

Romania is one of the world's largest wine producers and sixth largest among European wine-producing countries. In 2015 it produced around 4.069 million hectolitres of wine.

Romania's most cultivated grape varieties are for white wines, including Riesling, Aligoté, Sauvignon, Muscat, Pinot Gris, Chardonnay. The main grape varieties for red wines are Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinot Noir.

Romania has one of the oldest wine making traditions in the world, its viticulture dating back more than 6,000 years. Due to suitable climate, relief and soils, viticulture became a current activity of the local inhabitants mainly in the hilly areas. Numerous local wine grape varieties have been obtained during medieval time by empirical selection, becoming representatives for Romanian wine regions. Up to the phylloxera crisis, each Romanian wine region has its own wine grape assortment, that generate specific local wines. Since the medieval period, wine has been the traditional alcoholic beverage of the Romanians.

Romania has about 187,000 hectares of vine plantations, that ranks it on sixth place between the European wine-producing countries. With a wine production of about 4.5 million hl/year Romania is the thirteenth largest wine producing country in the world.

Hungary The Kingdom of Hungary was a monarchy in Central Europe that existed from the Middle Ages into the twentieth century (1000–1946 with the exception of 1918–1920). The Principality of Hungary emerged as a Christian kingdom upon the coronation of the first king Stephen I in about the year 1000. The Kingdom of Hungary covered what is today Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Transylvania and other parts of what is now Romania, Carpathian Ruthenia (now part of Ukraine), Vojvodina (now part of Serbia), Burgenland (now part of Austria), and other smaller territories surrounding present-day Hungary's borders. From 1102 it also included Croatia, being in personal union with it, united under the King of Hungary.

The Romans brought vines to Pannonia, and by the 5th century AD, there are records of extensive vineyards in Hungary. Most of the production was of white wine.

During the Turkish occupation the Tokaj region became known for dessert wines, harvested late to encourage noble rot. Tokaji aszú is mentioned in a document of 1571, and it was famously christened by Louis XIV of France (1638-1715) "Vinum Regum, Rex Vinorum" - Wine of Kings, King of Wines.

Emperor Franz Josef had a tradition of sending Queen Victoria Tokaji Aszú wine every year on her birthday, one bottle for every month she had lived. On her eighty first and final birthday in 1900, this totalled an impressive 972 bottles. In a continuation of this tradition, a case of Royal Tokaji was presented to Queen Elizabeth II on the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee.

Slovenia. Slovenian wine-making has existed in this region since the time of the Celts and Illyrians tribes (sometime between the 5th and 4th centuries BC), long before the Romans introduced wine-making to the lands of France, Spain and Germany.

Slovenian territory was part of the Roman Empire which controlled the land for nearly 1,000 years, and between the mid 14th century and 1918 most of Slovenia was under Habsburg rule. In 1918, Slovenes joined Yugoslavia, while the west of the country was annexed to Italy. The country gained its independence from Yugoslavia in June 1991, and is today a member of the European Union and NATO.

Today Slovenia has more than 28,000 wineries making between 80 and 90 million litres annually from the country's 22,300 ha of vineyards. About 75% of the country's production is white wine. Almost all of the wine is consumed domestically with only 6.1 million l a year being exported—mostly to the United States, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and lately the Czech Republic.

Croatia Croatian wine-making dates back to the Ancient Greek settlers, and their wine production on the southern Dalmatian islands some 2,500 years ago. Many traditional grape varieties still survive in Croatia, perfectly suited to their local wine hills.

The majority of Croatian wine is white, with most of the remainder being red, and only a small percentage is rosé wines. In 2010, Croatia ranked 30th in wine producing countries with an estimated 50,000 tonnes.

Under the communist system of Yugoslavia, wine production was centred in large cooperatives, and private ownership of vineyards was discouraged. Quantity rather than quality became the main focus. The Croatian War of Independence in the early 1990s saw many vineyards and wineries once again destroyed. However, with the move back to small, independent producers, Croatian wines are once again competing with the best in the world wine market.

Bulgaria Grape growing and wine production have a long history in Bulgaria, dating back to the times of the Thracians.

Bulgaria was the world's fourth largest wine exporter in 1980s, but the industry declined after the collapse of communism. Wine production is growing again.

The First Bulgarian Empire was founded in 681 AD, which dominated most of the Balkans and functioned as a cultural hub for Slavs during the Middle Ages. With the downfall of the Second Bulgarian Empire in 1396, its territories came under Ottoman rule for nearly five centuries. The Russo-Turkish War of 1877-78 led to the formation of the Third Bulgarian State. The following years saw several conflicts with its neighbours, which prompted Bulgaria to align with Germany in both world wars. In 1946 it became a one-party socialist state as part of the Soviet-led Eastern Bloc. In December 1989 the ruling Communist Party allowed multi-party elections, which subsequently led to Bulgaria's transition into a democracy and a market-based economy.