

THE CHOICE OF TOURISTIC DESTINATIONS DURING THE MATURATION PERIOD OF GRAPES IN ROMANIA

Ionica SOARE

"Dunărea de Jos" University, Galați
Ionica.Soare@ugal.ro

The grape growing by everything that it means, in Romania - the high number of the big viticultural unities and their geographical repartition for the whole country, the landscape diversity created into the viticultural unit, the wine cellars and so on – is relevant for the touristic activity.

To the most favourable period of the viticultural tourism in Romania, activity that takes place in the same time with the agricultural one corresponds to the maturation phase of the grapes, regardless of the fact that the grapes are for food or wine, between the end of July and the end of October.

Regarding this type of tourism, certain preferences for food grapes, for sorts for wine, tasting of wines, including unruffled and frothy DOC, usually at the level of viticultural center or field, would impede the aleatory choice of the touristic destination and of the period, that is why it is imperative for the tourist to be informed.

Keywords: *The phase of maturation of the grapes ▪ Normal viticultural years ▪ Viticultural sort ▪ Sorts of fertile grapes-wine recommended and authorized*

Introduction

The grapes' maturation phase, no matter if there are table grapes or grapes for wine production, coincide with the most favourable period of the Grape growing Tourism, between the end of July and the end of October. Why? It is the period of the year when the grapes start to ripe and it ends when the grapes are fully mature, this means that the grapes' maturation proces takes place and this consists, mainly, in total accumulation of grape sugar till stopping, when it reaches maximum values. We should not forget that the touristic activity takes place in the same time with the agricultural activity and it superposes to this one when it is at its peak, this is the way we perceive it, when we fully live the joy of "elevating" the fields, the markets, the wine cellars etc, the fruit of the hard work and skill of those involved, sustained by the Providence's generosity and the large-heartedness.

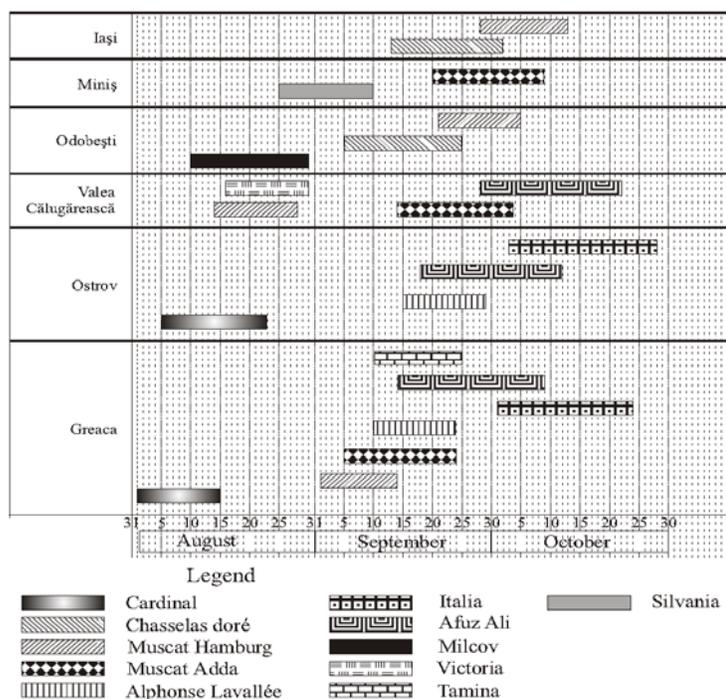
If there is well chosen the moment and the place for practicing the Grape growing Tourism, there is the chance for all the

tourists to get to know it, assisting it or by phisical and mental involmnet, for all that means the way of the grapes, for all the stages through which the grapes pass from the moment they are gathered till they are deposited for preservation or till the preparing for comercialisation or till gettig of must and wine. This "way" of the grapes within the wine-growing center or within the wine-growing field (a great creator of touristic values) incites to curiosity, to knowledge, to relaxation etc.

When and where one can go during the normal wine-growing years?

The beginning and the duration of the grapes' maturation phenophasa are under the incidence of environment conditions, of wine-growing varieties and of agrotechnique, that impose some limitations – of time and place- for the practicability of the tourist activity, amplified by a certain predilection for a wine-growing region, wine-growing field or wine-growing center from the region or for a certain vine variety.

Fig. 2 Examples of the period of maturation of the grapes for a few sorts of wine-grapes guide marks for choosing the touristic destination



Source: M. Oșlobeanu, M. Macici, Magdalena Georgescu, V. Stoian, *Zonarea soiurilor de viță de vie în România*. Editura CERES, București, 1991; I.C. Alexandrescu, M. Oșlobeanu, L. Jianu, P. Pițuc, *Mică enciclopedie de viticultură*, Editura "Glasul Bucovinei", Iași, 1994

These slight differences appear because: the wine-growing regions are included between latitudinal limits, more or less, wide, this is why the environment conditions determine on one hand a normal development of the maturation period for the grapes, or on the other hand its shortening or continuation of it; in the same environment conditions the vine variety strongly influence the way the grape mature; the applied agrotechnique involves itself in helping and acceleration of grape maturation.

It should be mentioned that in the normal wine-growing years the vine varieties mature the grapes successive and during those unprosperous simultaneously; in these years the time period in which the varieties mature their grapes, shorten almost till superposition, or it is delayed a lot.

a. Aspects that must be known for choosing the touristic destination, generally linked with the sorts variety

Because of conditions in Romania the grapes' maturatin for varieties destined for wine production takes place in a shorter time period than the maturation period for table grape varieties, but included in it. The maturation for all grape varieties takes place

from the end of August, till the middle of October, this is the conclusion we have reached on behalf of some famous scientists' bibliographical aids research in wine-growing science.

This can be considered the peak of Grape Growing Tourism. There is in any wine-growing region that "way" of the grapes, for the table varieties and varieties destined for wine production, on the condition there aren't included some preferences for table grapes, varieties for wine production, wine tastings, including unruffled and frothy DOC; to a smaller scale for a wine-growing center or field level, the mantaining of the preferences raise larger issues when it comes to place and time choosing, hard surmountable for satisfy tourists' desires. Next, we will mention some aspects of the regions, that impiet random choosing of tourist destinations, according to the wine-growing type for each wine-growing region (according to Order anexa no. 594/17.08 2004 for the approval of "Crop authorized&prescribed fruit-bearing grape vine varieties zonation in wine-growing areas from Romania"), according to diagram fig.2, according to the map fig.1, according to links between these ones and also according to their complement with others; we should not

forget that in the Romanian viticultural landscape, by its notorious economical valence, is included into the created landscape by the three viticultural areas of EU, as it results from the Order no. 645/15.07.2005, of the ministry of agriculture, forests and rural development regarding the approval of framing the Romanian viticultural regions into the viticultural regions (B, CIa, CII of EU) and the terms of application of the correction of alcoholic strength and of acidity for the grapes crops being in different phases of preluclration.

According to:

- *Table grapes:*
 - in Transilvania it is difficult to find a way of the table grapes and of red wines.
 - only a few table grape varieties are common in all regions, except that in the middle of the country, this why the variety can impose the choosing of the region for tourism, as well as the maturation period of the variety; for the same variety the maturation period varies from the south to the north of the country with a few days (see the annexed picture);
 - the larger variety of the sorts is found in the regions from the south and south-east of the country;
- *Grape varieties for wine production:*
 - in Transilvania the grape vine varieties for the red wine production totally lack from the list of Order no. 594/17.08 2004;
 - the option for a specific variety-Grasa de Odobești, Grasa de Cotnari – that characterize a certain vineyard by oldness and the product quality, indicates from the start the choosing of the touristic area, without no objection;
 - the option for the way of the must that is the DOC wines generator and the DOC wines tastings producer in these areas stipulates the choosing of the wine-growing center or field in the region (see map from the Annals of University Dunarea de Jos, Vol.I) and that is bounded, although it was permanently actioned against the ecological conditions through clonal selections in order to obtain some uniform plantations according to the production and quality.

b. Aspects that must be known during the practice of tourism regarding the maturation period for table grape varieties
If in the case of grape varieties destined for wine production, because of economic

reasons, it was manifested a tendence of limiting the sort for varieties with the maturation period included between end of August and middle of October, for the table grapes it was permanently searched solutions for the extension of consum period. It was taken into account the obtaining of some samples with an earlier maturation period and the keeping of the grapes longer on the grape vine. Such a situation pushed forward to a spectacular expansion of the period of this type of tourism. But a withdraw of the wine-growing habitat beyond the limit of the maturation period for the grape varieties destined for wine production (the rich period of table grapes imbricates it) call to an initiation in the field superposed on a revisal of variety maturation in a certain choosing of the right touristic area (see also diagram fig.2)

Conclusion

A minimum of knowledges about the viticultural activity obtained by consulting different sources (bibliography, tourism agencies and so on), offers the chance to each tourist to choose the right touristic destination and to live the joy and the satisfaction feelings generated by the noble fields, the wine cellars and so on based on the diligence and abilities of the ones involved, sustained by the eco-soil-climate conditions, and also by the Providence's generosity and the large-heartedness.

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