

Montenegro

Montenegro is a country in the Balkans, on the Adriatic Sea. It borders Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina to the north, Serbia to the northeast, Serbian province of Kosovo to the east, and Albania to the south. To the west of Montenegro is the Adriatic Sea. Many Montenegrin vineyards are located in the southern and coastal regions of the country. Montenegrin wines are made from a wide range of grape varieties including: Krstač, Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay and Vranac. Krstač is an ancient variety of grape that is indigenous to Serbia and Montenegro. A high quality dry white wine is made of it. The wine may be rich, of harmonious bouquet and of light yellow colour with 12.5% alcohol. Vranac is an ancient variety of grape that is indigenous to the Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro. Vranac is considered the most important variety of grape in Montenegro, and it produces a dry red wine of a unique taste and character that is synonymous with the Balkans.

The main wine producing regions are close to the Capital Podgorica and around Lake Skadar. There is one large commercial producer, Plantaže who have opened their cellars to tourists and have a gift shop and information centre at the entrance to Skadar National Park - in Virpazar. Plantaže also sponsor the National Tourism Organisation - together with Montenegro Airlines and Nikšić Brewery. Plantaže is built around the realization of the project 'Ćemovsko field', when 2000 ha of vineyards and orchards were established and a technologically modern wine cellar of 190 000 hl capacity and the cold storage plant of 3000 tons capacity were built.

Workers' council of Agroplant '13. jul' company decided officially on the 25th of June 1970 to start the preparations for the project realization. Having done long and serious research work, it successfully passed the FAO control in the period 1973-1975, which was a recommendation that International bank in Washington approve the participation on the project financing in 1977. Based on the confirmed expert and financial support, decisions of the Parliament of the municipality of then Titograd (now Podgorica) on giving rights to permanent use of the land on Ćemovsko field which had not been cultivated until that time and decision of the Parliament of the municipality on the guarantee of Montenegro for the credit facility - the project worth 62 million US dollars began. In the period from 1977 to 1982 barren and arid, stony and shallow soil of the Ćemovsko field was converted into one of the largest, green agricultural oasis of the Balkans - gold mine of Nature. It turned out that reviving Ćemovsko barren field was not an adventure, but a unique scientific achievement in the Balkan region, thanks to which „Plantaže“ nowadays has a leadership position in the production of grapes and wines.

Many families in Montenegro produce some wine for home consumption. The best growing conditions are in the south east of the country and producers here have always been more oriented towards commercial production of wines for the domestic market.