



VIA HARMONIA



Valued guests,

Welcome to Via Harmonia, the experience agency. We are a company with a single mission: “Give our guests unforgettable experiences”.

We greatly prefer using the word “guest” over “client” or “customer”. As a client you get perfect service and a “five-star” all-inclusive programme everywhere. We, however, honour you as our own guests. We will show you our country with all of its charm, all of its secrets and all of its faults as well. The same way we see it, and the same way we love it. We will lead you to places full of history, tradition and craftsmanship. We will offer you wines to drink which carry within themselves the scent of our land and the tastes of the people who created them. Modest yet rich, friendly and with unforgettable sparkle at their core.

We are a company that will offer you not services but the experiences of Bratislava and the Small Carpathians wine region.

We are Via Harmonia.
Quality and experience tours.

Roman Zelenay, managing director



Bratislava

The picturesque city on the foothills of the Small Carpathians, after all of its dramatic transformations, is becoming one of the most remarkable places in Europe. This originally sedate, romantic, cosmopolitan township with many cultural landmarks has become a veritable multi-styled city by way of megalomaniacal communist construction and the dramatic building boom of recent years. Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque, Classicist and Secession architecture exist here side by side in the scenic centre close by monumental buildings from the communist era and the quality modern architecture of today. The collection of not always well-considered solutions thus creates the conspicuous chaos of styles and forms which gives Bratislava a truly distinct atmosphere unique in Europe.

One of our treasured guests termed Bratislava's centre as a great "cultural restaurant", and he was right. Coming to Bratislava's cosy centre in summertime means weaving through the outdoor seating of dozens of restaurants, wine bars and pubs and crossing paths with the hundreds of waiters and waitresses, all of which gives the city the atmosphere of port towns on the Mediterranean. Amidst all this, however, you will discover dozens of beautiful palaces, churches and burgher houses with a wealth of galleries and museums within, plus stands selling traditional handicraft products. Though tourism is up in recent years, Bratislava still does not suffer the tourist glut of the great metropolises. Here you will find many locals who love sitting around the centre and enjoying themselves long into the night. This is Bratislava: living, pulsing yet comfortable and individually distinctive.

The Small Carpathians region

A country that breathes with history and wine. It sprawls from Bratislava along the southern slopes of the Small Carpathians, dotted with vineyards and wine-growing towns, villages and farmsteads. The route through the Small Carpathians region leads you through the three charming wine-growing towns of Svätý Jur, Pezinok and Modra, the histories of which reach back as far as the 12th century. All three cities are seated at the foot of the Carpathians with ideal conditions for growing grapes and, like the Garden of Eden, are surrounded by vineyards where the most diverse varieties are cultivated.

The most typical here, though, are Rizling (Riesling) vlašský, Rhine Riesling, Pinot Blanc, Green Veltliner, Green Silvaner, from red Frankovka modrá (Blaufrankish) and Svätovavrinecké (St. Laurent). The best-known and most successful Slovak variety grown here is Devín, which is a hybrid of Traminer and Green Veltliner. Apart from the three royal viticultural cities – in which, besides numerous wine cellars, you will find a great number of cultural landmarks – the Červený Kameň castle is without doubt among the most beautiful locations in the area, and one of the largest and best-preserved castles in central Europe. You might certainly want to stop also at the castle in Smolenice, at the Fugger house in Častá, at the castle wine cellars in Pezinok – where the National Wine Salon is located – and at many more of the beautiful spots our beloved region offers. But perhaps it would be best to speak of those personally, over a glass of delicious wine.

The wine's tale

Life in Bratislava and the Small Carpathians region since time immemorial has been touched by wine, and its history in the area is documented as far back as the 7th century BC. Over the centuries here the conditions for grape growing have changed, but wine has always been here and winemaking has breathed its spirit into every corner of this colourful land. After the ruinous fall of the Tatars, winemaking here began flourishing once again with the arrival of German and Italian colonists, culminating in the 18th century when the legendary Frankovka from Rača was always required to be on the table of Austro-Hungarian Empress Maria Theresa. Slovakia's last brutal intervention into this magnificent art came with the agricultural planning of the communist regime. That regime is past, however, and the local people's deeply-rooted love for the beverage has brought about a literal wine renaissance here. After long years of hard work the wines of the Small Carpathians region are beginning to assert themselves at prestigious international competitions.

Bratislava walking tour

This is a must-do, easy-going walking tour of the old town. You will stop at the Opera House, Old Town Hall, Main Square, Primate's Palace, Michael's Gate, St. Martin's Cathedral and other important sights in the former coronation town. You will also visit the castle area with beautiful views of the city.

Your guide will show you quiet and unusual locations, tell you interesting stories of old Bratislava and take you to a typical coffee house.

- Walking tour of the old town
- Visit to the castle area

Price/person: EUR 30

Discounts available for groups

Included: guide

Duration: approx. 2.5 hours

Minimum 2 participants or by agreement

Advance booking required by 6pm the day before the excursion, or by agreement



Small Carpathians tour

A very popular tour driving through the historic viticultural towns of the Small Carpathians wine region. The highlight is a visit to Červený kameň (Red Stone) Castle, one of Slovakia's most beautiful with largest wine cellars in central Europe, for a guided tour. You will also visit a traditional pottery workshop to see local skill and craftsmanship at work from throwing a pot, traditional hand painting to the final firing of each spectacular finished piece. At the end of the tour you will participate in a wine tasting in the historic wine cellar where you will sample delicious local wines.

Your guide will be a person devoted to history and wine.

- Visit to Red Stone Castle
- Visit to a pottery workshop
- Wine tasting

Price/person: EUR 65

Group prices: 4 - 5 participants EUR 60,

6 + participants: EUR 55

Included: transportation, guide, entry fees, wine tasting and snack

Duration: approx. 5 hours

Advance booking required by 6pm the day before the excursion, or by agreement

Daily at 9.45 from the Opera house/ Slovak National Theatre on Hviezdoslavovo Square

No minimum number of participants required



Open Wine Cellars Tour

Just 30 km from Bratislava you will enjoy 2 beautiful viticulture places in the Small Carpathians wine region.

Firstly you will visit the only mountain winery estate in Slovakia, where you will be welcomed by the owner with a homemade aperitif and take a short walk in the vineyard to learn about Slovak wine grape growing. Afterwards you will see a presentation of antique family agricultural machines and learn about the production of special high quality wines such as straw and ice wine. This tour's highlight is a wine tasting in the historic wine cellar where you will sample high quality wines including the renowned ice wine. Simple snacks such as top quality cheeses, mineral water and homemade bread will be served to accompany the delicious wines.

After that you will participate in a second free wine tasting in one of the region's wine cellars to get known Slovak wines yet better.

Your guides will be a local wine lover and a winery estate owner.

- Programme at the mountain winery estate and quality wine tasting
- Second wine tasting in a historic cellar

Price/person: EUR 65

Group prices: 7 + participants: EUR 60

Included: transportation, guide, wine tasting and snack

Duration: approx. 4 hours

Minimum 5 participants or by agreement

Advance booking required by 6pm the day before the excursion, or by agreement

Bratislava Grand

Get to know Bratislava up close and from up high and see the heritage of the ancient past as well as monuments of the modern age. Combined bus and walking tour.

- Tour of the Old Town, stopping at the Opera, the Main Square, the Primatial Palace, Michael's Gate and St. Martin's Cathedral.
- Visit to Bratislava Castle area
- Visit to Slavín, a monument high above the city to fallen liberators from the communist past with gorgeous views of the city and surroundings
- Visit to Devín Castle, ancient ruins on a spectacular site above the confluence of two rivers

Price/person: EUR 45

Discounts available for groups

Included: air-conditioned transportation, guide, entry fee

Duration: approx. 3.5 hours

Programme is arranged upon request, minimum 5 participants required

Advance booking required by 6pm the day before the excursion, or by agreement

Are you thinking of events or experiences?

Welcome to Via Harmonia, the experience agency. The agency where we believe that a good event must be a unique and unforgettable experience. Therefore we carefully select that most attractive places and see to every detail in order to prepare experiences for our clients which will etch themselves in their memories forever as pleasant reminders connected with a unique brand, the brand of a company whose name speaks to what it offers.

In the language of wine lovers, we have prepared a “Cuvée experience” of the Small Carpathians region for you and your clients, a mixture of harmoniously tuned experiences which gratify all the senses. We will honour your clients as our own guests. With the guidance of the agency’s owner and a local wine lover they will experience tastings of Slovakia’s best wines at the National Wine Salon, at a historic mill or in the beautiful environment of a family mountain wine estate, interactive demonstrations of traditional crafts, period music, regional culinary specialties, a short course in the sommelier’s art and other unforgettable events according to your selection.





Visit to a family winery estate with a home made dinner

Just 30 km from Bratislava you will visit the only mountain winery estate in Slovakia, where you will be welcomed by the owner and take a short walk in the vineyard to learn about Slovak wine grape growing. Afterwards you will see a presentation of antique family agricultural machines and learn about the production of special high quality wines such as straw and ice wine.

This tour's highlight is a wine tasting in the historic wine cellar where you will sample high quality wines including the renowned ice wine. Simple snacks such as top quality cheeses, mineral water and homemade bread will be served to accompany the delicious wines.

- Programme at the family winery estate and high quality wine tasting
- Home made culinary dinner

Duration: approx. 5 hours

Price will be quoted individually

Sommelier school

Everything you need to know about Slovak wines.

- welcome to the winery estate with an aperitif and presentation of the school timetable
- visit the vineyard to learn about wine grape growing
- visit the production premises to learn about winemaking
- accompanied by a sommelier, you will learn the basics, including the character of different grape varieties and proper tasting. You will learn how to use your taste, smell and visual senses when tasting wine
- simple snacks, such as top quality cheeses, biscuits and mineral water will be served to accompany the delicious wines
- learn which wines and foods go together, and a bit of wine etiquette at a 4-course dinner table in a historic wine cellar
- simple exam for the sommelier school
- diploma award

Duration: approx. 5 hours

Price will be quoted individually

Slovak culinary tour

In several courses at various marvellous locations you will get to know all the flavours of our region.

- A delicious appetizer of goose liver in a village fabled for its goose, served with real, home-made and very delicate *hruškovica* (pear brandy)
- A stop at a lovely winery house for traditional bean soup with smoked meat and noodles, served with delicious Rizling Rýnsky
- A selection of grilled specialties combined with some Devín, Slovakia's most successful variety of wine, in an old winery house
- One of the greatest delicacies of Slovak cuisine, a home-made strudel with raisins in savoury combination with ice wine

Duration: approx. 5 hours

Price will be quoted individually

