

IG Dealurile Olteniei

Dealurile Olteniei (in Eng.: **Oltenia Hills**) region is located in the **South-West** of **Romania**, in the historical region of **Oltenia**. **Dealurile Olteniei G.I. (Geographical Indication)** refers to the whole wine-producing area covered by the five counties from **Oltenia**. This does not mean that these wines are classified as inferior in comparison to the wines with **denomination of origin (D.O.C.)**. The difference consists in the fact that the territorial delimitation is less strict and the winemakers can be more creative.



Due to the proximity of the river, the ground strip between the Carpathian Mountains and the Danube, they manage to print unique characteristics of wines from the delimited area of the geographical indication "The hills of Olteniei". The plantations are placed on open slopes, in vast amphitheater with southern, eastern and western orientation. An annual average solar exposure of 1,550 hours is recorded, and the temperatures gathered day-by-day, from April to September, total an average of 3,340 ° C. The winds are calm, the peaceful rains. The soil, reddish brown, fertile, originated in the geomorphology of the Getic Piedmont. The soils on the platform land are characterized by the presence of white soils, plain soils and brown soils (podzolized).

On the narrow well-drained peaks, in the upper part of the slopes and on the terraces were formed brown clay soils. On the slopes are brown EU-mezzo basic soils and *rego* soils. Reddish

brown soils appear on terraces. The average annual temperature and average temperature of the warmest months in the summer (July or August) signifies large heliothermic availability, the level of temperatures in August and September while ensuring an excellent maturation of grapes, Capable of accumulating considerable content of sugars in grains, especially when they are harvested late or in raisins.

The beginnings of viticulture from **Dealurile Olteniei G.I.**, dates from ancient times, even before **Romania** or **Oltenia** existed as national or local concepts. The archaeological excavations indicate the presence of viticultural activity since the period of the Dacian king **Burebista (82-44 BC)**. Subsequently, the history of wine and **Oltenia** becomes almost impossible to summarize.



Since the **Middle Ages** and continuing to the present, **Oltenia** was the “theater” of an almost uninterrupted series of wars, revolutions, uprising, or permutations of land and power between the **Austro-Hungarian Empire** and the **Ottoman Empire**. Moreover, during the **1860s** was the biggest natural disaster in the history of European and Romanian viticulture, produced by the insect *Phylloxera*. Unfortunately, after the attack, the grapevines from **Oltenia** were decimated and some local varieties disappeared.

At the beginning of the **20th** century, the **Dealurile Olteniei G.I.** held **30%** of the total vinicultural are of Romania, and **34%** of the total production of red wine.



Dealurile Olteniei G.I. proved to be an ideal area for growing high-quality grape varieties, due to the very good pedo-climatic conditions:

- **temperate-continental climate with hot summers and warm autumns that provide the grape ripening;**
- **very good solar exposure, rich heliometric resources and a low average of rainfall;**
- **brown-reddish fertile soils, along clay and sand in some areas of the region;**
- **the vineyards are located on open slopes, in hills which have an amphitheater layout and southern, eastern, and western exposure.**

Statistical data from the year 1899 records the fact that Oltenia was in its 5 counties (Dolj, Mehedinți, Romanati, Vâlcea and Gorj) 30% of the wine-growing area of Romania, from 32 counties, only Dolj, Mehedinți and Roman counties producing 34% of the total amount of red wine. G. N. Nicoleanu appreciated in the year 1900 that the vineyards of the Drîncei and the vineyards were the most famous centers in the whole country, for the finesse of the excellent red wines, which the Pinot Noir and Merlot varieties produced. The flawless quality of the red wines was due in equal measure to the cultivated varieties and the natural frame, especially the terrain, with well-exposed slopes.

Production of grapes (maximum kg/ha):

Maximum 10,000 kg/ha: Viognier, Touriga Nacional, Touriga Franca, Cabernet Franc

Maximum 12,000 kg/ha: Chardonnay, Sauvignon, Sangiovese, Pinot Noir, Syrah, Zinfandel

Maximum 13,000 kg/ha: Muscat Ottonel, Romanian Tămâioasă, Pink Tamâioasa roză, Fetească Neagră.

Maximum 15,000 kg/ha: Pinot gris, Italian Riesling, Riesling de Rhin, Fetească Albă, Fetească Regală, Ugni Blanc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Novac, Negru de Drăgășani, Dornfelder, Marcelan.
Maximum 17,000 kg/ha: Merlot, Băbească Neagră, Burgund Mare

Oprisor Winery is one of the main producers In Dealurile Olteniei G.I. The 242 hectares vineyard is located in **Mehedinți**. The producer was settled as an investment of the German Group **Reh Kendermann GmbH**. They planted local grapes as **Tămâioasă Românească** and **Fetească Neagră** and international varieties like **Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Shiraz, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon**.



Also, Oprisor Winery first successfully experimented in Romania grapes like **Zinfandel** and **Dornfelder**.



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