

Wine & Culture Gran Tour (11 days)



Day 1 **Vienna**

Arrival to Vienna. Typical heuriger (wine tavern) dinner. Overnight in hotel in Vienna.

Day 2 **Vienna**

Full day city tour of Vienna with visit to Schönbrunn Palace. Free time for lunch in a classic Viennese coffee house. Dinner and overnight in hotel.

Day 3 **Vienna – Wachau Valley**

In the morning departure from Vienna by bus towards west along the Danube to a small town of Spitz. Danube cruise along one of the oldest and most famous wine growing regions in Austria: Wachau Valley (UNESCO) to the historical town of Krems. Free time for lunch. Visit to Winzer Krems – winery with a different wine experience finished with a tasting of excellent Wachau wines. Free time in the town before dinner in a typical wine tavern.

Those who are interested now have a chance to taste a local speciality. Wachau Marillen (apricot) liqueur and schnaps. Overnight in hotel in Wachau region.

Day 4 **Wachau Valley – Styria**

After early breakfast depart for Styrian province of wine and castles in southern Austria. Visit to Castle Herberstein known for its gorgeous gardens and wine. The visit starts with a sample of local sparkling wine, continues with a tour of the castle and its gardens and ends with a wine tasting of the castle's own products. Late lunch in a typical restaurant in the region. After lunch continue to Graz to accommodate in hotel. Free time to stroll around in the beautiful town center before dinner in a typical Buschenschank, Styrian wine tavern. Return to hotel for overnight.

Day 5 **Styria – Maribor – Ljubljana**

After breakfast trip continues to picturesque town of Maribor in Slovenia. Visiting The Old Wine House with the world's oldest wine plant. It presents the wine culture of the region and represents the history, significance and long tradition of viticulture in Slovenia. Guided visit to a well-known winery Vinag, one of the largest and oldest in Europe. The cellar has fascinating history dating back to ancient times and with stories to tell from the communist Yugoslavian era. Tasting of Vinag's wines. Free time for lunch in Maribor before continuing to Ljubljana. Guided city tour in Ljubljana in late afternoon. Dinner and overnight in hotel.

Day 6 **Ljubljana – Momjan – Motovun – Opatija**

After breakfast in the hotel we leave Slovenia and continue the trip south in Croatia. In Istria,



Momjan area we make a stop in a idyllic family owned winery and have a tasting of wines of the region. Afterwards we continue to the picturesque medieval town of Motovun. The surrounding forests are famous for the Istrian truffles, which are a real gastronomic treasure of the area. Guided tour in Motovun and free time for lunch: excellent chance to try some of the dishes made with the local truffles! Continue to Opatija, a coastal town with legacy of the Habsburg empire. Dinner and overnight in a hotel.

Day 7

Opatija – Island of Krk – Zagreb

In the morning departure for the Island of Krk in the Kvarner Bay famous for its wine production. We visit the town of Vrbnik and have free time to stroll around this gorgeous town right at the coastline! Visit to one of the excellent wineries in Vrbnik area overlooking the gorgeous Adriatic sea. Tour and wine tasting. Free time for lunch and individual activities before departure for Zagreb. City tour around Zagreb in late afternoon. Dinner in local Brewery. Overnight in hotel.

Day 8

Zagreb – Balaton

Departure from Zagreb after breakfast towards Hungary through Croatian countryside. Stop in one of the wineries along our road and taste of northern Croatian white wines. Arrival to town of Keszthely, a cultural and historical hub in the Balaton region in early afternoon. Five out of 32 wine regions in Hungary are situated around the Balaton lake. Free time for lunch. The beautiful Festetics Palace in the heart of the town hosts cellar system more than 500 years old. In the rustic cellars operates now a wine museum “The House of the Balatonian Wines” with 1500 exhibited wines 30-40 of which can be tasted constantly. We will visit the museum and taste a few of the local wines after lunch. Continuing on the north side of the lake we reach the Badacsony area characterized by its volcanic mountain and wine growing culture that dates back to Roman times. Dinner and accommodation in hotel in area.

Day 9

Balaton – Budapest

After breakfast we visit one of the wine cellars in the Badacsony area

and try some more wines typical for this region. Continuing the trip towards Budapest, the Queen of Donau. Lunch in a typical restaurant in Budapest. Rest of the day is dedicated to guided tour of the city with must-see attractions such as the impressive Mathias Church and Fishermann’s Bastion. Typical dinner with music and show in a traditional restaurant. Overnight in hotel.

Day 10

Budapest

Day for individual activities: Visit the famous historical Budapest spas, museums, go shopping or just enjoy the atmosphere of this magical city. Dinner and overnight in hotel.

Day 11

Budapest

After breakfast departure towards home.

Tailormade programs possible on request