



## CASTLES AND WINES OF SLOVAKIA AND THE CZECH REPUBLIC AUGUST 24-SEPTEMBER 4, 2020

### ***Tour snapshot***

Join Cecilia Rokusek and Bob Petrik of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library for the trip of a lifetime. Meet the actual family wine makers of Slovakia and Moravia (in the eastern part of the Czech Republic), and enjoy the picturesque castles of both countries as you immerse yourself in the culture and daily living. You will enjoy the local foods, taste the best of local wines, hear rich historical stories, and view outstanding panoramas. With a local guide by your side, you will have exclusive insights into the culture, history, traditions and wine making in the regions of Slovakia and Moravia, and stay in unique places in both Slovakia and Moravia.

### **Highlights**

- Eat traditional homemade food
- Take part in an old fashioned cheese making process
- Dive into thermal springs
- Surround yourself amid castles, chateaus and grand hotels

### ***Schedule details***

#### **Day 1: Arrival and Bratislava**

- Arrive at Vienna International Airport
- Transfer to Bratislava for overnight
- Welcome wine tasting in the Museum of Wine Making in the main square
- Diplomatic welcome reception and dinner

### **Day 2: Small Carpathian Wine Route**

- Bratislava – Devin Castle -- Svätý Jur – Modra – Červený Kameň – Smolenice
- Devin Castle tour with tasting of black, red, and white currant speciality wines
- Svätý Jur – Visit to a young wine maker
- Traditional restaurant lunch – Modra, Slovakia
- Modra – visit to a local wine producer to taste a unique Slovak Sparkling Wine (known as Sekt)
- Tasting and visit to Červený Kameň (castle)
- Overnight Smolenický Zámok (Chateau)

### **Day 3: Banská Štiavnica , Čičmany – Volcanic Soil Wines**

- Travel from Smolenice to Banská Štiavnica
- Lunch in local restaurant
- Guided tour in this UNESCO World Heritage town
- Visit to a local wine producer with tasting of his wines
- Transfer to Čičmany
- Overnight and Dinner at Čičmany Mansion

### **Day 4: Čičmany – High Tatra Mountains**

- Morning at Čičmany – Sightseeing and cheese making with local shepherd
- Quick stop at the wooden Slovak Bethlehem
- Lunch in Čičmany
- Transfer to Orava Castle for a Castle Visit
- Transfer to High Tatras
- Overnight at Starý Smokovec Grand Hotel Starý Smokovec
- Dinner at a koliba with live music

### **Day 5: High Tatra Mountains**

- Visit to Štrbské Pleso and small hike around the lake
- Lunch at a local koliba
- Afternoon – relax or visit to Hrebienok with mountain funicular or presentation from mountain porters of the High Tatras in a small porter (sherpa) museum
- Overnight at Starý Smokovec Grand Hotel
- Dinner at the Grand Hotel with wine pairing

### **Day 6: Tatry – Levoča – Spiš Castle – Košice - Tokaj**

- Short stop in Levoča to see the Grand Altar of Master Pavol
- Visit to Spiš Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Lunch at Kaštieľ Fričovce (a 17th century manor house)
- Tour of Košice

- Overnight at winery Grand Bari

### **Day 7: Tokaj**

- Tour around the Tokaj wine region
- Visiting local wine producers with tastings
- Lunch at local restaurant
- Historical wine cellar visit
- Farewell gourmet dinner at Grand Bari Winery with wine pairing.

### **Day 8: Tokaj – Košice**

- Morning at leisure
- Lunch on the way to the airport
- 13:00 (1:00 pm) arrival at airport KSC
- 14:55 (2:55 pm) departure to Vienna International airport
- Arrival in Vienna and transfer to Lukov, Czech Republic
- Overnight at Luxury Penzion U Hradku with dinner

## **Castles & Wines Around the Czech Republic (Southern Moravian Region)**

South Moravian villages sit amid lush vineyards. It is a great, yet undiscovered wine region with a rich wine heritage. Wine has been traced here back to the Roman Empire in the 2nd century AD. Covering nearly 41 thousand acres, the region includes 96% of the country's vineyards.

Ideally situated north of the Alps and at the Western edge of the Carpathian Mountains, the region benefits from a cooler climate, which excels at white wine production. Red wine production has also become very important in the area with the production of such wines as Blaufrankisch, Saint Laurent, and Cabernet Sauvignon.

### **Day 9: Vranov nad Dyjí**

- Travel to Vranov nad Dyjí
- Guided tour of the Vranov Castle
- Lunch at a traditional Moravian restaurant
- Short walk around the Vranov Castle with historic views of the Vranov Dam
- Transfer to the Znojmo Winery for wine tasting
- Return to the hotel & dinner

### **Day 10: Znojmo & Velké Bílovice**

- Travel to Znojmo
- Morning eco-bus guided tour in Znojmo with wine, chocolate and pickle tastings
- Free time for shopping, individual sightseeing and lunch around Znojmo

- Departure to the Velké Pavlovice area
- Arrival at Velké Pavlovice area winery for wine tasting and afternoon refreshments
- Transfer to Pavlov for a walk around the Věstonická Dam and Pavlov Hill with wine stops
- Overnight in the Thermal Hotel Mušov with unique geothermal pool & spa with wellness center

### **Day 11: Lednice & Čejkovice**

- Travel to Lednice castle
- Guided Tour of the UNESCO Heritage Lednice Castle
- Boat Trip to Janohrad & short guided tour of the castle
- Transfer to Čejkovice area
- Wine tasting in a Čejkovice area winery
- Overnight in to the Lednice Castle Hotel
- Farewell dinner at the hotel's wine cellar with wine tastings and music

### **Day 12: Mikulov & Departure** (*program depends on the return flight*)

- Travel to Mikulov Chateau for a guided tour
- Lunch at Sojka restaurant Mikulov
- Transfer to Vienna for return flight

### **Price includes:**

- All Meals and wine tastings
- All accommodations
- English-speaking guide
- Transfers starting from Vienna airport
- All entrance fees as per itinerary
- All coach travel
- Flight Kosice to Vienna
- All tips and gratuities

### **Price does not include:**

- Inbound/outbound flights to Vienna
- Drinks with meals other than coffee
- Any expenditures of a personal nature

**Travel insurance is not required, but is highly recommended.**

## **Price**

1 person in double room - \$4455 USD (on 2 persons sharing basis) – All inclusive : all meals and wine experiences\*

1 person in single room \$4265 (1 person per room) – All inclusive: all meals and wine experiences\*

\*Individuals are responsible for their own transportation to and from their US destination to Vienna where the tour will begin.