

# THE SLOVENIA™ WINE

2020  
Top Wine Experiences

## SLOVENIAN WINE



Photo: Jost Gantar, www.slovenia.info

It's time for us to once again say "Na zdravje!" to wine lovers the world over with the release of our latest English-language Slovenian wine guide, covering all three of the country's distinct wine regions (and their nine constituent districts). From the earthy reds of Mediterranean Primorska, to the sweet whites of Podravje in the northeast to the limitless supply of refreshing *cviček* of Posavje in the southeast, this map is intended to give only a brief overview of Slovenia's wine industry, one of the oldest in the world and yet still, for many, an unexplored scene.

Podravje (so named for the Drava river valley) is the largest of Slovenia's wine regions. The region is synonymous with white wines, as they account for over 95% of output, and is most known for producing some world class dessert wines, including ice wine well as Slovenia's first sparkling wines, as well as fresh, dry whites that have had a penchant for collecting Decanter awards in recent years.

The Primorska region is slightly smaller than Podravje in terms of total hectares cultivated, but produces nearly 30% more wine, with an output of well over 25m litres per year. The region has an undeniably strong Italian influence, not only in terms of viticulture, but also architecture, cuisine, language and culture in general.

The smallest of Slovenia's wine regions Posavje (or the lower Sava river valley). In this wine region is known for Zametna Črnina (Black Velvet), Blue Franconian, *Cviček*, Italian Riesling and sparkling. This region is renowned for special wine-growing features, such as small cabins in vineyards (*zidanice*), where you can also spend the night.

The main aim of the content on the pages below is to present the regions and vineyards as tourist destinations, rather than getting into the technical details of the wine itself. More specifically, we've attempted to show the unique aspects of each winery, farm, village and winemaker, in order to encourage readers to visit for themselves.

Over the couple decades many of Slovenia's winemakers - from the largest cooperatives to the smallest family-run operations - have expanded, renovated and/or modernized their facilities with state-of-the-art equipment and gorgeous tasting facilities, and have been duly rewarded for their efforts with a plethora of prestigious awards and increasing recognition from the international media. Many have also added accommodation and other services, which makes visiting them easier than ever before. If you choose to do so, it's always best to make advanced arrangements, either directly with the winemakers or through the local tourist offices, who are also usually more than happy to help with suggestions for itineraries and trips. The vineyards below are only a small number of the hundreds (or technically tens of thousands) of wine producers that currently operate in Slovenia, and we've tried our best to give a representative sampling so visitors who are unfamiliar with the country's wine regions can gain a clearer understanding of what each has to offer.

www.the-slovenia.com

## SLOVENIAN WINE VARIETIES



Photo: Jost Gantar, www.slovenia.info

Despite its small geographical size, Slovenia's diverse wine regions and countless micro-climates make the terrain suitable for growing an incredibly wide variety of grapes, which are used to produce an equally wide variety of wines.

### Teran

Kraški Teran is a dark red wine made from the Refošk grape. Visit the wine district of Krás and you'll learn the secret is the reddish, iron-rich topsoil, or *terra rossa*, that sits on a rather soluble limestone bedrock. This soil is blown off by strong winds and seems to be further absorbed by the grapes, giving them their distinctive colour and taste. Best drunk within a few years of production, it has long been hailed for its health properties, working to stimulate the appetite and aid the digestion of fatty foods.

### Cviček

*Cviček* is a fresh, young red wine synonymous with Dolenjska, which is divided from the district of Bizeljsko by the Sava river. Other than Chianti, it is the only officially recognised variety of wine in Europe that is made from a blend of both red and white grapes (roughly a 70-30 split respectively). Since 2001, it's been legally protected within the EU as a product of traditional denomination, meaning that only wine produced in the Dolenjska region in accordance with official specifications can be labelled as *Cviček* PTP.

### Zelen

Taking its name from its slight green hue ('zelen' is Slovene for green), Zelen is an autochthonous grape variety of the windswept Vipava district in Primorska. Produced since antiquity, Zelen fell out of favour for centuries and was said to be nearly forgotten, however, in recent years it has made a triumphant come back, which was helped in part by the establishment of a consortium to strictly enforce quality controls and market the wine from selected producers in elegantly shaped rounded bottles.

### Blue Franconian

The variety of Blue Franconian is widely grown in two wine-growing regions (Podravje and Posavje). The wine is usually bluish-red in colour, which depends on the production technology. Especially young wine has a distinct fruit flavour, while with age it acquires a velvety and complex structure. The wine usually has mean tannin values and proper acidity. It is characterised by a high content of antioxidants and increases the beneficial high lipoprotein density that protects the heart. It also originates from Slovenia.

### Zametovka

A single vine of *Zametovka* growing in the city of Maribor is certified by the Guinness Book of Records as the oldest living wine still producing fruit in the world, at over 400 years of age. *Zametna Črnina* makes a simple, light red wine of pure colour, which is suitable for making (combining) with other varieties, and it's rarely found on its own. *Zametovka* enhances the character of other types of wines by its colour and acidity and a very nice primary aroma (raspberry like). In the Official Assortment of Slovenia, it is recommended to be grown in the Posavje and Podravje wine regions.

## SLOVENIAN WINE VARIETIES



Photo: Jost Gantar, www.slovenia.info

### Vitovska grganja

The *Vitovska Grganja* is an old white wine variety widely found on the Karst, as well as in the Vipava Valley. *Vitovska Grganja*, which grows at the typical houses of the Karst region and in the vineyards too, gives evidence of the wine-growing tradition and the significance of this variety. It is a refreshing wine that can be drunk alone, not just with meals, and has a mild taste of almonds. *Vitovska* wine should be cooled to 12°C and served with light dishes such as pasta, fish, seafood, white meat and vegetables.

### Pinela

Wine from this variety is of a yellowish colour. On the nose, it has a distinctive, gentle and varietal fruit and flowery aroma. The flavour is full, very pleasant and harmonious. The wine's best traits are its freshness and drinkability as the variety normally contains higher amounts of acids. *Pinela* is best drunk young and fresh, while appropriate maturing brings out its noble, riper aromas. The alcohol content is of medium level.

### Pikolito

The colour of *Pikolito* wine is golden yellow, which has an intense aromatic bouquet consisting of peach, over-ripe apricots, dried fruit and honey. *Pikolito* ranks it among high extract, rich and harmonious wines. If the wine is made from dried grapes, the colour tones will lean towards brownish.

### Ranfol

Is a typical representative of Haloze district, a remote area in east Štajerska, where wine has been made since the Roman times. This is a versatile white grape variety, normally used to make wines with slightly higher acidity level, medium to light bodied, a floral aroma and a straw yellow colour. They can either be drunk pure, as summer wines or used for different blends. Though challenging, some local winemakers have even been using *Ranfol* to make sparkling wine, which is unique to this particular area.

### Klarnica

A white local, or autochthonous wine grape, grown almost exclusively in Slovenia's Vipava Valley, and probably the sparsest of the local varieties. More generally, *Klarnica* wine is dry, greenish-yellow in colour with strong floral notes, especially *acacia*, on the bouquet. It can be nutty and honeyed on the palate, light to medium-bodied with higher levels of acidity. It's matured in both stainless steel and oak; some of the latter I've seen are even made with ageing of up to a decade in mind.

### Rumeni plavec

A variety of strong grapes that gives a beautifully full and fresh flavour. It's a key ingredient of Sparkling wines, produced by the award-winning Istenič winery. These grapes are native to the Bizeljsko-Sremič region. They give a green-yellow coloured wine, with high acidity and low alcohol content. Winegrowers rarely bottle it pure and usually use it for different blends, including the one to make *Cviček*.

## PRIMORSKA



Photo: Archive ZTKMS Brda, www.slovenia.info

Primorska (or the Slovenian Littoral, as it is sometimes translated in English) is the most developed, promoted and consequently well-known of Slovenia's three wine regions. It has a climate that benefits from its proximity to both the Mediterranean and the Alps, meaning the area is sometimes called the Slovenian California. Its four districts are Goriška Brda in the north, Vipavska Dolina (the Vipava Valley) further south, Krás (Karst) along the border with Italy, and Slovenska Istra (Slovenian Istria) in the area on and adjacent to the coast.

### Goriška brda

Brda is one of Slovenia's foremost wine-growing areas, and only an hour's drive from Ljubljana. Often described as a miniature version of Tuscany, most of the vineyards are smaller family-run operations, and almost all offer some combination of wine tastings, tours, meals, accommodation and of course wine sales. The region is also known for its traditional Italian-influenced cuisine, and a trip to Brda without enjoying a slow multi-course meal on a terrace overlooking the vineyards almost defeats the entire purpose.

### Vipavska Dolina

Viticulture is, in fact, the main agricultural sector in this fertile valley. The small, family-based vineyards are mainly concentrated on terraces in the higher areas where the excellent soil allows both white and red varieties to be cultivated. Its unique location gives rise to five micro-regions and as many characteristic wines. Grapes from the Zelen and *Pinela* variety are used to make the crisp white wine that the district specialises in. The region's most notable feature is the Burja wind, which gusts down from Mt Nanos at speeds exceeding 200 km/h.

### Kras

The Krás wine district is distinguished by the unique terrain upon which it sits, namely, a limestone Karst plateau above the bay of Trieste covered by a thin layer of reddish-brown soil that receives both an abundance of sun throughout the year, as well as strong wind known as the Burja. The end result is the perfect climate for growing a variety of grapes, especially those for making earthy red wines such as Refošk (Refošco) and Kraški Teran (Terrano), while the dry air also provides excellent conditions for the production of cured meats, widely regarded as Slovenia's best. With so many different wine producers located in this one compact area, the so-called Krás Wine Road can keep visitors happily busy for days on end.

### Slovenska Istra

Istria is the coastal part of the country, and has long been influenced by its proximity to the sea and Italy, with a tradition of winemaking that goes back to Roman times. While many different wines are produced here, the most typical of the region is Refošk, a red that pairs well with food and shows considerable variations depending on the terroir. Other reds include Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. The main white wine is Malvasija (Malvasia), which is said to be richer than that from other areas. Its light and lively character make it very popular when served chilled in the summer.

## PODRAVJE



Photo: Domen Gračar, www.slovenia.info

Covering the entire northeastern portion of the country, Podravje is officially subdivided into two districts: Prekmurje in the far north-eastern corner, and Štajerska Slovenia everywhere else. It should be mentioned that some guides divide the region into seven districts, with names bearing excessive hyphenation that can be quite confusing even for Slovenes, so for the sake of clarity we've decided to stick with the official designations.

### Štajerska Slovenija

The wines of Štajerska Slovenia reflect the Germanic influence the region has often fallen under, so you'll find an abundance of Riesling here, under the names Laški rizling and Renski rizling, as well as Traminer (Gewürztraminer), Sauvignon and Šipon, a personal favourite of ours. Also keep an eye out for the rarnina, which is only produced in this area. The rich *opoka* soil is a blessing for winemakers, and also gives the district's wines their distinctive minerality. The vineyards around Jeruzalem and Radgonsko Kapelske Gorice are especially notable, with the latter famous for its *penina* (ie sparkling wines). When in the area don't miss the chance to visit the World's Oldest Vine in Maribor city centre, the only plant in the world with its own museum. Another symbol of the long tradition of winemaking in Štajerska is the Ptujka Klet, or Ptuj Wine Cellar, the oldest in the country, which still produces wine under the Pullus label. It was founded in 1239 and has a maze of cellars beneath the town, which can be visited for educational tours and wine tastings. Only slightly younger is Vinagova Klet, or Vinag Wine Cellar, which lies below Trg Svobode in the centre of Maribor. This is one of the oldest and largest cellars in Europe, where more than 250,000 bottles of the best vintages are kept in the archives. Some of the most renowned of the vineyards and cellars in Štajerska can be visited by following any of the Ormož, Ptuj, and Kapela wine routes. These include the Jeruzalem-Ormož cellar in Ormož, which can be combined with a visit to Ormož Castle, an interesting structure that was built over hundreds of years, and now hosts exhibitions and events.

### Prekmurje

Prekmurje is found in the far northeast corner of Slovenia, wedged between the borders with Austria, Hungary and Croatia, and much of the winemaking activity here takes place in the areas of Lendava and Goričko. The landscapes are quite breathtaking, with forests and rolling hills covering much of the countryside, while the pace of life is noticeably slower and more relaxed than most other places in the country. When it comes to wine, dry and semi-dry white wines are most typical, with Laški Rizling (Italian Reisling) the most widely produced, followed by Chardonnay, Sauvignon and Renski Rizling, as well as Pinot Blanc, Pinot Gris, Kerner, Rumeni Muškat (Yellow Muscat) and Traminer (Traminer), while red wine production only amounts to some 3% of the total. This district is notable for the number of younger winemakers trying new methods or rediscovering old ones.

## POSAVJE



Photo: Jost Gantar, www.slovenia.info

The Posavje region is most associated with the light, fresh and slightly sour *cviček* wine from the district of Dolenjska. The smaller districts of Bizeljsko-Sremič and Bela Krajina are located along different segments of the Croatian border, and are two of the more charming places to visit in Slovenia.

### Dolenjska

The historical region of Dolenjska (or Lower Carniola) covers the entire Posavje wine region, while the Dolenjska wine-growing district is more modest in size, it is still the third largest district in the country, after only Štajerska and Vipava. However, most producers here are small (even by Slovene standards) family-run operations, and sometimes it can seem as if every individual family has their own vineyard. When it comes to wine, Dolenjska is synonymous with one variety, namely *Cviček*, which is only one of two Slovene wines that boast official EU protection, but also divides opinion amongst Slovenes - locals are known to drink it as liberally as water, while others tend to find it a bit on the sour side. You'll definitely want to give it a try and decide for yourself, and there's no better place to do so than the Embassy of *Cviček*, in the tiny village of Raka south of Krško.

### Bizeljsko-Sremič

While Bizeljsko-Sremič may not be one of the country's more known or visited wine districts - in fact it might very well be the least known and least visited - it's not only one of our personal favourites, but is also a permanent fixture on any itinerary of Slovenia we prepare when family and friends visit from abroad. Modra Frankinja, Laški Rizling, Sauvignon and Chardonnay are the dominant varieties grown here, and there are a few award-winning producers, most notably the sparkling wines of Istenič. However, the reason we visit time and time again has less to do with the wine we drink and more to do with the incredible wealth of sights in the area and the friendly folks who operate them. Several castles are open to the public, including one (Grad Bizeljsko) that doubles as a family residence and boasts an assortment of award-winning sweet whites that you can try. Nature reserves cover most of the territory, and are perfect for a post-meal or post-tasting stroll, while the one-of-a-kind repnice wine cellars, dug by hand into sandstone hills, are also a must see on any visit.

### Bela Krajina

When you see the Bela Krajina wine-growing district on a map, you'd be forgiven for thinking that it's somewhat peculiar looking - as it mainly consists of the hills surrounding the town of Metlika along the border with Croatia, with a narrow strip of territory extending down through Semeč and into the town of Črnomelj. The pride of the microclimate is the local blend known as Metliška Črnina, made from at least 60% Modra Frankinja (Blue Franconian) and 30% Zametna Črnina, which is a dry ruby-red that has a rich, velvety flavour. Several important wine events take place during the year, and are perfect for a Vinska Vipreg, which is held in Metlika each May. Notable producers from the district include Vinska Klet Prus and Vina Šturn.

## 13 KRASNO

I FEEL LOVE

Heroic wines from steep slopes

Over the centuries, heroic winegrowers have tenaciously terraced the steep, marly slopes below the little village of Krasno to plant their vines. This unique land produces distinctly mineral authentic wines, with a character only found in Slovenia's Goriška Brda region.



## Sevnica Castle

Česta vas grad 17, 8290 Sevnica, +386 78 165 440, +386 78 161 075  
www.grad-sevnica.com

Dozens of mostly local wines are displayed in a circular room on the ground floor of the northeast tower, many of which can only be purchased here or from the producers themselves. Since 2007 the castle has also operated its own small vineyard, consisting of some 500 vines located on the terraced southwest slopes of the hill. Each year a local producer is awarded the privilege of producing a limited edition wine from the grapes, which is then bottled under the castle's own label "Castle's Blood" and available exclusively at the wine cellar.



## Istenič

Stara vas 7, 8259 Bizeljsko, +386 15 15 78 85  
office@istenic.si, www.istenic.si

Found tucked away in Bizeljsko in the far east of the country, Istenič is the largest wine producer in the district, as well as one of the largest producers of sparkling wine in all of Slovenia, especially amongst those who adhere to the classic method. The estate is the Bizeljsko's most professionally organised vineyard in terms of receiving guests, with a welcoming multi-lingual staff making visitors feel right at home. Their website clearly lists different wine tasting packages and menus available. They've also got the even more prestigious acclaim of being on our short list of destinations we almost always take our foreign friends, as sampling a dozen different types of sparkling wine whilst lounging in the shade of an apple tree is the perfect way to relax after a day of sightseeing.

## Sanctum

Lipoglav 71, 3215 Loče, +386 41 682 500  
marko@sanctum.si www.facebook.com/sanctum.vrhunska.vina

Sanctum Wines is a small family owned winery, based in Štajerska, Slovenia. Our vineyards are situated in the hills above the town of Loče, on steep marl terroir with a long history of growing grapes and making wine. Due to rich soil minerality and cool climate conditions, we decided to follow the Burgundy tradition brought here by Carthusian monks which introduces Pinot Noir to this part of the world back in the 12th century. We grow Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Syrah.



## Guštin

Bukovica 52, 5293 Volčja Draga, +386 51 626 777  
vinar.gustin@gmail.com, www.vinagustin.si

The story of Guštin dates back to the end of the 19th century, when Joachim Žizmond (aka Nono) Guštin planted his first vines on the sun-soaked Biljenski Hills in the Vipava Valley. At the time he proclaimed that 'Merlot and Malvasia: this is poetry', and this legacy has been continued till the present day, with both varieties of wine under the Guštin label winning multiple awards, including Champion of the Vipava Wine Road in 2014. The wine is produced using the same methods as Nono Guštin did all those years ago, and the result is a natural harmony with nature, which benefits from both the sun as well as the fresh air from the nearby Trnovski Forest. The wine cellar can accommodate groups up to 50 people, and tastings can also be arranged in the nearby vineyards and olive groves.



## Benčina Wine

Lože 18, 5271 Vipava, +386 41 682 500  
b.darja@gmail.com, Instagram: Benčina wines

Dušan Benčina believes that sunny Vipava Valley and traditional wind »burja« are ideal conditions for wine's growth. With the cultivation of vineyards to 11 ha, he sincerely cares that the vines have the ideal conditions for ripening grapes. The Benčina family is proud of their varieties: Sauvignon, chardonnay, refosco, barbera, cabernet sauvignon and merlot. A special place in the wine cellar was occupied by yellow muscat and beautiful red-rose. The excellent location, the careful work in the vineyard and in the wine cellar is a guarantee for excellent wines.



## Mulec

Ročica 40, 2222 Jakobski Dol, +386 31 374 416, +386 31 596 440  
vino@mulec.si, www.mulec.si

You can find the family-run Mulec winery in the heart of Slovenske Gorice, only 15 km from Maribor. Their tradition of high-quality wine production dates back more than a century, and nowadays their five hectares of vineyards produce some 30,000 litres of wine, including a wide range of varieties. Among them, there are nine whites (our favourite of which is the house speciality Blanc de Noir - Pinot Noir), a Rosé and two reds. In the 150-year old wine cellar, you can also find ice harvests, guided by selection systems, as well as red sparkling wine from Blue Pinot. In addition to dry wine tastings, the Mulec estate also boasts a bed and breakfast, which can accommodate up to 14 guests; small camp where you can stay with your camper, caravan or tent; a camper stop and grounds that are home to a herd of deer.



## Rouna Wine

Slap 15, 5271 Vipava, +386 31 500 266  
vinarstvo.rouna@gmail.com, www.vina-rouna.si

On the Rouna Estate we make single-year wines with a pronounced freshness, in accordance with nature and the traditional method of short maceration. Our grapes are grown with great effort, patience and love, through many hours of manual and machine labour in the vineyard. We've dedicated 14 hectares of land to the vine, which thrives splendidly in the marl soil of these parts. In the heart of our vineyards lies the great wine cellar with its tasting room, furnished in the style of the traditional old Vipava Valley wine cellars.



## Čok

Playje 6, 6281 Škofjice, +386 31 323 252  
info@kok.si, www.kok.si

For generations the Čok family has been producing fine wine and olive oil in the small hilltop town of Playje near the Italian border. Their unique labels have always caught our eye, and are also indicative of the refreshing, elegant wines contained within the bottles. Preferring to keep production small and focused, two wines account for the majority of the output here, Malvasia and Refosco - both of which are typical of the region. The former is a straw-coloured white with a fresh bouquet reminiscent of apples, pears and acacia flowers, which makes an excellent accompaniment for seafood fish. The latter, also known as 'black wine' (črno vino) due to its intense deep colour, is known for its berry-like aroma and goes great with cured meats and grilled dishes.



## Gorjup

Belski Vrh 85 2283 Zavrč, +386 31 532 004 +386 31 273 578,  
vino.gorjup@gmail.com www.vinogorjup.com

The Gorjup Winery doesn't have a long-lasting tradition of passing winemaking from one generation to another. A young, then 21-year-old winegrower, Nejc Gorjup had a vision of making his own wine. He bought 7 hectares of vineyards and took another 6 hectares on lease. He's been making wine for seven years now and receiving rewards on wine evaluations in Croatia, Vienna and at home. Riesling Blanc, Pinot Noir, Furmint, Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Blanc and Blue Franconian are all planted 365 metres above sea level.



## Šoster Organic Wine

Mali Brebrovnik 10, 2259 Ivanjokovi, +386 40 345 044  
www.soster.si

Found in the heart of the stunning Jeruzalem hills of the Štajerska district, the Šoster family is now in its fourth generation of winemakers, and for more than 25 years they've adhered to strict principles of organic farming in order to maintain a healthy and pure environment for the people as well as the vineyards. The main philosophy of their wine-growing methods is to only guide the natural processes and keep the authentic richness offered by nature, without the use of any herbicides or artificial fertilisers. The wine cellar offers several distinct lines, from fresh vintages with explicit varietal aroma, to rich macerated ones aged in oak barrels, while their Natur line is not only produced from organically grown grapes, but also without any sulphur or filtration during bottling.



## Frelih

Šentrupert 35, 8232 Šentrupert, +386 76 000 600 (wine cellar),  
vinska.klet@frelih.si, www.frelih.si

The story of the Frelih family's wine begins back in 1892, when great-grandfather Joseph Frelih moved from the Vipava valley to the town of Šentrupert in the heart of the Dolenjska region. He brought his love of winemaking and know-how with him from Primorska and transformed a dying vineyard into a bountiful estate. Nowadays, the family-run Frelih winery continues and builds upon Joseph's legacy, delivering wines of the highest quality, including its award-winning sparkling wines, Blaufränkisch, Silvaner, Pinot Gris, Pinot Noir and the PTP-protected *Cviček*. The family's Zadruga vineyard is still found in the same enviable position above the Šentrupert valley, benefiting from the ideal growing environment, and all Frelih wines reflect the terroir in which the grapes are grown using a combination of hard work, innovation and natural approaches.



## Matjaž's Homestead

Paha 3, 8222 Otočec, +386 41 880 813  
matjaz@matjazeva-domacija.si, www.matjazeva-domacija.si

The story of wine for visitors and groups at Matjaž's homestead. You will get to know an authentic story of small-range wine producers from Slovenia. You will also be shown a 150-year-old homestead and life in the Slovene countryside, a very interesting multi-vision presentation about wine, a wine-tasting of classical and organic wines, a visits of old vineyard cottages and vineyards. Accommodation in three authentic vineyard cottages, which are unique buildings for tourism with saunas and hot-tubs, located on wine-hills at 500 metres above sea level.



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**Prus Wine**  
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**Wine Cellar Mastnak**  
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zdravko.mastnak@siol.net  
www.vinamastnak.com

**House of Wines Emino**  
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+386 41 369 482, +386 51 647 715  
info@emino.si, matija@emino.si, www.emino.si  
Open: Mon-Fri 07:00 - 17:00, Sat 07:00 - 12:00, Closed Sun & Holidays

**Krško Wine Cellar**  
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www.kz-krsko.si  
www.klet-krsko.si

**Puklavce Family**  
Kolodvorska 11, 2270 Ormož,  
+386 27 415 700  
info@puklavcefamilij.com

Puklavce Family Wines is a family owned winery. The family Puklavce's history goes back to 1934, when Martin Puklavce had a vision: to make the finest wines. Puklavce Family Wines are driven by the core values of passion, hard work and dedication to quality. The wines are produced in the hearts of Ljutomer-Ormož, a wine area in the Podravje region. This area provides the perfect microclimate conditions for grape growing and the result are elegant wines, crafted with an uncompromising and passionate attention to detail, beautifully balanced and as expensive as the landscape of our vineyards.

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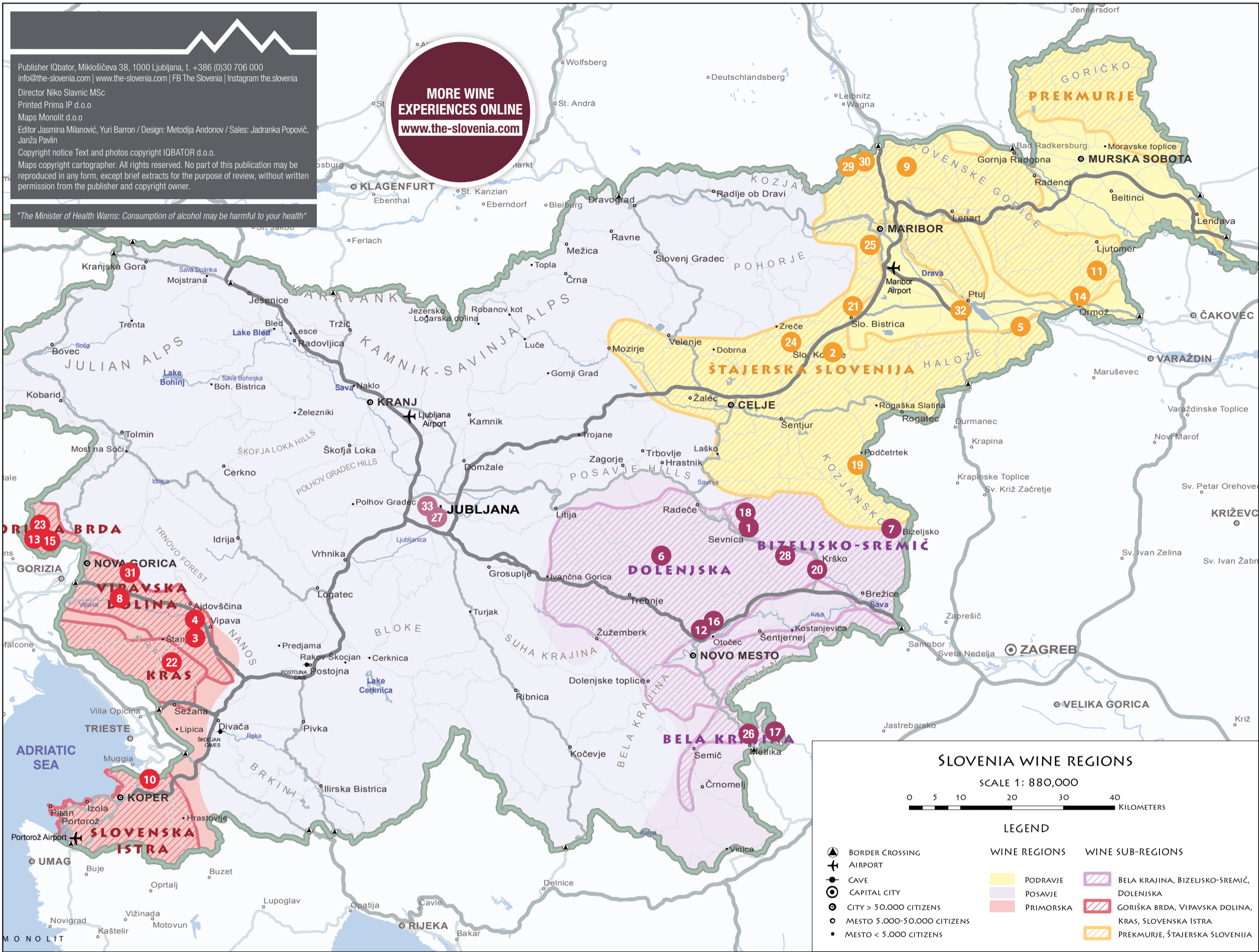
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Straža pri Krškem 2, 8270 Krško, +386 31 306 053  
lojze.kerin@gmail.com, FB/Vinarstvo Kerin

Their vineyards are kept on the sunny hills of Dolenjska above green Krško Polje, where the Sava River lazily spills into its fertile plains. The love and care for this treasure of nature passed on from generation to generation, with new approaches in cultivation, yield top results. The sun, the life juices in their ribs, and loving production in their basement give their wines a youthful twist and playfulness. A reduced burden on the vines, moreover, enables a quality of wine that aptly accompany life's exceptional and unique moments.



**Gaube**  
Špičnik 17, 2201 Zg. Kungota, +386 41 747 151, +386 41 526 511  
vinarstvo.gaube@siol.net, www.vino-gaube.si

If you haven't heard of the Gaube winery, you've still likely seen photos of their vineyards, as the estate is located along the famous heart-shaped wine road in Štajerska that has adorned various book, brochure and magazine covers over the years – after all, Slovenia is the only country in the world with the word 'love' in its name. For five generations the Gaube family has lovingly produced an assortment of excellent wines, building upon the endeavours and knowledge of their ancestors and working in harmony with nature to bring the best out of the land. Their efforts have been duly rewarded, as their wine acquired the title of world champion at the 2016 VINO Ljubljana wine fair, and visitors will also be duly rewarded with the wine tastings and culinary delicacies that await them.



**Kušter**  
Plač 9, Sečina, 2201 Zg. Kungota, +386 31 565 146, +386 31 262 480  
info@vino-kuster.com, www.vino-kuster.com

This family made its first appearance in the historical record more than five centuries ago, and they started to use their local name Kušter some 300 years ago. As both winegrowers and wine lovers they strive to grow ripe and rich wines and at the same time fresh and fruity ones. In their wine cellar they give the wine enough time to develop and mature in order to keep its aromatic flavour and to preserve a strong enough backbone that keeps the wine young. Their wines are kept in the wine barrels as long as possible and bottled just before the next vintage. They produce a wide variety of Styrian sorts and welcome visitors for tastings on their estate, which can be found just down the road from the famous vineyard heart road in the village of Sečina, a short drive north of Maribor.



**Lepa Vida Boutique Winery**  
Osek 4b, 5261 Šempas, +386 41 211 778  
irena@lepavida.wine, www.lepavida.wine

LEPA VIDA boutique winery is a family-run winery in Vipava valley. The Ipavec & Geržina family gives their best to impress each guest with their passion and love for wine growing and wine making. Wine tasting at Lepa Vida is a 2-hours experience where you will meet the Vipava valley and the winery Lepa Vida. But most importantly you will spend your time with great wines and homemade snacks. Through facts and stories presented by Matija and Irena, young owners of the winery, you will learn about the Lepa Vida philosophy and approach to wine growing and winemaking.



**Wine Barrel Village**  
Sava Hotels & Resort – Terme Ptuj, Pot v toplice 9, 2250 Ptuj  
+386 27 494 580, info@terme-ptuj.si, www.camping-slovenija.com

The Terme Ptuj Wine Village offers the unique experience of staying in large wine barrels, which look like something out of The Hobbit and offer almost all the comforts of a hotel room, while still being out in the open. In keeping with the rich tradition of wine-making in Ptuj, a number of barrels have been transformed into accommodation with the idea of creating an original tourist experience, an aim that has been achieved. The Village is a great place to settle in for a few days of wine tourism, with events connected to both local wine-making and Roman tradition often held on site, and the location being ideal for day trips to the area's many attractions, including the thermal delights of the local spas. Due to the small number of barrels, we recommend booking in advance.



**Vineria del Ponte**  
Stari trg 2, 1000 Ljubljana, +386 70 805 175  
info@vineriadelponte.com, www.vineriadelponte.com

Vineria del Ponte is one of the little secrets of Ljubljana. It may be hard to spot, but this eno-gastronomic surprise, located in the historical centre of the city, offers a range of Slovenian wines, liquors and spirits that represent the ideal memory or present to take back home with you from your trip to Slovenia. There's also an extensive selection of high quality Italian wines, as well as other gourmet products such as pastas, sauces and biscuits, and most surprisingly of all the prices are virtually the same as you'll find in Italy. Tastings of typical liquors and spirits are complementary and served outside the store, but we wholeheartedly recommend to pop inside for a full experience with Slovenian wines, brandies, as well as eau de vie from plum, pears, pine resin and elder.



**Frešer**  
Ritonzelj 17, 2310 Slovenska Bistrica  
+386 (0)2 80 34 215, +386 (0)31 577 980  
vino@freser.si  
www.freser.si



**Ščurek**  
Plešivo 44, Medana, 5212 Dobrovo v Brdih  
+386 53 045 021, +386 51 526 245  
scurek.stojan@siol.net  
www.scurek.com



**Cesar Wine**  
Pot na Rute 8, Razvanje 2000 Maribor  
+386 41 609 348  
info@medica-cesar.si  
www.medica-cesar.si



**Wine Cellar Metlika**  
Cesta bratstva in enotnosti 68, 8330 Metlika  
+386 73 637 050  
vinoteka@kz-metlika.si, www.kz-metlika.si  
facebook.com/vinskakletmetlika

WINE CELLAR METLIKA CAN NOW ALSO BE TOUCHED...

The wine cellar Metlika launched its first Braille wine label in July 2019 for the blind and partially sighted. These are generally the first of its kind in Slovenia. They are found on our most recognizable wines: Metliška črna PTP and Belokranjec PTP. As a result, the blind and partially sighted can now read the basic information about the wines they enjoy.



**Teran liqueur JAZBEC**  
Teran liqueur JAZBEC is truly prepared with love for old tradition.  
Ponikve 61, 6210 Sežana  
+386 31 633 009  
Teranov.likar@gmail.com, www.teranovlikar.si



**Zlati Grič**  
Škalce 80, 3210 Slovenske Konjice, +386 37 580 350  
info@zlati-gric.si, www.zlati-gric.si

Set amidst beautiful Štajerska countryside, this relatively new winery covers the entire region to the east of the town of Slovenske Konjice, with modern facilities and state-of-the-art production. The grapes are used to cultivate vintage wines, and although this winery itself is new, the tradition for producing wine here dates back some eight hundred years. The wine cellar and visitor centre are located at the lower end of the vineyards in a large modern building that is mostly underground, while a restaurant is found in an old vineyard cottage further up the hill. For golfers there's even a challenging 9-hole golf course surrounding the vineyards, and if you fall in love with the scenery as well as the wine, there's an idyllic, centuries-old villa in the middle of the vineyards, whose three apartments are available at very reasonable rates.



**Ljubljana Wine Experience**  
Krekov trg 10, 1000 Ljubljana, +386 13 064 575  
www.visitljubljana.com

**April to 30 September:** Tuesdays and Saturdays at 17:00  
**1. October to 31 March:** Saturdays at 17:00  
**Departure point:** Slovenian Tourist Information Centre (STIC)  
At carefully chosen stopover sites and in the company of local wine connoisseurs you can taste a selection of the best that the Podravje, Posavje and Primorska wine regions have to offer. Wine tastings also include snacks. At the Ljubljana Castle, you can take a look at a descendant of the world's oldest vine and take a walk through the castle vineyard. The price includes a 3-hour professional tour with a wine connoisseur guide, 3 tastings of Slovenian wines (9 varieties, three wine-growing regions) and snacks, ride in a funicular to the Ljubljana Castle.