
Lower Austria: Wine Country

Magnificent wines, enchanting landscapes, and a distinctive wine culture: Lower Austria is one of the most unique and delightful wine regions in the world. The wine is best served along the Lower Austria Wine Road, or at the vineyards.

It is said that the Romans brought viticulture to central Europe. However, when the Romans came to Lower Austria in 15 BC, the locals toasted their arrival with wine. According to estimates based on the discovery of grape seeds, wine has been made in Lower Austria for 4000 years – sufficient time to develop a unique wine culture which is known worldwide. For example, the wine cellar-lined streets (Kellergassen) which are almost exclusively found in Lower Austria, where grapes are pressed and wine is stored. Or the taverns, where wine is personally served by the winemakers. Spanning an area of around 27,000 ha, Lower Austria is the largest wine region in Austria, and with its legendary Güner Veltliner and Riesling brews, which are some of the best white wines in the world, ensures the excellent reputation of Austrian wine. Thanks to a number of top wine producers, who expertly draw on a firmly routed wine-growing tradition but also combine this with new ideas and innovative methods, Lower Austria has become of Europe's most interesting wine regions. Wine can be enjoyed on several occasions. For example in wine cellars, which were dug in the loess many centuries ago, or in modern tasting rooms, or as a sumptuous accompaniment to a gourmet menu, or as part of one of the many festivals celebrated during the wine harvest period in Lower Austria.

Weinstrasse Lower Austria: The “wine route”

The Lower Austrian Wine Road is 830 km long, and is one of the longest wine routes in the world. It leads through the eight wine-growing regions in Lower Austria (Wachau, Krems Valley, Kamp Valley, Traisental, Wagram, Weinviertel, Carnuntum and Thermenregion Vienna Woods), including more than 100 wine villages and around 1700 places of interest for wine connoisseurs. The member establishments along the wine route, which are checked on a regular basis, include numerous vineyards (including many well-kept secrets and stars of the wine-making scene), as well as a wealth of authentic wine taverns, expertly-run wine shops, traditional wine

restaurants and a wide range of accommodation choices, ranging from wine estates to 4-star hotels. The co-existence and community of the cosy wine taverns, the close connections of amazing buildings such as Klosterneuburg Monastery with Austria's wine-making traditions, experience-oriented wine resorts such as the Losium, and state-of-the-art vineyards make a journey along the Lower Austrian Wine Road even more thrilling.

Holidays of wine and roses

For those who are looking for a holidays away from the mainstream, there are several wineries with authentic backgrounds, offering small but very personal accommodation and the opportunity to come into close contact with wine-makers from the world of wine - a pleasant way to enjoy a lovely break from everyday life. Particularly sophisticated hotels offer bon-vivant rooms, with generous living space, high-quality furnishings made of region-specific materials, and special service. What does this mean for guests? Examples include a hearty breakfast selection featuring products made at local farms. There are also little touches such as a bowl of fresh fruit in the room, or - when visiting a winery - a bottle of wine as a welcome gift. Over 100 establishments in Lower Austria offer bon-vivant rooms. Around a quarter of these rooms can be found in vinophilic establishments or in wine estates - which is no wonder, as there seems to be a close correlation between wine enjoyment and luxurious accommodation. Visitors who place great value on good quality wines also appreciate being in a high-quality ambience.

More information can be found at www.lower-austria.info