

A Visit to the Slovakian Vineyards

September 9th -12th inclusive

This is a very special event and the first time we have organised an overseas event with our friends at the Slovak Embassy.

First a little background. The Slovak Republic (2005 est. pop. 5.4m) is 18,917 square miles (48,995 sq km) and is located in central Europe. It is bordered by the Czech Republic in the west, by Austria in the southwest, by Hungary in the south, by Ukraine in the east, and by Poland in the north with Bratislava as its capital. Slovakia became an independent nation on January 1st 1993, when Czechoslovakia was dissolved.



The proposed trip starts with us flying out on the evening of Friday 9th September to Bratislava where we will travel by a private minibus to Pezinok where we will eat and stay overnight. On the Saturday morning we will have a wine tasting at Vinkova in Pezinok (vineyards at Pezinok pictured left).

Here we will sample fifteen types of wine led by a local sommelier, visit the vineyards and enjoy a platter of cheese, ham, olives, fresh bread or rolls and other snacks.

In the afternoon we plan to visit and tour the Malokarpatske Museum (also in Pezonik) where we will have another professionally led wine tasting involving a further three wines accompanied by a light meal. On Saturday night we will again stay in Pezonik.

On Sunday morning we will travel to Modra which is famous for its pottery industry. Its blue-and-white porcelain is famous throughout Slovakia. It is also known as one of the most important vinicultural centres of the Little Carpathians region. (The only remaining fortification gate is shown on the right). Here we will enjoy a morning wine tasting at Vinárstvo Fedor Malik. In the afternoon, guess what?, another wine tasting, this time at Vino Ludvik followed in the evening by a short journey to the final wine tasting of the day at Terra Parna, which is located at Suchá nad Parnou which is close to the town of Trnava which is where we will stay overnight.



On the Monday morning we will visit Mrva & Stanko which is in Trnava and is considered one of the top five vineyards in Slovakia. Here we will sample fifteen different wines – led by a professional sommelier. After a light meal we will then depart for Bratislava where the afternoon will be free for sight seeing. And at around 6pm we will travel to the airport ready for our journey back to the UK.

This is very special trip that will no doubt be memorable and unique in the London Branch's history. We are very grateful to the Slovak Embassy in London for organising the visit for us. We will limit the party to **TEN PLACES** only and it is hoped that we will be led by our esteemed Chairman, Jeffery Benson.

The price includes all visits to the vineyards and wine tastings (six tastings involving a lot of wines as you can see), the shared cost of a minibus for transport and the services of an interpreter as well as naturally the hotel costs for the three nights. Meals and snacks will be provided where stated as part of the "package". NB It is possible that the itinerary may vary slightly from that planned as we get closer to the date.

As flights to Bratislava vary in price according to when we book, the price shown below does **NOT** include the cost of the flight which is likely to be around £150 per person. Assuming we get sufficient bookings to make the trip viable, we will then contact each person who has reserved a place and advise the price of the ticket. They can then make a final decision as to whether to participate. It is likely we will travel by Ryan Air, either from Luton or Stansted depending on the availability and price of tickets offered at the time of booking.

So please reserve your provisional place and, if booking for more than one person, state whether you require a double room or a single. Once we see whether we have enough participants to make the trip viable, we will get back to you to arrange flights and finalise costs.

Dress:	Casual
Price p/person	£230 Members and guests
Organiser	Roger Ellis Tel: 01494837857
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