



Romania

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Tasting notes from the following growers:

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Romania

See date & place of tasting in italics

Growers / Wineries are in alphabetical order with area underneath

A great deal has happened since independence was achieved in 1989 and the enormous task of restoring the government owned vineyard land to the previous owners took a long time. Today about 17% of the arable land is under vine with the country divided into 8 main regions. These areas are very much influenced by the Danube, the Black Sea and the Carpathian Mountains. Although international vines have been planted these is a lot of work being done with the big range of indigenous varieties.

**Crama Oprisor
Mehedinti County
Banat Region**

Red Wines

Fetească Neagră Caloain 2013

90 2014-20

Tasted in Brasov September 2014

Black fruits are to the fore prunes and black plums backed by bramble a complex mix of flavours. The mid palate is rich ripe fruited but behind the fleshiness the ripe fruit there is freshness that gives a lighter feel on the back palate and finish.

**Cramele Halewood
Dealu Mare
Prahova County**

Red Wines

Fetească Neagră Special Reserve 2013

90 2014-20

Tasted in Voronet September 2014

The nose is fresh with red fruits and although the palate starts quite light and fresh it fills out in the middle with bramble and black cherries. Rich on the back palate yet the finish is lighter fresher with hints of spice.

Burebista Fetească Neagră Shiraz 2014

90 2016-21

Tasted in the Carlton Club September 2016

Ripe fruit on the nose the palate has mix of black fruits and red fruits peppery and spicy. Ripe fruit in the middle the tannins are fine and integrated depth at the back the finish lighter with black pepper excitement.

**Cramele Recas
Banat Region**

Red Wines

Pinot Noir 2012 89 2013-17

Tasted at the London International Wine Fair May 2013

The nose is light and the start of the palate fresh with a mix of mulberry and bramble. It fills out towards the back with sweeter fruit giving richness on the finish.

Cabernet Merlot 2012 89 2014-18

Tasted in Brasov September 2014

Sweet on the nose black plums and cassis on the palate the rich fruit is supported by tannins firm but feeling ripe. Cassis dominates the back palate the finish has depth of flavour

**Fine Wine Srl
Dealu Mare
Buzau & Prahova Counties**

Red Wines

Pardon Merlot 2013 91 2014-20

Tasted in Voronet September 2014

Ripe black fruits fill out the nose and the palate has the fleshy richness of ripe black plum. The tannins feel ripe the mid palate supple the richness balanced by fresher bramble and mulberry at the back. The finish has depth black plum richness lovely ripe fruit.

**Liliac
Mures County
Transylvania**

White Wines

Fetească Albă 2011 89 2012-14

Tasted at the LWTF May 2012

The nose is light lime fresh with white flower fragrances. Slightly sweeter tropical fruits give some richness in the middle underpinned by the citric freshness that lifts the flavours on the finish.

Fetească Regală 2011**90 2012-14***Tasted at the LWTF May 2012*

The mown grass and acacia on the nose are brought out by the crisp apple. The palate is fresh but there is an underlying sweetness that balances and fills out the middle. Grapefruit and apple give a racy crispness on the long finish.

Sauvignon Blanc 2011**90 2012-14***Tasted at the LWTF May 2012*

A touch of gooseberry freshly cut apple and lime give a lovely freshness on the nose. Hints of tropical fruits give a sweeter feel on the mid palate but the finish is crunchy crisp and floral.

Sauvignon Blanc Private Selection 2011**91 2012-15***Tasted at the LWTF May 2012*

The nose is floral fragrant with hints of elderflower. The palate starts light a mix of citrus and cut apple but towards the back it fills out with tropical fruits and pear. The fresh flavours linger on the long finish.

Rosé Wines**Rosé 2011****91 2012-14****Merlot***Tasted at the LWTF May 2012*

Summer roses feature on the nose backed by a mix of red fruits. The palate starts light fresh fruited fragrant but fills out in the middle with wild strawberry and redcurrant the sweetness nicely balanced by raspberry freshness at the back.

Red Wines**Merlot & Fetească Neagră 2011****90 2012-15***Tasted at the LWTF May 2012*

The nose is very red fruit driven with a hint of nutty spice behind the fruit. Sweeter richer flavours give some weight on the mid palate but the back palate is fresh with a mix of red cherry, bramble and blueberries.

Merlot Private Selection 2011**92 2012-17***Tasted at the LWTF May 2012*

There are more red fruits on the nose than black but the palate has rich black plum in the middle. Spicy oak, cedar wood add to the complexity on the palate and as the tannins are well integrated they are not obvious allowing the rich fruit to flesh out the finish.

Murfatlar Winery
Murfatlar
Constanta County

Red Wines

Cabernet Sauvignon 2013 89 2014-19

Tasted in Voronet September 2014

The nose has a strong cassis influence and the palate has lots of black fruits and dark chocolate. The sweet fruit on the mid palate is underpinned by fresher bramble the finish firm with a black cherry sloe mix.

Trei Hectare Feteasca Neagra 2012 90 2014-20

Tasted in Sighisora September 2014

The fruit on the nose is sweet the palate rich and ripe fruited. Black fruits and liquorice enrich the mid palate with fresher red fruits at the back giving a lighter feel. The finish has depth and richness of flavour.

Senator Winery
Vrancea Region

Red Wines

Hereditas Babeasca Neagra 2011 91 2014-17

Tasted in Bucharest September 2014

The fruit is sweet the nose full of ripe flavours and the palate lovely and fruity. The fleshy ripe damson fruited middle is underpinned by freshness a mix of bramble and rosehips. The back palate has fleshiness the finish lighter and fresher.

Prince Stirbey
Dragasani Region
Valcea County

This family owned winery and estate of some 25 hectares of planted vines is in the Dragasani region in southern Romania. Family ownership goes back to the 18th century but in 1949 it was taken over by the government with release back to the family in 2001. Baroness Ileana the granddaughter of Princess Maria Stirbey runs the estate with a focus very much on the indigenous vines.

White Wines

Crâmpoșie Selectionată 2011 90 2012-14

Tasted at the LWTF May 2012

This local variety has lots of charm light lemon fresh and floral. The mid palate is peachy slightly sweeter but vivid acidity is there at the back giving a lovely racy freshness on the finish.

Crâmpoșie Selectionată 2013

90 2014-17

Tasted at the LWF Olympia June 2014

Light fresh floral with a mix of white flowers the nose has a fragrant charm. The palate is richer with white peach and tropical fruit but at the back lemon gives it a racy freshness.

Crâmpoșie Selectionată 2014

90 2015-18

Tasted at the LWF Kensington Olympia May 2015

The nose has hints of sweetness and the start of the palate has an apricot and tropical fruit mix. Under the sweet fruit citrus refreshes the mid palate lighter the finish long racy and fresh.

Crâmpoșie Selectionată 2016

90 2017-20

Tasted at the LWF Olympia May 2017

Vibrant fresh the nose is floral and citrusy the palate richer with sweet fruit pineapple and apricots. The richness in the middle is underpinned by citrus the back palate lighter, fresher and fragrant.

Fetească Regală 2010

91 2012-15

Tasted at the LWTF May 2012

The nose has a delicate charm with a mix of exotic fruits. The fresh start to the palate brings out the flavours tropical fruit with hints of white peach but towards the back there is herbal mown grass freshness with citrus and some underlying mineral.

Fetească Regală 2011

92 2013-15

Tasted at the Carlton Club July 2013

Lemon and lime refresh the nose but the palate feels richer with a mix of tropical fruits and white peach. Towards the back the citrus flavours dominate and give a lovely freshness on the back palate and finish.

Fetească Regală 2012

92 2013-16

Tasted at the London International Wine Fair May 2013

The fruit is fresh the mix of exotic flavours backed by minerals The crisp start to the palate gives way to sweeter flavours some white peach and tropical fruits. The back palate and finish are fresh with hints of mown grass flint and shale.

Fetească Regală 2013

91 2014-17

Tasted at the LWF Olympia June 2014

Tasted at the LWF Kensington Olympia May 2015

Exotic on the nose the palate has a peach apricot richness a mid intensity layers of flavour. There is balancing acidity lime freshness at the back flinty and mineral on the finish.

Fetească Regală 2016	91	2017-21
<i>Tasted at the LWF Olympia May 2017</i>		
Fresh fruit on the nose the palate has sweet fruit some ripe peach in the middle but it is underpinned by citrus lighter at the back some exotic fragrances with the lime lemon mix giving a bright finish.		
Fetească Regală Genius Loci 2007	92	2012-14
<i>Tasted at the LWTF May 2012</i>		
Time in Romanian oak has given richness a fuller nose and a broader palate. The mid palate is lovely and fresh very grapefruit driven but towards the back it feels richer a lovely depth of flavour more tropical fruit in character.		
Fetească Regală Genius Loci 2013	92	2017-20
<i>Tasted at the LWF Olympia May 2017</i>		
Ripe apricots the nose has depth the palate the richness and breadth that comes from time in oak. The sweet fruit in the middle is backed by citrus fresher at the back with ripe apricot giving richness on the finish.		
Sauvignon Blanc 2011	91	2012-14
<i>Tasted at the LWTF May 2012</i>		
The nose has an intensity of flavour with lots of gooseberries and green peppers. The palate starts quite light but fills out in the middle lime and apple freshness bringing out the flavours that linger on the back palate.		
Sauvignon Blanc 2012	91	2014-17
<i>Tasted at the LWF Olympia June 2014</i>		
The fruit mix is fresh slightly herbal, green peppers and gooseberry and the start of the palate is crisp. There is a sweeter feel to the mid palate peachy but at the back the citrus and apple give crispness and it finishes with green pepper spice.		
Tamâioasa Românească 2011	91	2012-15
<i>Tasted at the LWTF May 2012</i>		
Spice and perfume hints of roses all backed by fresh fruits. The mid palate is sweeter some attractive exotic fruit flavours the fruit underpinned by nutmeg and oriental spices with the freshness at the back bringing out the perfumed fragrances on the finish		
Tamâioasa Românească 2012	92	2013-16
<i>Tasted at the London International Wine Fair May 2013</i>		
Spicy perfumes and rose petals give a lovely fragrant mix on the nose. Mid palate sweetness ripe tropical fruits give way to fresher flavours lime and grapefruit the freshness bringing out oriental spices and nutmeg on the finish.		
Tamâioasa Românească 2013	92	2014-18

Tasted at the LWF Olympia June 2014

Tasted at the LWF Kensington Olympia May 2015

Floral spicy fragrant the nose and palate have an oriental feel the fresh start to the palate giving way to richer sweeter fruit. Lime and lemon refresh the back palate the freshness bringing out an oriental spiciness on the finish.

Tamâioasa Românească 2016

92 2017-21

Tasted at the LWF Olympia May 2017

White flowers the nose has a spring garden of fragrances the palate hints of spices an oriental character but there is mid richness a mix of tropical fruits. Citrus at the back refreshes bringing out spices on the finish.

Red Wines

Cabernet Sauvignon 2008

91 2012-16

Tasted at the LWTF May 2012

Blackberries and cassis give a lovely rich feel to the nose and there is a good depth of flavour on the palate. The tannins are well handled giving structure but rounded and feeling ripe. A touch of liquorice helps the richness with the black fruited mix filling out the back palate.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2009

92 2014-22

Tasted at the LWF Olympia June 2014

Cassis dominates the nose rich the palate has depth of flavour. The tannins feel ripe the mid palate supple and sweet fruited and although at the back it is firmer the finish has richness and depth.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2011

92 2015-23

Tasted at the LWF Kensington Olympia May 2015

Bright and fresh on the nose the palate starts with bramble and bilberry freshness but there is mid sweetness richer black cherry and cassis. The fruit at the back is sweet the finish has good depth.

Merlot 2012

91 2015-22

Tasted at the LWF Kensington Olympia May 2015

Rich on the nose the start of the palate has lots of fleshy black plum. Ripe tannins add to the mid suppleness yet there is a balancing freshness with a mix of bilberry and red fruits on the back palate.

Merlot Reserva 2009

92 2014-22

Tasted at the LWF Olympia June 2014

The nose has fleshy richness the palate ripe fruited with lots of black plums. There is a balancing red fruited freshness but it is the sweet fruit the rich black fruits that flesh out the finish.

- Novac 2007** 93 2015-20
Tasted at the LWF Kensington Olympia May 2015
 Hints of maturity red fruits black fruits there is a lot happening on the nose the start of the palate is sweet with depth of flavour. Fresher at the back the fruit is spicy and peppery lots of excitement the finish long, elegant with a leafy maturity.
- Novac 2010 (Barrel Sample)** 92 2013-18
Tasted at the LWTF May 2012
 Red fruits seem to dominate the nose their freshness underpinned by sweeter richer bramble and blueberries. Dark chocolate and coffee helps to enrich the mid palate with towards the back fresher cherry and a lovely peppery spiciness.
Tasted at the London International Wine Fair May 2013 finished wine 92 2013-19
 Wild strawberry and red cherry are backed by bramble and bilberry. The palate has lots of rich fruit a lovely depth of flavour supple and fleshy. The tannins are rounded the chocolate helping the mid richness but towards the back it feels fresher with a touch of spicy black pepper on the finish.
- Novac 2011** 92 2014-22
Tasted at the LWF Olympia June 2014
 Spicy black cherries lots of interest on the nose the palate is quite rich with a mix of black fruits light fresh bramble at first then black plum and chocolate richness in the middle lovely and supple. There is freshness at the back with black pepper spicing up the finish.
- Novac 2013** 92 2017-23
Tasted at the LWF Olympia May 2017
 Bright fresh spicy there is a lot happening on the nose the start of the palate has black cherries and black plum with chocolate richness in the middle. The tannins are integrated fine the ripe fruit giving fleshy richness on the finish.
- Negru de Dragasani 2010 (Barrel Sample)** 92 2013-18
Tasted at the LWTF May 2012
 The nose is rich and ripe fruited lovely brooding black flavours. Layers of fruit give complexity the sweeter blackcurrant and black cherry layered with fresher fruits bramble, bilberry and red cherry. The finish is long with an attractive spiciness.
Tasted at the London International Wine Fair May 2013 finished wine 92 2013-19
 The black fruits are underpinned by fresher red a lovely complex mix of flavours. The mid palate is lush rich supple velvety the sensuous richness backed by some red fruits that give a lighter feel to the finish.
- Negru de Dragasani 2011** 92 2014-19
Tasted at the LWF Olympia June 2014
Tasted at the LWF Kensington Olympia May 2015

The fruit on the nose is rich and black fruited the palate has depth a rich mix of flavours cassis and black cherry velvety all backed by fresh black fruits bramble and bilberry. It fills out at the back the finish rich and deep.

Negru de Dragasani 2013**92 2015-21***Tasted at the LWF Kensington Olympia May 2015*

The nose has a mix of flavours red fruits and black fruits and the palate has sweetness yet freshness. Ripe in the middle the black plum and cassis is underpinned by bramble the back palate lighter yet the finish is full and sweet fruited.

Negru de Dragasani 2016**92 2017-23***Tasted at the LWF Olympia May 2017*

The red fruits on the nose has herbal freshness the start of the palate light but there is mid sweetness ripe black plum and cherry depth of flavour. Light and fragrant at the back the finish is fuller with a mix of sweet fruit.

Negru de Dragasani Reserva 2013**93 2017-23***Tasted at the LWF Olympia May 2017*

The nose has brooding depth the palate is sweet with ripe black fruits mid richness. The tannins are fine and integrated ripe black plum gives fleshy suppleness in the middle the finish has depth of fruit.

Cuvée Genius Loci 2011**93 2014-23*****Blend of Novac & Negru de Dragasani****Tasted at the LWF Olympia June 2014*

The nose has a mix of flavours mainly black fruits and the palate is sweet rich, velvety, supple the rich black plum underpinned by fresher black cherry and bramble. The finish is long with a black fruited mix good depth of fruit.

Cuvée Genius Loci 2013**93 2017-23*****Blend of Novac & Negru de Dragasani****Tasted at the LWF Olympia May 2017*

The nose is herbal bright and fresh the palate has bramble and red fruits light at the start. Sweet and ripe in the middle velvet smooth black plum richness the powerful mix of fruits is underpinned by freshness yet the finish has intensity of flavour.

**Vinarte Winery
Dealu Mare
Buzau & Prahova Counties**

Red Wines

Villa Zorilor Fetească Neagră 2011

90 2014-17

Tasted in Bucharest September 2014

The nose has a hedgerow mix bramble sloes and black cherries and the palate starts with the same complex mix of fruits. The mid palate is sweet fruited quite rich with a fresher feel at the back and flavours that linger.

**Vincon Vrancea
Vrancea Region**

Red Wines

Merlot 2008

86 2014-16

Tasted in Crama Sibiana Reseraurant Sibiu September 2014

The nose is fresh the start of the palate red fruited with bitter red cherry. Although there is more depth at the back the finish is hard a touch bitter and quite short.

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