

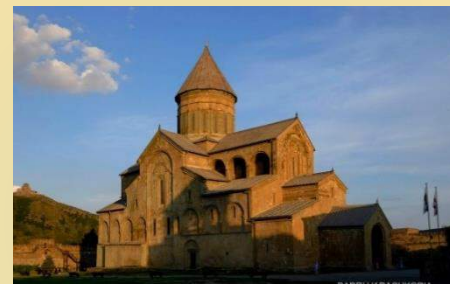


WINE TOUR

There has been wine in Georgia almost as long as there have been Georgians. Grapevine has been cultivated in the fertile valleys of Georgia for about 8000 years. With over 500 varieties. All over Georgia, archaeologists have found ancient wine presses and clay vessels, proving that viticulture has been practiced here at least since the 5th-4th millennia BC.

Best period: September-October

Duration: 5days/6nights;



Arrival and transfer to the hotel, overnight in Tbilisi;

Day 1: Tbilisi

. After late breakfast Tbilisi sightseeing tour. During the tour we take you to show you the old city. You can take a glance to the history of the city from early centuries to nowadays by walking in narrow streets of the city and exploring the religious and secular architecture. Here you find different religious buildings – churches, synagogues, mosque, as well as famous 19th century houses with wooden multi-coloured balconies. You visit the sulphur bath which made an unforgettable impression on Pushkin, Lermontov, Dumas. During the tour you enjoy the superb panoramic views of the Old city. This marks the end of the Old Town. Afterwards we visit the stunning treasury of the Georgian History Museum (closed on Mondays), before taking a stroll along Rustaveli Avenue – the main street in Tbilisi.

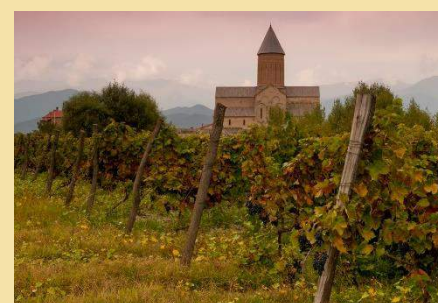
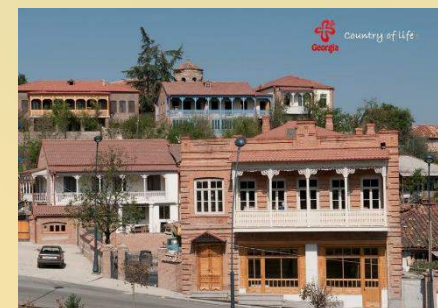
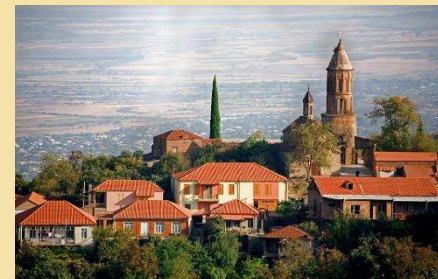
Day 2: Tbilisi – Mtskheta – Mukhrani – Kutaisi

Drive to the ancient capital and religious centre of Georgia – Mtskheta. Visit Jvari Monastery and Svetitskhoveli Cathedral. Continue to the winery of Kartli province and later of Imereti province. We get acquainted with process of wine-making and taste some different kind of wines. The wines of different provinces have different tastes and we'll be lucky to taste wines of Kartli and Imereti provinces today. Arrival in Kutaisi – the second largest city in Georgia.

Day 3: Kutaisi – Ambrolauri – Tbilisi

Visit Gelati monastery and continue to the mountainous region of Georgia – Racha to taste the very special wine sort Khvanchkara - one of the most popular wines in Soviet period and the favorite wine of its leader Josef Stalin. This semi-sweet wine is made of wine grapes that grow only in a small village in Ambrolauri district. We will visit the winery and farmer's vineyard and have a lunch with home-made dishes.

WINE TOUR



Day 5: Tbilisi – Signaghi – Tsinandali – Telavi

We travel to Kakheti – the famous wine-growing region. We take a walk in the fortified town of Signaghi and taste local wines at a winery established by an American painter. Afterwards drive to a farmer's house to see a unique wine-cellar. We have lunch at the farmer's cellar where we will also learn more about Georgia's rural life. Continue to visit the estate of Georgian dukes from the 19th century in Tsinandali. Then visit another winery that produces wine using special Georgian and European methods. Continue to Telavi and have a dinner with toast master "Tamada".

Day 4: Kakheti

In the morning we visit a local master to show us the "Qvevri" making specifics. Continue to Alaverdi cathedral where we can take a tour of monastery winery and taste very special wines made by monks. We'll enjoy our lunch at a farmer's house with home-made dishes (if its harvest period, we will have a chance to participate in it with local farmers). We will see how Georgian sweet 'Churchkhela' (walnuts coated in grape juice and flour) is made and Georgian bread "Shoti" is baked. Continue to another winery to taste the unique Georgian dry wine "Saperavi" and semi-sweet "Kindzmarauli".

Day 5: Telavi – Gombori Pass – Tbilisi

Drive via Gombori Pass to Tbilisi. Visit Georgian brandy factory "**DAVID SARAJISHVILI BRANDY FACTORY**" - is the first brandy producing factory in Georgia which used the classic technologies founded in 1884 (throughout the Russian Empire) by David Sarajishvili. Transfer from the hotel to the airport.

