



**MORE THAN 4,000 OF THE WORLD'S
GREATEST WINERIES AND THEIR WINES**
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SLOVENIA

Slovenia has rapidly developed since breaking off from the former Yugoslavia in 1991. While new development is apparent throughout this small country at the northern end of the Balkans, one of the most exciting and noticeable areas of change is the country's wine industry. As in neighboring Italy, wine has been an intrinsic part of Slovenian culture for centuries, and in the past two decades, that culture has been enthusiastically reborn. Led, in part, by established wineries like Movia in Goriska Brda, and helped by the influence of nearby wine regions in Italy (notably Friuli) for western Slovenia and Austria for eastern Slovenia, these distinctive wines are steadily making inroads into international markets.

Major grapes

Reds

Blaufrankisch
Cabernet Franc
Cabernet Sauvignon
Merlot
Pinot Noir
Refosco

Whites

Malvazija Istriana
Pinela
Pinot Grigio
Ribolla Gialla
Riesling
Samling
Sauvignon Blanc
Zelen

Vintages

Recent vintages (2006-2009) have been generally good for Slovenia. As the country's wineries modernize, vintage variation is becoming less of an issue as quality levels tend to be quite good. Since Slovenian wines are relatively new arrivals on the export market, however, it is more useful to track individual producers, rather than rely on specific vintages.

MOVIA *Goriska Brda*

The charismatic Ales Kristancic is the latest generation to run this old estate, located on the border between Italy and Slovenia. Established in 1820, Kristancic insists that little has changed since the days of his grandfathers, which is another way of saying that Movia practices natural winemaking and viticulture. The estate's wines are singular and full of character, and Lunar, a barrel-fermented Ribolla Gialla made with extended maceration, is a revelatory experience. Also worth trying is Veliko Bianco, a substantial, elegant blend of Ribolla, Chardonnay, and Sauvignon Blanc.

