

# colours of malta



travel and incentives

"The difference between the ordinary and extraordinary is the little 'extra' "- colours of malta

# Maltese Wines & Tours

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Malta may not be renowned like its larger Mediterranean neighbours for wine production, but **Maltese vintages** are more than holding their own at international competition, winning several accolades in France, Italy and further afield.

International grape varieties grown here include **Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah, Grenache, Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Carignan, Chenin Blanc** and **Moscato**. Then there are the indigenous varieties, **Gellewza** and **Ghirghentina**, which are producing some excellent wines of distinct body and flavour.

Grapes grown in Malta's hot and humid climate ripen much quicker than their counterparts further north. **Wineries** are careful to grow varieties suited to the distinct limestone terroir. Soil samples are sent to leading European experts to assess which varieties will thrive here.

The efforts of the past couple of decades are reaping rewards for the local wine industry. Several local wines are found on UK supermarket shelves and deservedly so.

Northern European markets are just beginning to discover the secret of Maltese wines.

If wine is your hobby, passion or favourite accompaniment to a sociable meal, the Maltese Islands have plenty to offer.

## Tours and Tasting

The main wineries organise guided tours and tastings. Depending on the season, tours cover the entire production from the initial fermentation through to the ageing process. They also include wine history museums and opportunities to taste and buy a variety of vintages. Wine-tasting and vineyard tours are also organised by specialised local agents.



# Wine Tasting at Ta' Mena in Gozo

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Eno-tourism is a niche tourism segment whereby tourists with a passion for wine are given the opportunity to visit wineries, vineyards, taste wines and even purchase wine directly from the source. This also provides visitors with an understanding of the different processes involved in wine production giving an insight into the various aspects of wine making according to the region where it is being produced.

At Ta Mena Wine Estate a typical wine tour starts with a historical introduction of wine making in the Maltese Islands, followed by a visit to our vineyards. The tour can also be extended to our winery which is only three minutes away by car. Visitors will be given the opportunity to taste the different wines produced in our boutique winery, as well as purchase wines from our retail outlet located at the wine estate.

Throughout the wine tour visitors will be guided by our wine expert who will give first hand information about our viticulture methods, detailed information about our wines, the process of wine making and how one should taste wine to understand and enjoy it better. The wine tasting sessions are also accompanied by some of our typical preserved food such as sundried tomato paste, capers, olives, Gozo peppered cheese-lets and some pâtés.

During the grape harvest season visitors may also take an active part in the grape harvest and observe the wine making process in our state-of-the-art winery.



# Wine Tasting at Marsovin Cellars, Malta

## THE CELLARS

The Marsovin Cellars reflect the commitment and passion of four generations of wine-makers – a blend of tradition and expertise evolved over 90 years. Over 100,000 bottles and 220 oak barrels are aged in these cellars. A practice as rare as the quality it creates. All the finer labels, the varietals and classics, are matured and aged in the dark stillness of the cellars which lie adjacent to the winery at Marsa. The wine is aged in imported barrels of French or American oak, which imparts specific qualities to the nature of the wine and its aroma.

Hidden in the Marsovin Cellars, originally built in the 17th Century by the Knights of St. John lies a national treasure in the making.

220 oak barrels are being used to age Marsovin's Premium Single Estate Wines, wines produced with our own Maltese terroir and aged with care for you to enjoy.

Marsovin welcomes you to visit our cellars and experience this truly idyllic setting, while sampling our premium wines. Our highly trained staff will guide you through a wine tasting session where you can learn how to truly appreciate, enjoy and taste wine. Learn about the 3 year process of producing Cassar de Malte, Malta's only Brut produced by hand, in the Methode Traditionnelle, the original method used to produce Champagne used only by three other companies in the whole of the Mediterranean region.

Enjoy walking through the same rooms that 400 years ago were used by the Knights of St. John as a whole network of workshops, in an area which years ago was bustling with action, boat building and bartering whilst the knight's schooners came in and out the harbour bay for business. An interesting disclosure is that hundreds of years ago all harbour traffic and Valletta transport came up and down this same hill.

A cellar tour at Marsovin is an exciting event for every wine drinker to enjoy, both as a gathering between friends as well as social event with a difference. Locals and tourists are always left impressed with one of our cellar tours.



# Wine Tasting – Rural tours

Explore rural Malta, meet the locals and enjoy freshly sourced delicacies during this 'half day' private tour off the beaten path.

A local guide will highlight unique sight-seeing locations with fascinating historical, cultural and ecological importance. You will get to experience village cores and most importantly visit places which are not accessible to the regular tourist... or even locals!

The ethos of these eco-tours is to support the local rural community and the Maltese environment, therefore each activity is built around genuine farmers and artisans.

For this private tour you will meet the local guide at a location and time of your choice. Each tour is different, depending on what you'd like to experience and which season you are visiting, so the first 10 minutes are spent going through the itinerary for the day. Distances in Malta are very short, and if planned well, you will enjoy a number of locations within a short period of time.

Amongst other locations, the main villages visited are Rabat, Mgarr and the outskirts of Mellieha. These are all rural places where agriculture is still predominant. While hopping from one village to the next, we will buy local products direct from the different farmers, and get a glimpse into their everyday life.

All the while, scenic routes are chosen, so that you get to experience the best out of this rural setting. Malta is full of breath-taking view points - from this North-Western region we can also enjoy views of our sister island - Gozo.

At one point, we will visit a privately-owned farm. This visit would be exclusive for your small group, and here we will savour the fresh products sourced during the day. The light non-cooked lunch, will be similar to a typical farmer's snack, and includes traditional bread, tomato paste, extra virgin olive oil, olives and other condiments, together with local estate wine.





**You may like to add this activity to any of the following Activities :**

As a Challenge during your Jeep Tour or Treasure Hunt or to Your ichallenge

As an aperitivo Pre Lunch or Dinner

As a single activity

As part of a series of ECO tours – olive oil tasting, farm visits, gozo cheeselet tasting

As a Surprise activity for your guests

As a local touch to your event

And much more ...

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