergiy Kadulin.

This winery, founded in 2003, is a family business of the Iukuridze family. The ancient traditions of Georgian winemaking in SHABO are connected with the more than 2,000-year wine history of Bessarabia and the influence of Swiss colonists who came to these lands at the beginning of the 19th century. SHABO produces still and sparkling wines, brandy and grape vodka. The technological level of the winery is higher than that of some European productions. SHABO's own vineyards are located between the Black Sea and the Dniester estuary.

Varieties: Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Pinot Gris, Pinot Noir, Rhine Riesling, Sauvignon Blanc, Syrah, Chardonnay, etc. This variety is considered a hallmark not only of SHABO, but also for all of Ukraine. After all, there are no self-rooted vines of this variety anywhere else in the world. To preserve Telti-Kuruk, the company has developed a special social program. In SHABO, the largest plantings of Telti-Kuruk are more than 40 hectares, and the age of some vines is 50 years.

Awards: more than 500 awards from Mundus Vini, IWC, etc. In 2021, SHABO, first time in Ukraine, received Decanter Wine Awards Gold for Chardonnay Grande Reserve 2015 and Cabernet Grande Reserve 2017. SHABO wines are exported to 20 countries all over the world.

But the real pride of SHABO owners is the Wine Culture Center, one of the most famous tourist attractions in the region. Winelovers can visit the House of Sparkling Wines, micro-vinification department and other technological premises. The attractions include two-hundred-year-old Swiss cellars, modern art objects, museums, cinemas, a musical fountain, as well as professional SHABO wine tastings. Shabsky Dvoryk Restaurant offers authentic Bessarabian and Georgian cuisine.



Photos provided by SHABO Winer

5 Wine Destinations

Location: Berehove, Transcarpathia
Capacity: 1.3 million bottles per year
Own vineyards: 272 hectare

Chateau Chizay



Chateau Chizay Winery was founded 20 years ago. The vineyards are located in tMala Hora near Berehove. Grape varieties: Traminer Pink, Furmint, Chersegi, Gewürztraminer, Welsh Riesling, Muscat Ottonel, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Pinot Noir, Pinot Blanc and others. French and Hungarian oak barrels are used to age wines. The winery produces still and sparkling wines (Sekts).

Awards: Silver medals from The London Wine Competition-2021 for Chersegi, Furmint and Troyanda Karpat (The Carpathian Rose). Gold for Cabernet Franc-2018 from Odesa Wine & Spirit Awards-2021. Gold for Ice Wine Chateau Chizay from Wine&Spirits Ukraine Awards 2020. Silver from Decanter World Wines 2022 for Cabernet Franc Aged 2018. Gold from Paris Wine Cup 2022 for Troyanda Karpat 2017.

Chateau Chizay has one of the most well-kept and beautiful vineyards in Ukraine. Wine tourism is a big thing here: the Chateau has a wonderful restaurant, a hotel, and the Museum of winemaking. Various tours and events are held in the vineyards.

Wines to notice

Furmint Aged is a dry white wine from 15-year-old vines, aged for 9 months in Hungarian white oak barrels. Citrus, vanilla, almond aroma. The taste has bright acidity, roundness, and a long mineral aftertaste.

Cabernet Franc Aged limited batch, aged 18 months in French oak barrels. A complex aroma of dark berries, cherries, hot pepper and vanilla with hints of tobacco. Velvety tannins, pleasant acidity.

Troyanda Karpat, aged white dessert wine, is the legend of Chateau Chizay. Variety: Traminer Pink. Aroma of caramelized fruits, nuts, honey and flowers, smoky shade. Alcohol 16%.



Photos provided by Chateau Chizay Winery

5 Wine Destinations

Location: Krynychne, Bolhrad district, Odesa region, Southern Bessarabia
Capacity: 280,000 bottles per year
Own vineyards: 33 hectares
Age of vines: 9-15 years

Kolonist Winery



Kolonist is a family winery owned by Ivan and Alla Plachkovs, founded in 2005. Ivan's great-grandfather was one of the Bulgarian colonists who settled in in the 18th century, his portrait is depicted on the winery's logo.

Kolonist vineyards are located on the south-western slopes of the hills overlooking Yalpug Lake, exposed to extra sunlight reflected from the water.

Varieties: local — Odessa Black and Sukholimansky, international — Chardonnay, Rhine Riesling, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot.

Kolonist wines are officially presented by the diplomatic corps of Ukraine. They were awarded several prestigious international competitions.

Guests are always welcome at the Kolonist winery. Wine tastings and wine festivals are often held here, pairing excellent Kolonist wines with authentic Bessarabian cuisine.

Wines to notice

Cabernet Merlot "Haut de gamme" 2016 is a dry aged red wine, fermented in oak, aged for 14 months in new French barrels. Deep aromas of dark cherry, dried fruit, mulberry, prune, coffee, mint, smoky notes, and an elegant taste with moderate tannins and a rich and persistent finish.

Riesling 2021 is a semi-dry Rhine Riesling demonstrating bright tones of mango and white peach, notes of resin and flowers, with a fresh and light taste and a pleasant, fruity and mineral finish.



Photos: Arsen Fedosenko, Kolonist Winery

5 Wine Destinations

Location: Chornomorka,
Ochakiv district, Mykolaiv region
Production volume:
50,000 bottles per year
Own vineyards: 11 hectares

Beykush Winery



Wines to notice

Beykush Kara-Kermen is a blend of Saperavi and Tempranillo, made by the appassimento method from dried berries. Aroma: figs in chocolate, cherries with rum, truffles, noble anise and a little smoke. The palate has a pleasant astringency and rich sweetness. The wine was named after an ancient building Kara-Kermen (translates as "black fortress"), which stood on the territory of the modern city of Ochakiv, not far from the Beykush winery.

Riesling Orange (Beykush Orange Amber Wine), Beykush Amphora series — fermented and aged in a ceramic amphora — a traditional Iberian tinaja. This is orange wine, made of the famous Georgian Rkatsiteli variety. The nose is herbs, honey flowers, on the palate — honey, nuts, apricots, plums, dried apricots.

Arbina is the legendary orange from Beykush. Aroma: juicy pineapples, chamomile in honey, some pepper and spices.



Beykush Winery is, as its owners call it, a family winery on the Black Sea coast. Many varieties are grown at the winery's own vineyards, including the rare ones and those atypical for Ukraine. The winemakers of Beykush are also well-known for their successful experimenting with blends. The name "Beykush" is of Turkish origin and means "the king of birds". This is also the name of the cape, in honor of which the winery took its name.

The vineyards are located on this cape, at a distance of several hundred meters from the sea. The cape is washed on one side by Beykush Bay and on the other by Berezan estuary. The vineyards are well blown by the winds, which protect the vines from diseases and soften the climate, especially in hot years. The soils are mainly red loams.

Varieties: Riesling, Chardonnay, Pinot Grigio, Sauvignon Blanc, Rkatsiteli, Pinot Noir, Merlot, Saperavi, Cabernet Sauvignon. On the experimental plots, rare whites are grown - Ukrainian indigenous Telti-Kuruk, Spanish Albariño and Italian Timorasso, as well as red Tempranillo, Malbec and Pinotage.

In addition to experiments with blending, Beykush winemakers use clay and concrete amphorae, which allow oxygen to pass through and do not give the aroma of the wine shades of oak. Fermentation is also carried out in small oak barrels.

In peacetime, Beykush Winery welcomes guests: they conduct a tour of the winery and tasting of unique wines on the open terrace with a wonderful view of the estuary and the vineyards on the other coast. In 2019, Beykush completed the construction of a new winery building, which is a mini-masterpiece of modern architecture. Also, Villa Beykush Wine Sunrises & Sunsets bio-eco-eno hotel has recently been opened at the winery.

Awards: Decanter 2021: Bronze - Artania White 2020, Artania Red 2018, Kara-Kermen 2017, Artania Red 2018; silver — Arbina 2019, Chardonnay-Riesling 2019; gold — Chardonnay Reserve 2019.



Photos: Arsen Fedosenko, <https://www.facebook.com/beykushwinery>

5 Wine Destinations

Location: Strelki,
Peremyshlyansky district, Lviv region
Production volume: 1500 l per year
Own vineyards: 1.5 ha

Château Edem Winery



The vineyards of Château Edem Winery were planted in 2016 on the territory of the Edem Resort Medical & SPA near Lviv. Frost-resistant grape varieties from Germany were chosen for planting, as they are the ones best suited to the climate of Western Ukraine. The soils in this microzone, loam with limestone deposits, are ideal for winemaking. The first vintage was produced 4 years after the vines were planted.

Varieties: Solaris, Muscaris, Souvenir Gris, Johanniter, Pinot Noir, Cabernet Cortis.

Red wines are aged in French oak barrels. Despite its relatively young age, Chateau Edem already has its own success story. Wines created by the winemaker Vitaly Malanchuk have received many awards from Ukrainian wine competitions. Chateau Edem's strong point is white wines.

Awards: Solaris 2018 — bronze from the Uvines Awards 2019. Sauvignier Gris 2019 and Solaris & Muscaris 2019 — bronze from the Wine & Spirits Ukraine 2020.

Chateau Edem winery is part of the large tourist and wellness complex, Edem Resort Medical & SPA.

Chateau Edem wines are, of course, presented in the exquisite restaurant of this incredibly beautiful hotel and SPA complex.

Wines to notice

Souvincier Gris – dry white, aromas of tropical fruits and white flowers. Harmonious taste with citrus notes and pleasant acidity.

Solaris & Muscaris – dry white, a blend with a pronounced floral aroma with shades of rose, pear, nutmeg. Balanced taste of green apple.



8 Craft Wineries

Location:

Uman, Cherkasy region

Capacity:

1.5 - 3 thousand liters per year

Vineyards: the Black Sea region

Uman Winery



Wines to notice

Muscat Ottonel/Aligote Orange 2018 is a dry wine of bright amber color. Aroma: sweet honey and floral notes. The taste is rounded with acidity, a light stone tone is felt, moderate tannins.

Alibernet 2017 – restrained in aroma, notes of wood and raisins. Palate: velvety tannins, in, a good combination of acidity and fruitiness, dried pear finish.

Uman Winery began as a hobby of sommelier Ihor Maksymenko who opened it in 2013. He produced his first experimental wines in 2015. The winemaker was most interested in the Odesa Black (Alibernet) variety, a famous Ukrainian red created by the breeders from the Tairov Institute in Odesa.

Ihor hosts very interesting tasting lectures for guests of the winery. During the tastings, visitors get acquainted with wine evaluation methods, principles of enogastronomy, etc. Due to the enthusiasm of the winemaker, Uman Winery became a nominee of the Wine Travel Awards 2021-2022 in the Unique Program category and made it to the final of the public voting.

Wine tourists have the opportunity to explore the city of Uman, the Sofiivka Dendrological Park, the Basilian Monastery and the Monks' Caves, the burial place of Rebbe Nachman, where Hasidim from all over the world come to celebrate the Jewish New Year. The city has a well-developed HoReCa infrastructure.

Varieties: Bastardo, Merlot, Saperavi, Solaris, Cabernet Sauvignon, Odesa Black (Alibernet).

Awards: Odessa Wine and Spirits Award for Muscat Ottonel/Aligote Orange 2018 and Alibernet 2017 gold from Odessa Wine and Spirits Award. Merlot 2017 and Saperavi 2017 - silver from "Odesky Zalyv -2019".



8 Craft Wineries

Sherwood Winery



The owner, Serhiy Kovalenko, has been engaged in wine-making since 2015. He personally takes care of the vineyard and creates the wines. The location of the vineyards is perfect: proximity to the steppe zone and loess soils are very good for viticulture, the climate in this area is moderately continental with mild winters and warm summers.

Sherwood Winery produce dry reds, dessert and rose wines.

Varieties: Jupiter, Zweigelt, Gurzuf Rosé, Livadia Black.

Sherwood Winery collaborates with the Forest club Sherwood hotel and restaurant complex, which has everything to spend a holiday, relax, enjoy nature and excellent wines.

Sherwood Winery is a nominee of the Wine Travel Awards The Visiting Card of the Country.

Awards: “Merlot” - “The best rosé dry wine of Ukraine 2019” at the 5th All-Ukrainian tasting competition “Variety and terroir. Micro-viticulture”. Love story - “The best dessert wine of Ukraine 2020” at the VI All-Ukrainian tasting competition “Variety and terroir. Micro-viticulture”. Grand Vale, 2019 – silver from the All-Ukrainian Odessa Wine & Spirit Awards tasting competition.

Location:

Uman, Cherkasy region

Capacity:

2 thousand bottles per year

Own vineyards: 0.15 ha

Age of the vines: 11 years



Wines to notice

Grand Vale – a classic Bordeaux blend (Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot). Wine of deep ruby color. Nose: tones of red berries, poppy, cinnamon. Palate: powerful body, mature tannins. The taste is rich with notes of cherry and black currant.

Love story is a dessert wine made from the Gurzuf Rosé grape variety. Nose: bright, intense aromas of honey and roses. Palate: lasting, pleasant finish of sweet berries.

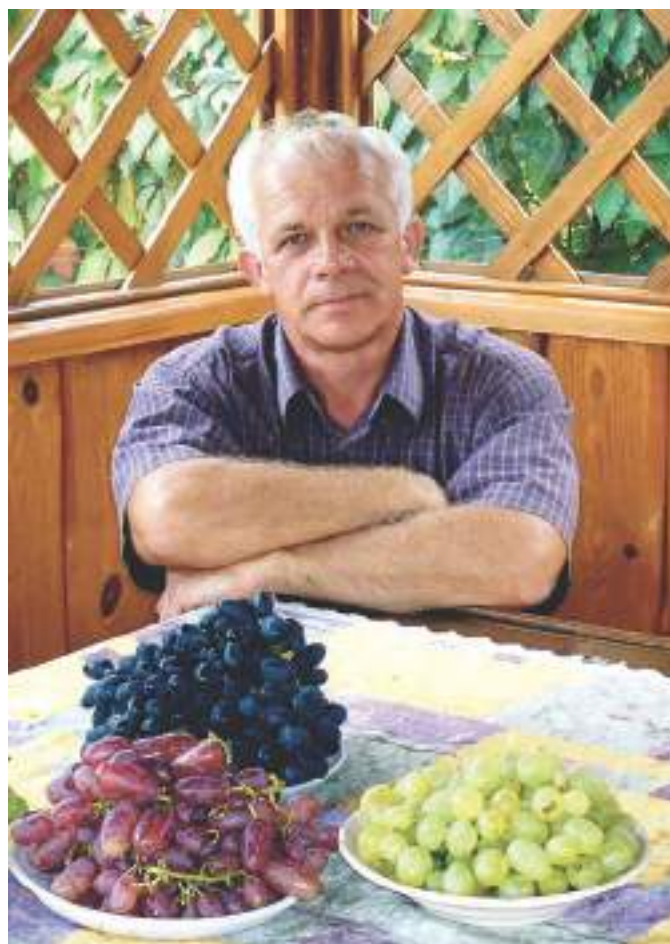


Фото: <https://www.facebook.com/kovalenko.sergei>

8 Craft Wineries

Location: Kholodna Balka, Bilyaiv district, Odesa region
Capacity: 20-40 thousand bottles per year
Own vineyards: 14 ha
Age of the vines: 20 years

Don Alejandro Winery



Don Alejandro Winery was founded in 2005 by Oleksandr Shapovalov, a representative of the sixth generation of wine-makers and an architect by profession, and he is fairly called the “Salvador Dali and Gaudi” of Ukrainian winemaking for his creativity and style. Don Alejandro Winery is a large family estate boasting a unique architecture and atmosphere, with authentic wine cellars, winemaking facilities and a tasting room where you can taste their unique natural wines.

Don Alejandro is a master of original style not only in design, but also in winemaking. He is the inventor of a new trend in winemaking, cosmodynamics. Hence no less than cosmic names of his wines: Metamorphosa, Paradigma, Equilibrium, Haematogenum, Quasar etc (all of them copyrighted).

Don Alejandro vineyards are located on the banks of the warm Khadzhibey estuary. The soils are loamy, limestone. In summer, the weather here is hot and sunny, which has a good effect on the ripening of berries, on the amount of sugar and aromatic phenolic compounds. And, of course, it is enjoyed by the numerous guests who visit this artistic winery!

Varieties: Riesling, Chardonnay, Aligote, Pinot Noir, Odessa Black, Merlot, Saperavi, Cabernet Sauvignon and others.

Wines to notice

Paradigma is a dry white wine made from 2014 Chardonnay grapes. The wine has a bright, rich aroma. It is distinguished by the presence of original tar notes.

Metamorphosa is a dry red wine, a blend of Cabernet, Saperavi and Merlot. Rich natural wine, with a bright aroma of blackberry and ripe black mulberry. It has a balanced rounded taste, with notes of paprika and black pepper.



Photo: www.facebook.com/donalejandrowinery

8 Craft Wineries

Location: Gorokhove,
Borodyanka district, Kyiv region
Capacity: 5,000 liters per year
Vineyards: 4 ha

Hryhoriy Kulynychenko's Winery



In 2011, Hryhoriy Kulynychenko, a farmer from Kaharlyk, decided to allocate a plot of land for a vineyard on the lands of his large farm in the village of Gorokhove. He tried many varieties until he settled on those that ripen in the conditions of this area. Currently, 30 varieties are grown here, among which the red ones mainly belong to the Western selection, the white ones to the Ukrainian one (V. Tairov Institute of Winemaking and Viticulture). The vines reach their roots into the layers of clay, creating wines with a luxurious aroma reminiscent of the Rhône in style.

The main principles of winemaking: own grapes, the journey from the field to the winery takes 15 minutes, temperature control at all stages. The owners of the winery, the Kulynychenko family, are always happy to welcome winelovers. Tourists are also attracted to the picturesque village of Gorokhove, next to which there is a burial mound from the times of the Trypil culture.

Varieties: Bukovinka, Viognier, Grenache, Johanniter, Cabernet Cortis, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Carmener, Malbec, Merlot, Muscaris, Muscat Odesa, Nebiolo, Pinot Bianco, Pinot Gris, Pinot Mignon, Pinot Noir, Riesling Rhine, Semillion, Sauvignon Blanc, Sauvignon Gris, Solaris, Traminer, Trebiano di Lugano, Citron Magaracha, Chardonnay, Shiraz.

Awards: "Solaris" 2019 - silver at Odessa Wine & Spirits Awards 2020.

Wines to notice

Solaris is a white dry wine. It demonstrates a fruity bouquet, fresh tones of pineapple and shades of hazelnut. Full body, mineral finish.



Photo: Arsen Fedosenko

8 Craft Wineries

Location: Horayivka,
Kamianets-Podilsky district,
Khmelnitsky region
Capacity: 1.5 - 3,000 liters per year
Own vineyards: 2 ha
Age of the vines: 20 years

Bohdan's Winery



The owner and the winemaker of Bohdan's Winery, Bohdan Pavliy, is well-known among the Ukrainian craft winemakers. He has more than 20 years' experience, the winery was founded in 2012. The vineyards are located in two micro-regions, Bakota and Cavetchyna, in a unique climate zone on the slopes of the Dniester river. The southern slope, loamy soils with a high content of limestone, the sun reflecting off the surface of the Dniester, low nighttime temperature — all these factors contribute to viticulture. Bohdan's wines perfectly demonstrate the characteristics of the terroir.

A mini-hotel which can accommodate up to 10 people has been built on the territory of the winery. The winery has a tasting room for 12-14 people with a view of Bakota and the vineyards. This place, combined with Bohdan Pavliy's wines, leaves an unforgettable impression.

Varieties: Johanniter, Traminer, Aligote, Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Solaris, Muscaris, Riesling, Zweigelt, Merlot, Nebbiolo, Sangiovese, Evmolpia, Syrah, Cabernet Franc and others.

Awards: more than 10 awards from the reputable Ukrainian wine competitions.

Wines to notice

Sauvignon Blanc — elegant, clear and delicate white wine. The aroma is gooseberry and freshly cut grass. Well-balanced acidity. The wine was not aged in oak, and demonstrates the original varietal aromas.

Bakota is a rich and sophisticated blend of Cabernet Sauvignon / Merlot. Aging in French barriques for 6 months. Classic Bordeaux varieties with terroir character.

Barbaryska Rose is a dry rose from the Sangiovese variety. It has a pronounced aroma and taste of raspberry with citrus.



Photo: Tanya Olevska, Arsen Fedosenko

8 Craft Wineries

Location: Kropyvnytsky,
Kirovohrad region
Capacity: 4,000 bottles per year
Vineyards: southern Ukraine

Korus Wines



The owners of Korus Wines, Ruslan and Hanna Kovalevsky, are true wine enthusiasts and creators. Their small winery is located right in the courtyard of their family house. A small experimental vineyard has been planted here, but they purchase most of the grapes for the production of their wines in the south of Ukraine. Ruslan is engaged in winemaking, constantly experimenting with varieties and blends, applying interesting technological techniques and skills. And his wife, a certified and experienced expert sommelier, professionally presents the best wines from the Korus Wine collection. Let's note that today, during the war, Hanna devoted her life to volunteering.

In addition to many years of experience, theoretical training and consultations with professional oenologists, Ruslan Kovalevsky has a fine intuition and considerable talent. He produces high-quality wines with a special character. This year, Ruslan Kovalevsky made a blend of Saperavi, Odessa Black and Pinot Noir and named this wine "Trident" (the national symbol of Ukraine). He believes that this wine will be a symbol of the Ukrainian Victory.

Awards: Muskat — silver from the "Odesky Zalyv-2020" competition. Ukraine Wine&Spirits Awards 2020 competition – 4 bronze medals: Alvarinho 2019; Rose blend 2019; Tempranillo 2018; Cabernet Sauvignon Tempranillo 2018.

Wines to notice

Solaris 2019 – fresh, bright and intense in aroma and taste. Nose: exotic fruits pineapple, lime, papaya, with hints of early summer apples. Palate: fruity, with moderately high, refreshing acidity.

Albarinho 2019 is a charming white dry wine, with the aroma of citrus, white fruits and white flowers (in particular, white narcissus). Palate: pleasant acidity and white stone fruits. Pleasant, fresh and mineral finish.



Photo: www.facebook.com/koruswine

8 Craft Wineries

Location:

Kontsovo, Uzhgorod district,
Transcarpathia

Capacity: 10,000 bottles per year

Kovach Family Winery



A winemaker from Uzhgorod, Oleksandr Kovach has been creating his award-winning wines in Ukrainian Transcarpathia for 25 years. The winemaker mostly works with the European grape varieties. Kovach follows the world trends in winemaking. He likes to experiment, and his experiments are good, because he buys the highest quality grapes for his wine. Kovach produces not only still whites and reds, but also classic method sparkling wines, pet-nats, distillates, Icewine, ciders etc. Oleksandr Kovach is the founder of two wine festivals in Uzhhorod – “Sunny Drink” and “Transcarpathian Beaujolais” and heads the Association of Private Grape Growers and Winemakers of Transcarpathia.

Awards: Cherseghi Fuseresh – gold, Solaris – silver at the Odesa Wine Week 2020 tasting competition, Sauvignon Blanc – gold at the “Odesky Zalyv 2019” competition. Alibernet 2019 – gold at the XXV Cervene Vino competition.

Wines to notice

Chardonnay 2019, aging in French oak barrels for 9 months. Nose: fresh green apple and lime with notes of spicy vanilla and nuts.

Aliberne 2019 is a dry red wine. Nose: luxurious red berries, in particular, black currants. Palate: velvet fruity taste with rich tannins. Lasting spicy finish.



Photo: www.facebook.com/vinorob

8 Craft Wineries

Location: Klyucharky,
Mukacheve district, Transcarpathia
Capacity: 10,000 liters per year
Own vineyard: 1 ha, with plans
to expand to 30 ha

Shtifko Wine Factory



The winery was created by the winemaker Oleksandr Harnovdiy in 2018, in his own estate. He is one of the most influential winemakers in Transcarpathia, who currently holds the position of Chairman of the Union of Winemakers and Distillers of Transcarpathia. And the winery was named in honor of his great-grandfather, from whom the family traces its lineage.

Varieties: Harslevelu (Lypovyna), Müller Thurgau, Palava, Solaris, Blau Burgunder, Saperavi.

The winemaker creates wines in the traditional style of the region: dry, semi-dry, semi-sweet. Guests of the winery are treated to Furmint, Chardonnay, Muskat Ottonel, Traminer, Sauvignon Blanc and other amazing, highly aromatic yet clear wines.

And travelers are advised to take excursions to Palanok Castle, charming Uzhhorod and charismatic Mukacheve, where numerous tasting rooms await wine lovers.

Awards: Chardonnay 2021 - silver, Muscat Ottonel 2021 - bronze at the competition of the Association of Hungarian Winemakers of Transcarpathia in Berehove.



Photo: www.facebook.com/Shtifko

Anna Sarkisian:

“Ukraine was given a key task in the Sea of Wine project, and we coped with it perfectly”



All wine travel lovers are in for a surprise: several of the world's leading specialized institutions, including the Odesa National University of Technology (ONUT), have taken part in a 26-month project implemented within the framework of the Joint Operational Programme Black Sea Basin 2014-2020, Promotion of the Black Sea Region as a Wine Tourism Destination - The Sea of Wine.

The goal of the project is to create a joint brand of wine tourism in the Black Sea region, which is recognized as the cradle of world winemaking. So, experts from Armenia, Georgia, Ukraine and Greece developed 33 innovative thematic wine routes, which included 156 wineries along with historical and natural sights, restaurants, museums and other attractions. We asked the Dean of the Faculty of Wine and Tourism Business of ONUT, Professor Anna Sarkisian about Ukraine's participation, as well as her personal role in this large-scale project.

Anna, for you as a sommelier and Dean of the Faculty of Wine and Tourism Business of ONUT, the concepts of wine and tourism have probably already become inseparable. Please share with us how these two directions combine in your life. Tell us about the project that you are taking care of today - the Sea of Wine.

Don't be surprised, but since my childhood, which was spent in blooming and diverse Bessarabia, I was familiar with wine-making. After all, my parents worked at a large winery in Tatarbunary. So when it was time to choose a profession, I entered the Odesa National University of Technology, which has the only Department of Wine Technology and Sensory Analysis in the country. After defending my master's thesis, I decided that I should get to know wine from a different angle. Therefore, I graduated from the First Sommelier School "Master Class" in Kyiv. In the end, my candidate's thesis was

devoted to the production technology of grape juice with a high content of polyphenolic compounds, and my doctoral thesis was devoted to regional tourism markets, because I work part-time at the Department of Tourism Business and Recreation, which is part of the structure of the Faculty of Wine and Tourism Business which I head. I teach various disciplines and, in addition to students who are future winemakers, I work with hoteliers, restaurateurs and tourists. Actually, food and wine tourism is not just a job, it is my passion. This is a very interesting modern discipline, which includes the organization of the work of sommeliers and guides, the basics of wine production, sensory analysis, etc. This direction has great prospects for the wine industry.

So, when Arthur Grigoryan, the director of the International Center for Agribusiness Research and Education (ICARE) approached us and offered to participate in the Sea of Wine project aimed at promoting the Black Sea region as a wine

Interview



tourism destination, this idea aroused great enthusiasm in us. Such authoritative organizations from four countries as the International Center for Agribusiness Research and Education (Armenia), the Odesa National University of Technology (Ukraine), the Fund “Georgian Center for Agribusiness Development” (Georgia) and the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece) participate in the project.

How did it happen that these countries were united in a single route?

The lead beneficiary of the project was Armenia, which invited other participants to it. When the application was submitted and approved, each country received a field of activity in which it would act as a responsible partner. Ukraine was given a key task - to develop an ICT (Information and Communication Technology) platform and a mobile application, as well as create training materials. Interaction with trainers from each country helped to identify common ground. For two years, our team was engaged in research and, together with foreign specialists, created a database. We coped with our task perfectly. Soon everyone interested will be able to make sure of that.

What does it give each participant? In particular, what does collaboration with other countries in the Sea of Wine project give Ukraine?

First of all, it is an opportunity to exchange experience with leading specialists from other countries. Ukraine is a very young country from the point of view of a wine tourism organization, so positive experiences are on demand. Equally important is the opportunity to present your own routes. As part of the project, our team visited Greece at a tourist exhibition in Thessaloniki and had the opportunity to work with students of Aristotle University. As a result, we talked about the wine regions of Ukraine and learned about others.

Afterwards, we accumulated all that experience on the platform developed by the Ukrainian ICT team, where the wine routes of the Black Sea Basin of all participating countries will be presented. Thus, each participant of the Sea of Wine project expands the horizons of wine tourism. The logical result was the creation of a single route, the Black Sea Wine Route, which covers all participating countries. In Ukraine, it starts from Odesa, from the Wine and City Life route.



Interview



Who exactly and how developed wine routes in Ukraine, which locations were included in them?

In general, when announcing this project, we invited all wineries of the Black Sea region to participate, because our goal has been to promote the wine tourism potential of Ukraine at the international level. In order to develop routes for the Sea of Wine project, a team of colleagues from our department and I went on an expedition to the wineries of the Odesa, Mykolaiv and Kherson regions. The audit focused on the winery's ability to host tourists, infrastructure, road quality, and local gastronomic offerings. In this way, we have chosen almost fifty wineries, including large and well-known, as well as very young and craft ones. To list some wineries, I will mention SHABO, Leleka, Odesos, Kolonist, Frumushika Nova, Kyrnychky, Beykush, SliVino, and many others.

Currently, seven thematic routes have been created for the Sea of Wine project: Wine and City Life, Wine and Legends, Wine and Flowers, Wine and Art, Wine and Religion, Wine and Ethnicity. First of all, we emphasized the particularity of the regions and included local holidays and festivals in the routes. For example, the winemakers of Bessarabia invite guests to Trifon Zarizan, a holiday of pruning vines, which takes place on February 14 in Bolhrad. We selected bright events for each route featured on the website. The final product, developed by the efforts of specialists of our department, is tours for domestic and experienced international travelers. We have set the bar high.

How important is tourism for the development of wineries?

This is a very important tool for the promotion of Ukrainian wineries, even small and completely new ones. Speaking of which, during the expeditions, we opened the Kyrnychky winery to the world (and to ourselves!). There, we found an interesting history, traditions, good potential of raw materials, and quality wines. It gave a chance to a very young winery to take part in an international project. We are sure that thanks to this, this winery will become popular in the future. Winemakers dream of meeting tourists, treating them with their wines and giving them emotions. I would like to note that we made our

itineraries free of charge in order to support the winemaking and tourism industries of our country.

We know that there are even plans to introduce a single label for participants. How do winemakers feel about it?

The label has already been created. We will distribute it electronically to all route participants. They can use it on their websites, in booklets, at international events. After all, it is prestigious to be part of the European Neighborhood programs.

Does the project provide for the development of routes, the addition of new locations?

Yes, winery owners can apply, and information about them will be posted on our ICT platform. After all, it can be updated, and wineries, locations, festivals can be added.

What special educational programs are planned for guides, sommeliers, winemakers?

Educational training based on materials developed by our Ukrainian specialists was held in each participating country. In January, we held a three-day training on the topic "Wine tourism: tapping into new opportunities". The entire material is divided into three main topics: "Wine tour guiding", "Wine destination product management", and "Destination sustainable management".

The event took place at a high, international level. It was a lively discussion. After the lectures, practical cases were provided, in which winemakers participated. Very useful communication between manufacturers, developers of the tourist product, and those who will accompany the tourists happened there. We are proud that it was Ukrainian scholars who developed educational materials that will be used in other countries. It should be noted that these documents are now kept in the European Library. All our reports and studies are a great contribution to the development of the scientific aspect of wine tourism. We are happy to have been the first to do so.

What measures to popularize wine tourism in Ukraine are taken within the framework of the Sea of Wine project?

Interview

“Let’s talk about wine” forums were held in all partner countries. They were aimed at bringing together wine experts, winemakers and wine lovers and acquainting them with the results of the project. The Ukrainian side, in view of the war in the country, planned to spread information online, although we saw how it happened in other countries through in-person meetings with winemakers, tastings... It became sad only from this thought that we would have to talk about wine online. So we made a decision anyway to gather like-minded people, wine lovers, representatives of the tourism business and winemakers who present their wines in a safe place. The meeting was warm, full of hopes and dreams for the best wine future for our country.

What joint promotion activities are being carried out and planned in the project?

It includes visiting festivals and specialized exhibitions. As I mentioned, this year we visited a tourist exhibition in Thessaloniki, attended the National Wine Day of Moldova, where we held a presentation of the wine routes and the ICT platform. We hope for very close cooperation with Moldova after the war finishes and a transnational path opens. Our partners from Greece and Armenia visited the London Wine Fair, where our project was also introduced.

The next event is the closing ceremony of the project in Yerevan. It consists of two activities: on the first day, a conference, and on the next day, a large-scale wine event “Black Sea Wines” held according to the standards of the International Organization of Vine and Wine (OIV).

In what forms will the Sea of Wine continue to exist?

First of all, this is the work of the ICT platform and mobile application, which are convenient tools both for specialists in the wine and tourism industries, and for tourists, consumers of these

products. Here you can get detailed information about the routes, wine-growing regions, wineries of the participating countries, and about the events taking place there. This turns out to be a solid database for planning trips.

How did the war change your plans, and what remained the same?

I can’t say that we change our plans, but we certainly adjust them according to the situation. So, for example, at the Department of Tourism Business and Recreation, we organized a webinar “Tourism as a means of rehabilitation in post-war times” this month. Psychologists, rehabilitators, specialists in the tourism industry were invited. We talked about how to restore your morale, including raising such a topical component as “wine recreation”, which aims at a moderate wine consumption. We also discussed those bright emotions and unforgettable impressions that a wine trip provides. I myself observed when I recently conducted an excursion to a winery, how people relaxed and distracted themselves from the news, stayed without the Internet, but with a glass of excellent wine in the middle of the endless steppe. They returned home completely different - with a thirst for life and new ideas. Therefore, I believe that our cause is very important.

For the sake of safety in Odesa, tastings and wine festivals are held in the Odesa catacombs. The war forced us to take such unusual measures. And all the wineries included in our routes continue to work - despite everything.

...This year was sunny and raw materials have good potential. As for the energy of the war, let’s see if it was transferred to wine.

In these difficult times, we support each other. And the whole world supports us. I am very grateful to our partners. We could have left the project, but the partners declared with one accord: “You should stay with us.” And we proved that Ukrainians are stable in everything, both in war and in work.

