LAND OF WINE

Journey to South Moravian wines
There are countries, where on the first sight you can see that their life is connected with grapes and wine. One of them is South Moravia, the hospitable land of wine, beautiful countryside and ancient culture.

South Moravia has been a home of wine for almost two thousand years and no matter where you go, everywhere you will find many wine-growing points of interest, picturesque wine cellars and wine shops with a rich selection of products from local wine-makers. Everybody will find something in the wide offer of delicious drinks. Awaiting you are wines of various vintages, styles, predicate attributes and varieties from all four wine-growing sub-regions, wines with the beautiful scent of old secrets, traditions and nostalgia as well as surprising new wines of modern age with very promising future.
Although, the care of vineyards and collection of wine tithe used to be a domain of monasteries, rich habitants of towns often invested their money into the vineyards because good vineyard in attractive locality sometimes had bigger value than a beautiful house. The biggest wine centres were established in Znojmo, Dolní Kounice, Mikulov, Hustopeče, Strážnice and Blatnice pod svatým Antonínkem. Disaster for so promising Moravian viticulture came with the Thirty Years’ War, during which half of the vineyards perished. In the second half of the 17th century small country wine-growers started to re-establish desolated and neglected vineyards, however, the total area of vineyards hasn’t reached the original size. At the end of the 19th century a part of vineyards was destroyed due to frost and mildew diseases, and the deathblow to the Moravian vineyards was the phylloxera. In 1890 this roots attacking pest of vine spread from Western Europe to the Czech lands, affected vineyards in entire Moravia and destroyed the majority of them within ten years. In the 20th century new immune vineyards were established with new varieties and today our Moravian wines charm the world with their quality.

The oldest witnesses of history of viticulture in Moravia are the archaeological findings of wine-growers’ tools, which once served to the Roman legionaries for cultivation of vineyards below Pálava already two thousand years ago. The first written documents are the monastery chronicles and parchments of Bohemian monarchs.

Wine was the inseparable part of medieval culture and represented a significant benefit for the economy in those days. The Benedictines from Třebíč, the Premonstratensians from Louka near Znojmo and the Cistercians from Velehrad near Uherské Hradiště once were real wine-making masters. They grew quality varieties, improved their art using brave experiments and developed good wine-growing and cellar methods, which are still respected by supporters of old wine-making traditions. Moravian wines, which were carefully cared of, soon found their way to the world, and especially to Bohemia and northern European countries.

The golden age of Moravian viticulture is the period from the 14th up to 16th century, when vineyards surrounded numerous towns and monasteries.
As the only safe protection against phylloxera was grafting on a resistant rootstock, the land and state vine nurseries were established. Renewed Moravian vineyards gradually reached the original area. The present viticulture uses the latest technology procedures and aims at production of quality wines, especially predicate wines. They are made in small batches, but with a diverse variety choice and excellent quality, which grade our white wines especially to the world top. 

Our predecessors drunk especially label wines – mixtures of several varieties, prepared on the basis of local traditions. Therefore every year wine had different taste, according to which variety had better yield and which taste and aroma prevailed. The presently grown varieties and production of varietal wines appeared only in the 19th and 20th century.

Moravian wine-makers produce especially varietal wines. The most popular are Müller Thurgau, Grüner Veltliner and Welschriesling, and from red wines Saint Laurent. Quality of wine is given by the so called predicate attribute. It is stated on the label and it characterises maturity of grapes when collected.
The Moravia wine-growing region offers wine of endless diversity, which outstand with their fruity taste and spiciness, wide spectrum of aroma and harmonious full taste.

There are many reasons why you can discover in Moravia so many original wines with a big diversity of types. Above all it is various geological origin and soil conditions. Vine is grown on volcanic rocks, limestones, sands or deep loess. The climate, which differs from other European wine-growing localities, very ragged countryside relief and determining microclimate conditions of individual vineyards. In the Czech Republic vine is grown on the northern edge of its occurrence. The vegetation period is rather shorter than in south-western Europe, but maturation of grapes is significantly speeded up by hot summer months. Grapes are usually harvested later in the autumn and therefore they have specific conditions for their maturation, hot days and cooler nights, which maintain bigger amount of various aromatic agents in grapes.

According to the records, kept by the Cultivation wine-growing station in Velké Pavlovice, Moravia has an average yearly temperature 9.42 °C, yearly rainfall around 510 mm and the sun shines here for 2,244 hours per year. When the Czech Republic entered the European Union, the wine-growing area was divided on the Bohemia wine-growing region with the Mělník and Litoměřice sub-regions and the Moravia wine-growing region, which is composed of four sub-regions: znojemská, mikulovská, velkopavlovická and slovácká. Spoken in numbers the Moravia wine-growing region involves circa 96 % area of registered vineyards in the Czech Republic with a total area of vineyards 18,000 hectares.

wine-growing sub-region znojemská
The synonym of the Znojmo region is above all Grüner Veltliner, also Müller Thurgau, Sauvignon, Riesling and Pálava do very well here. The environs of Dolní Kounice is well-known for red wines, especially Lemberger and Saint Laurent.

wine-growing sub-region mikulovská
Around Pálava especially Welschriesling, Pinot Blanc and Chardonnay are grown, it is favourable locality also for Müller Thurgau, Neuburg and Sylvaner. The cultivation wine-growing station in Perná created the Pálava aromatic variety.

wine-growing sub-region velkopavlovická
The heart of red wine production, especially Blauer Portugieser and Lemberger. White wines are represented by Grüner Veltliner, Pinot Gris and especially aromatic varieties – Gewürztraminer, Pálava, Moravian Muscat and Müller Thurgau.

wine-growing sub-region slovácká
It is an excellent locality for Riesling, Pinot Blanc and Pinot Gris, the Moravian Muscat variety was created in the cultivation station in Polešovice. Blue varieties are the most often represented by Lemberger, Zweigeltrebe and a new local variety Cabernet Moravia.
When touring Moravia, you must not miss a visit to a true wine cellar! At the winemaker’s you can taste many samples of various wine varieties and vintages and discuss the wines in the cozy atmosphere of the wine cellar. It is also a unique chance to take a look inside the wine cellar management, walk through the often surprisingly long cellar corridors and admire the beauty of old presses and wooden wine barrels. In Moravia, you will find everything delicious, not only wines – therefore a proper visit to a wine cellar is accompanied by local gastronomic specialties: smoked meats, sausages, various kinds of cheese or traditional cakes. In the autumn, young wines are served with St. Martin’s goose.

Where to go to get good wine? In the Czech Republic, loyal customers go directly to their winemakers – especially when they want to learn more than just what the cost of a bottle is.

www.wineofczechrepublic.cz
It is practically impossible to list the most popular varieties and wines, especially in Moravia, where each glass smells of different flower or fruit. The appeal of Moravian wines lies in their diversity, based both on a high number of grown varieties as well as the dissected landscape. The journey to South Moravian wines is inevitably connected with curiosity. Thanks to the diverse terroir of each of the wine-growing sub-regions, wines of one grape variety can taste differently, with different taste tones coming out.

Where and when is it possible to try and taste what you like most? One of the best opportunities is to visit some of the wine festivals, especially annual vintages. These festivals include wine-tasting and usually are also accompanied by parades in folk costumes, fairs, tasting of gastronomic specialities and entertaining programmes for all age groups. It is only up to you to decide whether you choose to go to the Znojmo Historical Harvest Festival, Pálava Harvest Festival in Mikulov, Harvest Festival in Velké Pavlovice, Bzenec Harvest Festival in Folk Costumes, or other festivals, for example, in Valtice, Strážnice, Uherské Hradiště, Dubňany or Hustopeče.

An up-to-date cultural calendar can be found at the www.wineofczechrepublic.cz website. The up-to-date cultural calendar can be found at www.vinazmoravy.cz, www.vinazceh.cz
In Blatnice pod Svatým Antonínkem, the well-known European school reformer Jan Amos Komenský (Comenius) had a small vineyard. Blatnice is also known for its Blatnický roháč label wine – the first Czech wine to win an international award at the 1896 Paris Wine Exhibition.

In the Bzenec chateau park, you would find an old linden tree that gave name to the local best known wine, Bzenecká lipka (Bzenec Linden). In the underground of the Čejkovice ancient fortress, even today you can walk through the legendary Templar wine cellars from the 13th century. Baroque wine-growers’ houses are located in the village of Pavlov. In the Regional Museum in the Mikulov chateau there is a giant wine barrel that can hold as many as 101,400 litres of wine. In the open-air museum in Strážnice you can visit an exhibition of wine-growers’ houses and a small vineyard.

When staying in the Uherské Hradiště region, you should definitely visit Vlčnovské Búdy in the village of Vlčnov, an urban preservation zone with rural architecture; and directly in Uherské Hradiště go and see the Mařatice vineyards with imposing burghers’ wine cellars.

A true town of wine is Valtice where the Wine Salon of the Czech Republic is located and annual wine markets held. In the surroundings, there is the Valtice wine-growing route that leads for example to the old chateau wine cellars or the vineyard of the Secondary School of Viticulture. In this vineyard, you can observe various kinds of grapevine varieties and different types of its planting.

If you prefer an active way of spending your free time, ask about the Moravian Wine-Growing Routes, more than a thousand kilometres long network of cycling paths crossing the area of all Moravian wine-growing regions.

South Moravian wine-making traditions offer many delicious tastes, aromas and experiences. For example, would you know where to look for the oldest wine cellars, wine-making exhibitions or historical vineyards?

The Louka Monastery
The large monastery premises on the outskirts of the town of Znojmo house a museum of wine-growing and coorpery. Tourists can also visit wine cellars with wine-tasting, visitors’ centre of the Znovin Znojmo winery, and get information about the Wine-Growing Tourist Program.

Wine Salon of the Czech Republic
The historic cellar of the Baroque chateau in Valtice houses a permanent wine-tasting exhibition with a hundred top Moravian and Czech wines. The tasting programme allows you to taste any number of wine samples according to your own choice.

The Plže Cellars
The Plže Cellars is a unique complex of historic wine cellars on the outskirts of the Petrov village that was declared the first village urban preservation zone in the Czech Republic in 1983. The oldest Petrov cellars date back to the 16th century.

Hustopeče
The Renaissance house “U Synků” holds a permanent wine-growing exhibition informing visitors about the past and present of wine-growing and wine-making. The regional wine shop offers wine-tasting and wine-tasting programmes.
You will be guided through the Wine-growing Region Moravia by the edition:

![Moravian Wine Bank](image)

You will be guided through the Wine-growing Region Bohemia by the edition:

![Bohemian Wine Bank](image)

The Wine-growing Region Moravia

- **ZNOJMO**
- **MIKULOV**
- **VELKÉ PAVLOVICE**
- **UHERSKÉ HRADIŠTĚ**
- **BRNO**
- **ČESKÁ REPUBLIKA**
- **Praha**

**WINE-GROWING SUB-REGIONS:**
- ZNOJEMSKÁ
- MIKULOVSKÁ
- VELKOPAVLOVICKÁ
- SLOVÁCKÁ

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