



Château Vartely Tourist Complex

Anna was a young woman filled with excitement and anticipation. She had just received important news that she was eager to share with her beloved. News that led her on a journey of discovery about the rich cultural heritage of Moldovan traditional fine crafts and priceless artifacts.

"So this is it, then," thought Anna, "another piece of history lost to time. We can visit museums and read about the traditions of our ancestors, but reviving them is possible or is it nothing more than a distant dream?"

But then again, perhaps it's not as hopeless as it seems. Maybe we can find a way to bring history back to life, to honor our heritage in a way that speaks to the modern world. She will start using dry basil at least to decorate the house and to put it near the icons she had from her grandmas.

At that moment the projection of a vine leaf appeared on a barrel, then flashing lights and vivid animations projected on the walls and ceiling. Anna felt a dream coming to life. It seems that the basil is not the only plant important for her ancestors.

Anna, carried on the wings of the wind, above a hill with vineyards, arrived at the Chateau Vartely winery.

At that moment the history of the country was revived in an animated story reflected on the barrels full of wine. It was the story of wine, the story of the nation, of the cultures existing in these lands.

The women statue from the Cucuteni civilization that she saw at the history museum, the symbols from the carpets seen at the ethnographic museum, the surrounding nature, they all came together as a whole which was then poured into a glass of intense red wine with an indelible aroma.

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As Anna could see this was the legend of Moldovan Wine brought to life through flashing lights and vivid animations projected on the walls and ceiling. She decided to embark on a journey, to delve deeper and uncover the secrets of these modern-day alchemists. And the right place to discover the beauty of winemaking is Château Vartely winery.



She didn't expect to have this experience at the wine cellars. Lost in space and time, Anna needed someone to guide her in this world of wine. Although her ancestors practiced this for centuries, Anna did not have the slightest idea about the local wine production process. So she asked at the reception of the Wine Complex about someone that could lead the way to the wine-making process and tasting the final product. And she was surprised to see a young lady coming to assist her in this journey.

Unlocking the Secrets of Moldovan Wine

The local guide started her story, while Anna was listening amazed.

Wine is a living legend of Moldova for thousands of years. The tradition of wine-making in Moldova dates back to over 3,000 years and has withstood the test of time, surviving through centuries of challenges.

The evidence of vines being present in the territory of Moldova dates back to the Cenozoic era and the Miocene era, with imprints of vine leaves and seeds being found from this time. It is believed that domestication and cultivation of wild vines took place during the Cucuteni-Tripolye civilization, one of the oldest civilizations in Europe. This civilization also cultivated other crops such as wheat, barley, millet, oats, peas, and vetch, and cherry plum, plum, greenery, and vines, with seeds and stones being found in several settlements.

Wine-making in Moldova has gone through its ups and downs, with the full story available on the [National Office of the Vine and Wine's official page](#).

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Winemaking has always been a delicate balance between honoring tradition and embracing innovation. But the winemakers of today have found a way to elevate this art form to a whole new level. By seamlessly blending cutting-edge technology with the timeless tales of their heritage, they are forging a path forward that is as rich and full-bodied as the wines they produce. And wineries are offering various experiences to their visitors.

One of the known wineries opened to visitors is Château Vartely from the city of Orhei.

Orhei takes its name from the medieval city of Orheiul Vechi (Old Orhei), about 10 miles (16 km) below the modern city on the Răut River, which was destroyed by the Crimean Tatars in the XIVth to XVIth centuries. It was the Ottoman-occupied military center of northern Bessarabia until it was ceded to the Russian Empire in 1812. The word "orhei" was used by the local population, meaning "strengthened hill, fortress, deserted courtyard".

Château Vartely is more than just a winery. It is a place where visitors can immerse themselves in the culture of high-quality wine and learn about responsible wine consumption. Here modern technology blends seamlessly with the passion for producing exceptional wine, as this winery sets a new standard in the art of winemaking.

Nestled in the rolling hills just 45 km from Chisinau, the Château Vartely Tourist Complex offers a stunning panoramic view of the surrounding landscape. With a total vineyard area of 260 hectares, the winery produces a volume of over 4.5 million bottles annually.

Wines crafted at Château Vartely have been awarded with more than 120 medals and diplomas at various international competitions, where they competed with noble wines from France, Portugal, Spain and other major wine making countries. Hidden inside of a limestone hill, the winery cellars benefit the most from the stone's natural property of maintaining the cool temperature.

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By the standards of winemakers in the old world and the new world, Château Vartely is a company that combines state-of-the-art technologies in vine growing and grape processing with a passion for producing quality wine.

Celebrate the Art of Wine

Step into the Château Vartely Winery cellar where the wine matures in oak barrels and be enchanted by the barrique video projection, a unique light show that tells the tale of winemaking in a mesmerizing and innovative way. The show transforms the entire surface of the cellar into a canvas, immersing the visitors in the legend and making them part of the story.

With a professional guide leading the way, Anna embarks on the tour and tasting that brought the wine-making process to life. The tastings rooms at Château Vartely were specially designed to provide the perfect environment for a truly unforgettable wine tasting experience.

After the tour Anna was invited to choose one of the three villas for staying overnight. It was not an easy choice, as all three were different, with architectural elements specific to the traditional construction in the North, Center and South of the country.

“At Château Vartely, we believe that the combination of tradition and technology elevates the wine tour experience, capturing the attention of visitors of all ages. Come and be inspired by the art of wine-making at Château Vartely Winery.” Ended the tourist guide.

Tradition is a foundation that we can build upon, a strong one, but our modern era is the canvas that we paint with new colors and create our own masterpiece. We are the pioneers of a new legacy, crafting and infusing vitality and meaning into every fiber of our culture, our wines and our lives. We are the architects of our own destiny, shaping and molding it into something magnificent, just like the intricate patterns woven into our carpets and the rich, full-bodied flavor of our wines.

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The experience was unforgettable, and it sparked an idea in Anna's mind. Maybe, just maybe, there is a way to use technology and modern storytelling to preserve the traditions of the past, to keep them alive for future generations to cherish.

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