

THE SLOVENIA™ WINE

Top Wine Experiences
2024



www.the-slovenia.com



WINE EXPERIENCES IN SLOVENIA

We're both very excited and honoured to say 'Na zdravje!' to wine lovers the world over with this first edition of our THE Slovenia Wine book, covering all three of the country's distinct wine regions, and their nine constituent districts. From the earthy reds of Primorska in the west, to the sweet whites of Podravje in the northeast to the limitless supply of refreshing cviček of Posavje in the southeast, this book is intended to give only a brief overview of the many incredible wine experiences that can be had in Slovenia, one of the oldest centres of winemaking in the world and yet still, for many, an unexplored destination.

After spending nearly a decade tasting wine and visiting unique destinations across all of Slovenia's wine regions, we've put all of our favourite wine-related experiences together here. While there are no shortage of internationally acclaimed, award-winning producers in Slovenia, this book wasn't written for professional sommeliers or other viticulture experts, but for those visitors who would enjoy spending a day, weekend or longer holiday strolling through picturesque hilltop villages surrounded by vineyards, meeting (often eccentric) winemakers, listening to stories of Slovenia's centuries-old wine traditions, attending one of countless wine-related events, savouring a mouthwatering slow food meal with perfectly paired wines, and generally just enjoying themselves by experiencing all that the country's wine regions have to offer.

Over the past couple decades many of Slovenia's winemakers - from the largest cooperatives to the smallest family-run operations - have expanded, renovated and/or modernised 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.



VINERIJA DEL PONTE

Stari trg 2/Pod trančo, Ljubljana

www.vineriadelponte.com/ • info@vinerijadelponte.com

+386 70 639 735

You will never guess how many great wines, traditional liquors, brandies and delicacies we have in in store that is less than 20 square meters big! Located nearby the historical Cobblers' Bridge, in the center of Ljubljana. More than 11 years we share with our guests the passion for Slovenian and Italian traditional products,. Here you can find what you are already familiar with, or you experience something new, out of the large range of this cozy place. . . We guarantee you will find it an enchanting involvement

chilling out on a pleasant taste! And, even if you didn't plan the day but going for a stroll on the city: do not miss the opportunity to try the unique free taste in town of our exclusive "The Blue Pearl" of Slovenia!



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KOBAL

KOBAL WINERY

Prešernova 4, 2250 Ptuj

www.kobalwines.si • info@kobalwines.si • +386 41 348 596 • +386 31 331 029

The Kobal brand puts the wines from the selected vineyards of Slovenian Styria (Štajerska) on the world's wine map. The majority of our wines come from the vineyards located on steep slopes of Haloze that consist predominantly of marl and from the vines that average more than 35 years in age. All of site's complex influences result in unique traits of our wine, 24 hours long (or even longer) cold maceration accentuates their fruitiness; they exhibit freshness and reflect the fingerprint of nature – a distinctive Štajerska terroir. We create our wines according to strong belief that wine can become the most precious spice of life if consumed responsibly. Every wine, no matter where on Earth it was grown, has its own moment of a special glow. We believe that some of our wines will become a cherished and irreplaceable spice of a moment in your life, be it a gastronomic experience or romantic atmosphere, hanging out with your friends or simply enjoying some time alone accompanied by a glass of excellent wine.

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RANARUM

Duplje 20, 5271 Vipava

www.jeij.si • soterkovac@gmail.com

+386 40 531 346 (slo) • +386 40 481 271 (eng)

Our RANARUM wine cellar enjoys a long family tradition of wine production dating back to the mid-19th century. For greater apperception, we introduced our brand VINA/WINES RANARUM ten years ago. Our ambition is not to increase wine production, but to grow in the quality and selection of our boutique products, which are nevertheless affordable to the widest range of noble droplets' lovers. Every year we prepare a few specialties, though our long-standing tradition is represented by white cuvée, white pinot, sauvignon, pinela, rosé, merlot, and a tender sparkling wine. In addition to wines, we also offer a range of local delicacies, which we make ourselves. WELCOME TO OUR WINERY IN DUPLJE 20, VIPAVA VALLEY!

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ZORIA

Podraga 84, 5272 Podnanos
posestvo.zoria@gmail.com
+386 30 676 808

Zoria estate is located in the upper Vipava valley, more precisely in the village of Podraga. The roots of the farm go all the way back to 1813, as indicated by the vintage in the cellar. The vineyards are located on the slopes of the "Vipava hills" where extreme locations, "Vipava bora" and our work give wines their unique taste. In the vineyard and cellar, we respect the knowledge of our ancestors, which we upgrade with modern ones. By understanding the characteristics of our vineyards, soil and microclimate, we adjust the varieties and the methods of work. With this we achieve that we get the most of what each variety and location has to offer. On our estate we produce from 1 year old fresh wines to matured ones which are known for its full-bodied character and freshness.

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The best wine glasses out there are made at the biggest crystal factory in the world.



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www.rogaska-crystal.com



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BENČINA WINES

Lože 18, Vipava

www.vinabencina.si • b.darja6@gmail.com • +386 42 650 662

In the small village of Lože, where wine and honey are poured, we find a humble man with a great mind. Dušan Benčina took over the farm as a young man and started to engage in viticulture. His motivation was the production of premium wine, in which a person feels hardworking hands and sun-drenched wines with every sip. With advanced technology and aesthetic arrangement of vineyards and wine cellars, it is evident that wine is a value in the Benčina family. There are 2/3 of the white grape varieties in the vineyards, most of which are Sauvignon, followed by Yellow Muscat, Chardonnay and Zelen, while the red ones include Pinot Noir, Barbera, Refosco, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Each variety is vinified separately, also according to their location. The flagship of red wines are Pinot Noir and Opus bonum. The wines achieve excellent results both on foreign and domestic soil.

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KUŠTER

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

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 Svečina, a short drive north of Maribor.

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MARO WINES & MARO VINE CELLAR

Ljubljanska 75, 3000 Celje • Litmerk 44, 2270 Ormož
www.maro-wine.com • info@maro-wine.com • +386 40 870 980

The MARO wine cellar (MAša ROots) represents the revival of the centuries-old winemaking tradition of the MURSA family, which according to written records dates back to the start of the 17th century. Maša Samec, the great-great-granddaughter of the landowner, winemaker, factory owner and innovator Josip MURSA, continues the wine fairy tale with respect, boldness and responsibility on the excellent vineyard locations of her ancestors, in the hills of Ljutomer and Ormož near Jeruzalem. The wine label is an abstracted original mosaic tile painting of the production programme of the Josip MURSA factory from 1895. MURSA brand wines represent a synergy of respect for the tradition of past generations, knowledge, natural processing of grapes, and preservation of the harmony of aroma and flavour. In its selection, the MARO wine cellar offers premium aromatic wines, expressed in the luxury of fruit, floral and plant aromas. In terms of flavour, the wines are lively because of refreshing acidity, sophisticatedly full and rich in extract, harmonious and pleasant to drink.

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ZLATI GRIČ

Škalce 80, 3210 Slovenske Konjice
www.zlati-gric.si • info@zlati-gric.si
+386 51 668 502

Zlati Gric (Golden Hill) - one of the most scenic vineyard landscapes. Within the selection at the winery dominate white wines of various varietals (90%). The leading ones are Sauvignon, Pinot Blanc and Pinot Gris, Welschriesling and Rhine Riesling, Chardonnay and Traminer. The red varietals are Blue Franconian and Pinot Noir.

Visit us and enjoy regularly awarded wines, beautiful views over the vineyards, a game of golf at the unique golf course with 9 holes situated among the vineyards, local gastronomy at the hilltop restaurant and stay overnight at our Vineyard mansion from the 15th century.



PUKLAVEC FAMILY WINES SINCE 1934

Kolodvorska 11, 2270 Ormož

www.puklavcefamilywines.com • info@puklavcefamily.com • +386 27 415 700

facebook: [puklavcefamilywines](https://www.facebook.com/puklavcefamilywines) • instagram: [puklavce_family_wines](https://www.instagram.com/puklavce_family_wines)

Refreshing wines from Slovenia

The Puklavc family's love for wine can be tracked back to 1934 in Slovenia. Martin Puklavc had a vision: to make the finest wines together. This philosophy continues to resonate through the family's wine making today. Puklavc Family Wines are driven by the core values of passion, hard work and dedication to quality. Puklavc Family Wines are produced in the heart of Ljutomer-Ormož, a wine area in the Podravje region, in the North-Eastern part of Slovenia. This area provides the perfect microclimate conditions for grape growing. The result are elegant wines, crafted with an uncompromising and passionate attention to detail, beautifully balanced and as expressive as the landscape of our vineyards.



KLET BRDA

Zadružna cesta 9, 5212 Dobrovo
www.klet-brda.si • tourism@klet-brda.si
rezervacije: +386 53 310 144

Klet Brda the leading producer and exporter of Slovenian wine. The winery is located at the heart of Brda, the magical hilly land in the western part of Slovenia, nestled halfway between the Alps and the Adriatic Sea.

Klet Brda's story begins in 1957, when the winery was established as a cooperative. Today, the cooperative remains fully owned by 400 local winegrowing families, which help shape the life in the Brda region and produce some of the most renowned wines.

Wine tastings in Klet Brda wine cellar or the historic De Bager cellar will allow you to feel the pulse of Brda and broaden your wine horizons. You can try the wines individually or enjoy in one of their tasting packages with a guided winery tour.



THE METLIKA WINERY

CBE 68, 8330 Metlika

www.kletmetlika.si • vinska.klet@kz-metlika.si

+386 73 637 037 • +386 73 637 060

The Metlika Winery is located in the beautiful nature of Bela krajina, in the small town of Metlika. The powerful, 108 - foot long wine cellar with its unique tunnel-type shape is a real feast for the eyes and a place for pleasant wine indulgence. The underground cellar invites you to travel through the land of Bela krajina, among the vineyards and the hardworking hands of long generations of winegrowers, who created everything that today can be shown to the visitor who enters this sensual land. While walking among the wooden barrels, their experts will present you with a wonderful story about the creation of wine, which is caught in the web of the past. Let yourself be seduced by the charming smells and tastes of their wines and look forward to the day when you can taste them live.



PRUS WINES

Krmačina 6, 8330 Metlika

www.vinaprus.si • info@vinaprus.si

+38641 690 112 • + 386 7 30 59 098

The Prus family home in Krmačina near Metlika radiates the serenity of a pleasant everyday living environment. Four generations under the same roof symbolize the family wine-making tradition. Although the vineyard of our late grandfather was not as big as it is today, he was still the member of the village vineyard cottage called "soseska zidanica Drašiči". We are constantly in search of new methods and procedures for improving our achievements. We know that the process of learning never stops and we certainly apply this to winegrowing and winemaking.



ISTENIČ

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

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.

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Šampanjci & penine

ŠAMPANJCI IN PENINE

Valvasorjeva ulica 12, Ljubljana

Instagram: [sampanjci_in_penine](#) • +386 41 576 382 (WhatsApp, Viber)

Opening hours: from 10 am till 16 pm or by appointment

Nestled in the heart of a presidential district, our boutique sparkling wine shop is a distinguished destination, where each bottle holds a moment of joy waiting to be shared. Explore the finesse of Slovenian sparkling wines, the timeless elegance of champagne, and the lively character of prosecco. As exclusive importers of boutique labels, we bring you a curated selection that tells unique stories of craftsmanship and dedication. Whether you're a connoisseur or a newcomer, our passionate team is ready to guide you to the perfect bottle for any celebration. Elevate your celebration or a common day with our carefully selected, exclusive offerings.

For your convenience, we recommend checking our current operating hours through our dedicated applications.

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PREGELJC

Slap 52, 5271 Vipava

Facebook: VinaPregeljc • Instagram: VinaPregeljc • +386 41 296 782

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MATJAZ'S HOMESTEAD

Paha 3, 8222 Otočec

www.matjazeva-domacija.si • matjaz@matjazeva-domacija.si • +386 41 880 813

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GUERILA - BIODYNAMIC WINES

Planina 111, 5270 Ajdovščina

www.guerila.si • guerila@guerila.si • facebook: GUERILAwines • +386 51 660 265

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PLATEIS

Zgornje Hlapje 13, 2222 Jakobski Dol

www.plateis.wine • martina@kraner-plateis.com • +386 41 331 212

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RADGONSKE GORICE

Jurkovičeva ulica 5, 9250 Gornja Radgona

www.radgonske-gorice.si • info@radgonske-gorice.si • +386 2 564 85 10

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ŠČUREK
VINO WINE



ŠČUREK

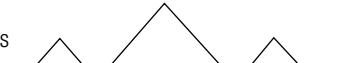
Plešivo 44, 5212 Dobrovo v Brdih

info@scurek.com • [instagram: scurekwine](https://www.instagram.com/scurekwine) • +386 41 702 234, +386 31 526 245

TOP FACTS ABOUT SLOVENIAN WINE AND WINEMAKERS

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.

TOP FACTS

- **80 - 90 million liters** of wine per year with 30% of wine for self-supply
 - **6,1 million liters** of Slovenian wine is exported every year
 - **500.000 euros** a prestigious bottle of Slovenian dessert wine has been sold for no less than half a million euros
 - **70/30** about 70% of Slovenia's production is white wine and 30% red wine
 - **14.900 hectares** of registered vineyards. There is a vineyard or a winery for every 70 people in Slovenia
 - **27,500 winegrowers** Slovenia has around 28,400 winegrowers, 27,500 winegrowers and 2.500 wine cellars of which 11 are larger
 - **400 years** the oldest vine in the world resides in Maribor, where it has been growing for 400 years
 - **60 varieties** there are over 60 types of grape varieties that thrive in Slovenia and 7 native ones
 - **160 years** in Gornja Radgona they have been producing sparkling wines for over 160 years
- 

PRIMORSKA

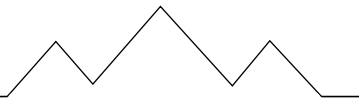
Primorska (or the Slovenian Littoral, as it is sometimes translated in English) is the most developed, promoted and consequently well-known of Slovenia's three wine regions. It has a climate that benefits from its proximity to both the Mediterranean and the Alps, meaning the area is sometimes called the Slovenian California.

Goriška 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.

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.

The **Kras** wine district is distinguished by the unique terrain upon which it sits, namely, a limestone Kras 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 (Refosco) and Kraški Teran (Terrano).

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. Other reds include Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. The main white wine is Malvazija (Malvasia), which is said to be richer than that from other areas.



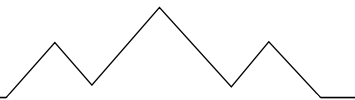
PODRAVJE

Covering the entire northeastern portion of the country, Podravje is officially subdivided into two districts: Prekmurje in the far north-eastern corner, and Štajerska Slovenija 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.

The wines of **Štajerska** 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 Traminec (Gewurztraminer), Sauvignon and Šipon, a personal favourite of ours. 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. There are many famous wine cellars in Štajerska, that are worth a visit.

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. This district is notable for the number of younger winemakers trying new methods or rediscovering old ones.



POSAVJE

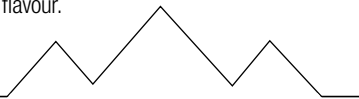
The Posavje region is most associated with the light, fresh and slightly sour cviček wine from the district of Dolenjska. The smaller districts of Bizeljsko-Sremic and Bela Krajina are located along different segments of the Croatian border, and are two of the more charming places to visit in Slovenia.

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.

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.

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 Semič 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% Žametna Črnina, which is a dry ruby-red that has a rich, velvety flavour.





Publisher

THE SLOVENIA,
Miklošičeva 38, 1000 Ljubljana,
+386 (0)30 706 601
info@the-slovenia.com • www.the-slovenia.com
Facebook: The Slovenia • Instagram: the.slovenia

Director

Niko Slavnič M.Sc

Printed

Kotis d.o.o

Maps

Monolit d.o.o

Editor and product manager

Živa Dondur

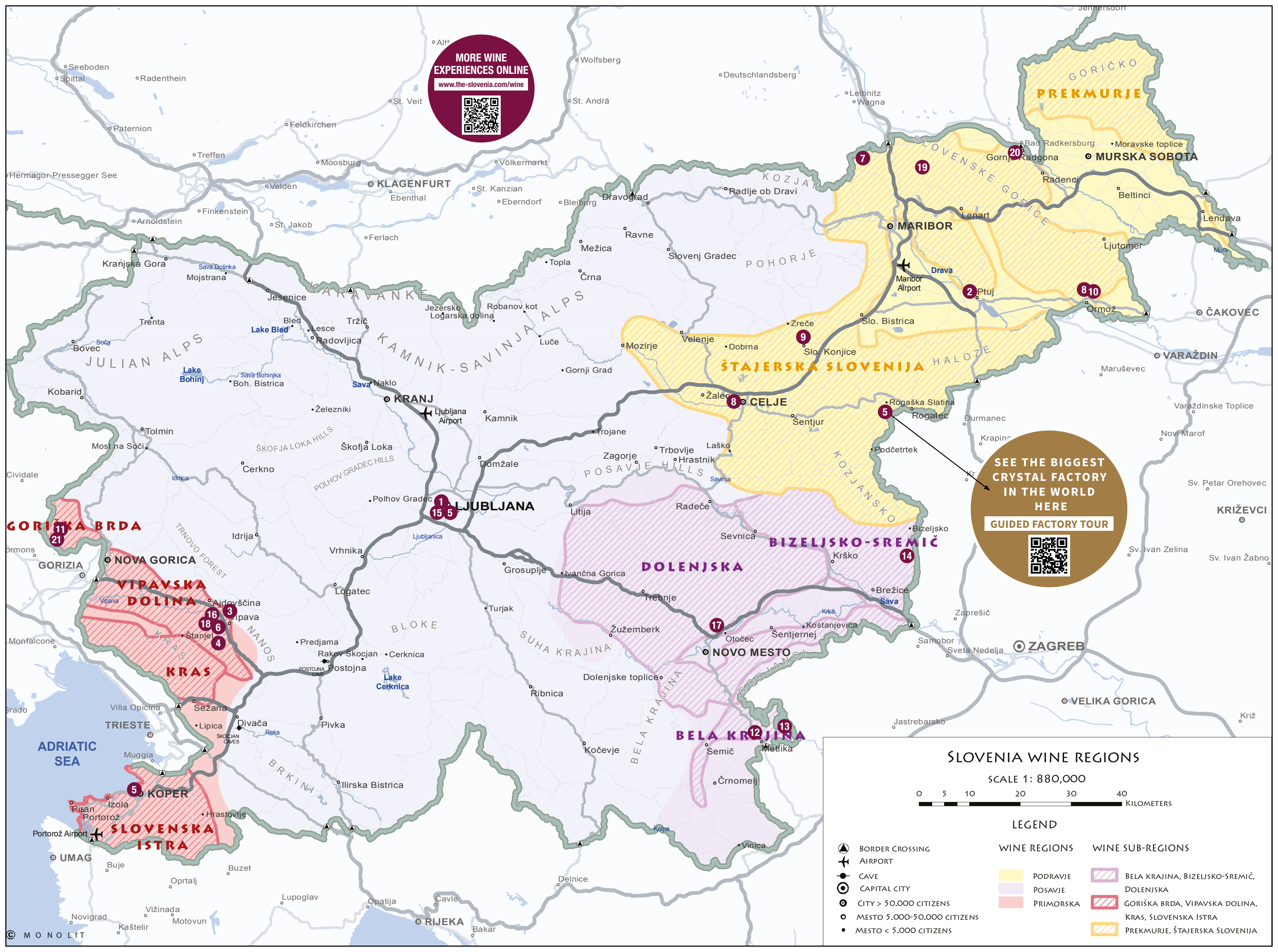
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Metodija Andonov

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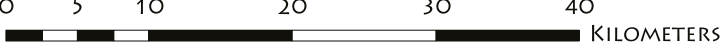
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SLOVENIA WINE REGIONS

SCALE 1: 880,000



LEGEND

WINE REGIONS		WINE SUB-REGIONS	
	PODRAVJE		BELA KRAJINA, BIZELJSKO-SREMIČ, DOLENJSKA
	POSAVJE		GORIŠKA BRDA, VIPAVSKA DOLINA, KRÁS, SLOVENSKA ISTRA
	PRIMORSKA		PREKMURJE, ŠTAJERSKA SLOVENIJA

	BORDER CROSSING
	AIRPORT
	CAVE
	CAPITAL CITY
	CITY > 50,000 CITIZENS
	MESTO 5,000-50,000 CITIZENS
	MESTO < 5,000 CITIZENS