

WINE AND CULINARY DELIGHTS OF BULGARIA

7 Nights / 8 Days

**Sofia – Troyan – Liaskovets – Veliko Turnovo – Kazanlak – Plovdiv –
Bansko – Melnik – Rila Monastery – Sofia**

Grape growing and wine production have a long history in Bulgaria, dating back to the times of the Thracians.

Together with France, Spain, Italy and Greece, Bulgaria is one of the world's largest wine producers. The Bulgarian white and red wines such as Gumza, Dimiat, Pamid, Muscat, Misket, Mavrud and Melnik are well known to connoisseurs.

Day 1 – Sofia



Arrival in Sofia, check-in at hotel. Meet your tour guide and travel companions for welcome dinner at local restaurant. Panoramic city tour including National Archaeological Museum, National Theatre, Russian Church St. Nikola, Parliament Square, Alexander Nevski Memorial Cathedral with the most valuable collection of Bulgarian Icons (13-19th c), St. Sofia Church (6th c), St. George Rotunda (4th c), National Palace of Culture. **Overnight in Sofia.**

Day 2 – Sofia – Veliko Turnovo



Troyan monastery



Lyaskovets



Tsarevets

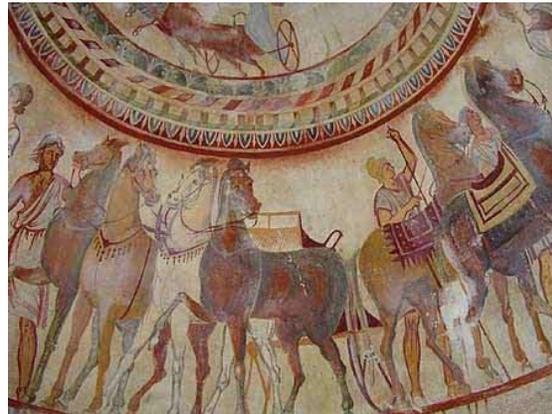
Morning departure for **Troyan** to taste the famous Trojan brandies. **Wine tasting** and a lunch at **Liaskovets Winery**. We will also see the **Troyan Monastery** and complex. Then we will continue on to Veliko Turnovo, a city with a most intriguing historical past. It was the old capital of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom (12-14th century) Sightseeing tour of **Veliko Turnovo**, with its stone houses perched over the banks of the Yantra River. Visit **Tsarevets Hill** and tour the ruins of the King's Castle, medieval fortress, and old village. **Dinner and Overnight in Veliko Turnovo.**

**For groups of 20 or more, the sound and light show is also included.

Day 3 – Veliko Turnovo – Kazanluk – Plovdiv



Rosa Damascena



Thracian tomb

Early morning breakfast and departure for the beautiful Valley of Roses. Rose picking in the rose field near **Kazanlak**. Visit to a **Rose distillery** and the ethnographic complex **Kulata**. Enjoy the aroma of essential oils and the taste of a rose jam and rose liqueur. Next, we will visit the ancient **Thracian Tomb**, built in the 4th Century B.C. The perfectly preserved murals are a wonderful example of pictorial art during that time period. After lunch, we'll depart for Plovdiv, situated on three hills in the Thracian Plain. Plovdiv is Bulgaria's second largest city with a 24 centuries long history and one of the ancient crossroads between east and west. We'll tour the Old Town of Plovdiv, famous for its National Revival Period architecture (18th-19th centuries) with ethnographic museums and Roman Amphitheatre (2nd century.) **Dinner and Overnight in Plovdiv.**

Day 4 – Plovdiv



Plovdiv



Todoroff winery

City tour of **Plovdiv** after breakfast. Walking tour begins at the **Forum of Philippopolis**. Continues in the historic **National Revival quarter**, where cobblestone streets lined with Bulgarian Revival houses and churches, leads to the ancient Roman ruins, a small **Ethnographic Museum**, and an impressive **Roman theater**, still in use for cultural events. Lunch and free time for shopping, etc. In the late afternoon: transfer to **Todoroff Wine Cellar** for **wine tasting** and dinner.

(Folklore performance of authentic Bulgarian customs could be arranged during the wine tasting – upon request). **Overnight in Plovdiv.**

Day 5 – Plovdiv – Bansko – Melnik/Sandanski



Bansko



Rozhen monastery

Breakfast. Departure for **Bansko**, a colorful mountain town, known for its well-preserved traditions and culture. Stop for lunch in a traditional tavern (mehana) and some shopping. Next, we will go to **Rozhen Monastery**. Tour of the monastery and complex, which dates back to the 16th century. Next, we'll take a short drive to **Melnik**, Bulgaria's smallest town, well known for its "sand pyramids," red wine, and traditional houses. We'll tour the **Kordopoulov's House**, the biggest residential building in the Balkans from the National Revival Period. Enjoy a **wine tasting** in the **wine cellar at the Kordopoulov's House**, and then a traditional Bulgarian dinner at a local restaurant in Melnik. **Overnight in Melnik/Sandanski.**

Day 6 – Melnik/Sandanski



Damianitza winery



Kordopulov house

Full day **wine tour** in **No Man's Land** in cooperation with the **Damianitza Winery**. We will tour the cellar Damianitsa following the wine path; listen to a lecture on the specifics of the wine region, grape sorts, traditional wine producing; Then we will have a **wine tasting** (5 wines – Damianitsa Rose, Melnishko wine from Hursovo, No Man's Land, Uniqato, Barrel sample). We will learn about the wines, the role of the oak in the process of wines ripening, and various characteristics of the wines; We will have Appetizers and mineral water; Then, we will visit the No Man's Land Vineyard. **Dinner and overnight in Melnik/Sandanski.**

Day 7 – Melnik/Sandanski – Rila Monastery – Sofia



This morning, we'll depart for the pride of Bulgaria, **Rila Monastery** (10th century.) One of UNESCO's most precious treasures, Rila Monastery is the largest monastery in Bulgaria and all of the Balkan Peninsula. We'll enjoy lunch, and a tour of the magnificent complex. Then, continue on to Sofia, for farewell dinner at a traditional restaurant with fire dancing program. **Overnight in Sofia.**

Day 8 Sofia

After breakfast, depart for the airport for return flight home.

PACKAGE PRICE / EURO/:	20 pax +	10-15 pax	6-9 pax	2-5 pax
Per person in double/twin room:	785.00	885.00	1100.00	1535.00
Single room supplement:	110.00	110.00	140.00	140.00

Package Includes:

- Centrally located 4-star hotel accommodations
- Full-board program, all meals and wine-tasting are included
- Luxury, air-conditioned motor coach transportation
- Professional Japanese speaking guide throughout the whole tour;
- All entrance fees to sights listed