

## Wine Tour to East Georgia

*Wine production in Georgia has 8000 years history. Georgia is a motherland of wine. In Georgia are grown about 500 varieties of grape and produced well-known red and white wines. Georgian way of wine production in 'Qvevri' (clay tank planted in the ground) is included in UNESCO Intangible world heritage list. Almost every family in the countryside in Kakheti is also winegrower.*



### Highlights:

- Alaverdi Cathedral (XI c)
- Twins wine cellar and museum in village Napareuli (Optional)
- Gremi fortress (XVI c)
- Wine tasting at Twin's Cellar in Napareuli (Optional)
- Wine tunnels in Kvareli (under the mountains of Great Caucasus)
- Tasting of different sorts of factory wines "Khareba"
- Wine tasting in Prince Chavchavadze's Palace
- Wine tasting in Schuchmann's Chateau (Optional)
- Telavi - The main city of Kakheti region
- Gombori Pass on the way back to Tbilisi (1620 m)



In the Morning drive direction to Telavi, Kakheti region - East from Tbilisi, the largest wine producing region in Georgia. The first destination is Alaverdi Cathedral, (20 km Northwest from Telavi). Alaverdi Cathedral is one of the important orthodox monument in Georgia. (XI c, in tentative list of UNESCO since 2007).

Next visit of Twins wine cellar in village Napareuli. Here our guests can find very interesting wine museum where you can learn Georgian way of wine production. In the several rooms of the museum you can see how Georgians make Qvevri (huge terracotta tanks), how they plant qvevri into the ground, and all the steps of wine formation. At the end of the tour the guests can taste two different sorts of wine and Chacha – Georgian analog of grappa. Please note, visit of this property is optional and is not included in standard tour package.

Further on, on the way visit of Gremi fortress (XVI c). Till XVI c Gremi was the main city of Kakheti region till XVI C. Nowadays, picturesque location of the fortress with tall bell tower and high walls makes deep impression on guests.

Afterwards, the trip continues to wine tunnels built under the hills of Great Caucasus mountains. Total length of the tunnels is 8.000 m. Two main tunnels are more than 800 m each. The tunnels are used for aging of wine. Above the wine tunnels one can find beautiful restaurant built on the top of the hill with picturesque view on Alazani Valley and delicious Georgian meals.

Then, the route leads towards Prince Chavchavadze Palace (XIX c) in village Tsinandali with wonderful French park and wine cellar. Here in wine cellar the guests can taste different sort local wines.

After visiting of the palace one can add visit of beautiful Chateau Schuchmann in village Kisiskhevi for another wine tasting. Wine lover Herr Burkhard Schuchman from Hamburg has decided to establish a small property in this area for producing Georgian wine. Schuchmann Wines Georgia won in 2008 the award as "THE BEST SMALL ENTERPRISE 2008" and in 2011 "THE BEST MEDIUM ENTERPRISE 2011. Visit of the Chateau is optional and the guests can add this destination for additional costs.

At the end of the tour visits of Telavi - main city and administrative centre of Kakheti region (100 km eastern from Tbilisi). Here you can find local market in the town, where you can enjoy and buy wide range of different fruits and vegetables, apples and peaches, grapes and pomegranates, tomatoes and cucumbers.

Finally, through Gombori Pass return to Tbilisi.

Duration of wine tour to Kakheti is about 8-9 hours.

**What's Included:**

- *Hotel pick-up and drop-off;*
- *Transportation In modern, air-conditioned coach;*
- *Petrol Costs;*
- *Qualified Guiding service (English, German, Italian, Russian);*
- *A bottle of water per traveler.*

**What's Not Included:**

- *Travel insurance;*
- *Meals and drinks;*
- *Costs for wine tasting.*

*Visit of the Twin's wine cellar and Chateau Schuchmann are optional and can be added to the itinerary for additional costs.*