

## IG Dealurile Munteniei

The geographical region of the hills of Muntenia falls within the hills of the Meridional Subcarpathian, comprising the hills and deities between the river Teleajen to the west and the Buzău River to the east. It is bodied north of the High hills and forests, And to the south by a limit corresponding, for the wine-growing center of the monks Valley with the national road Ploiești – Buzau and which, starting from Urlați to Buzau, retires to the foot of the slope at a distance of 2-3 km north of the road.



**Dealurile Munteniei** (in En. “**Muntenia’s Hills**”) G.I. region is located in the **Southern** part of **Romania** within **Buzău, Prahova, Argeș, Dâmbovița** and **Olt** counties, and belongs to the **Subcarpații de Curbură** area. The grapevine plantations are located on the slopes and depressions of the hills. In this region you can find remarkable red wines, and also has very good potential for aromatic white varieties such as **Muscat Ottonel** or **Tămâioasă Românească**.

The existence of vineyards in this territory is confirmed by archaeological excavations, ceramic debris and toponymy proving the presence of vineyards in ancient times. The first written documents about the existence of the vine culture in this part of the country date back to the 14TH and 15TH centuries. From these documents it is apparent that Ceptura, the Monks Valley, Valea Mantei and Valea Popii were known and appreciated localities for the quality of the wines they produced. In the past, the vineyards in this region were well and harmoniously

represented by the culture of several varieties, divided into a well-established proportion and produced a very sought-after wine.



Thus, Dimitrie Cantemir shows that at the pass of Tabla Buții, next to the Bratocea was a famous custom where the wines from Dealu Mare were passed to the Ardeal. That's where the Tridls of Prince Rákóczy of Transylvania were descended for the purchase of Valahia wine.

The origin of viticulture in the area of **Dealurile Munteniei** is very old, proof being the archaeological finds, ceramic pieces, and toponymy. One of the first mentions dates from the **4<sup>th</sup> century**, when the **Visigoth King Athanaric** buried his famous treasure known as the “**Cloșca cu puii de aur**” (in En: “**The Hen with Golden Chicks**”) or “**Tezaurul de la Pietroasa**” (in En.: “**The Pietroasele Thesaurus**”).



Later in the archives, there are several mentions from the **15<sup>th</sup> century** on the locations where viticulture and winemaking were practiced like **Bucov, Valea Călugărească, Ceptura, Urlați,** and **Tohani**.

A moment that has helped the development of **Dealurile Munteniei G.I.** was the proximity to cities like **Bucharest, Ploiești** and **Buzău**, which attracted many personalities and noble family from the **17<sup>th</sup> century** to invest in wineries and cellars. A well-known example is of **Constantin Brâncoveanu (1688-1714)**, who built in **Tohani**, a wine cellar, a mansion and a church as a stopover point en route to Moldova.

Viticulture has been a long time the principal activity of the dwellers of **Dealurile Munteniei GI**, which is why in **1893** the **Pietroasa Viticultural Farm** was established, in order to recover the vineyard after the invasion of phylloxera. Later, in **1924**, near the Farm, was founded the **Pietroasa Viticultural and Oenological Resort**, a premiere in Romania.

Over time, the vine culture has become a tradition, which has been passed down from generation to generation, as it is part of the way of life of the village of winemakers. Vineyards are a way of economic recovery of the less fertile land of the hills, but also a way of protecting the environment and putting it in value, without affecting its integrity. The white wines are distinguished by a balanced structure and a good acidity, printed by the South-east exhibition of the slopes but also by cultural practices, which maintain the productions at moderate levels.

Red wines are recognized for finesse, light tannins and vivid colors, such as the monks' valley and Urleasca wine centers, where the influence of reddish-brown soils, rich in blessed salts, is evident. At the same time, in other renowned centers such as Ceptura, Tohani, apples, red wines are more robust, vigorous, with increased color intensity, printed characters of a plus of heliothermic resources and light-textured soils.

**Dealurile Munteniei** region is famous for its excellent natural conditions (*terroir*) in grape vines growing:

- **a temperate-continental climate with hot summers, long and dry autumns and short winters;**
- **reddish-brown soils along with red clay, marl and limestone-rich portions in some areas, abundant in iron oxide and calcium carbonate;**
- **altitude ranging between 137 and 550 meters;**
- **the vineyard exposure is predominantly southern, south-eastern and south-western;**
- **optimal sun exposure and rainfall**

Production of grapes (maximum kg/ha):

Maximum 12,000 kg/ha: Muscat Ottonel, Romanian Tămâioasă, Busuioacă de Bohotin, Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinot Noir, Feteasca Neagră, Barbera, Aromatic Black, Traminer, Grasă de Cotnari, Pinot gris

Maximum 14,000 kg/ha: Chardonnay, Pinot Blanc, Fetească Albă, Riesling de Rhin, Sauvignon Blanc, Mourvedre, Cabernet Franc, Sangiovese, Novac, Petit Verdot, Nebbiolo, Negru de Drăgășani.

Maximum 16,000 kg/ha: Italian Riesling, Merlot, Viognier, Grenache, Burgund Big, Aligoté, Băbească Neagră, Selected Crâmpoșie

Maximum 18,000 kg/ha: Fetească Regală, Syrah, Trebbiano, Oporto, Zweigelt

In **Dealurile Munteniei G.I.**, the white wines have intense aromas, full body, good balance and good acidity. The wines are extractive, aromatic with an intense ruby color.

During past years, some high-standard wineries like **SERVE**, **Davino**, **Licorna** or **Viile Metamorfosis** were established inside the region. Their work created a real signature of the Dealurile Munteniei G.I.. The grape varieties that contributed to the reputation of the region are: **Fetească Albă**, **Tămâioasă Românească**, **Chardonnay**, **Muscat Ottonel**, **Merlot**, **Cabernet Sauvignon** or **Fetească Neagră**.



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