



Wines of Georgia

Facts and Figures
As of October 2020

WINES GEORGIA

(THE U.S. TRADE/MEDIA OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL WINE AGENCY, GEORGIA)

LOCATION

The country of Georgia – located about 1000 km due east of Rome and slightly smaller than Connecticut. It is bordered by Russia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Turkey, and the Black Sea.

NUMBER OF WINERIES: 100,000+ FAMILY WINERIES

As of 2019, 1088 Georgian wine companies/wineries have registered to sell wine commercially with 350 registered to export. Georgia is an ancient wine region with deep roots in every family and community. At the same time, the country is also experiencing a re-developmental phase (post-Soviet era). As a result, there have been a dramatic number of family wineries registering their wineries for commercial production:

2016 = 402 registered wineries
2017 = 635 registered wineries
2018 = 936 registered wineries
2019 = 1088 registered wineries

GRAPES: 525 GRAPE VARIETIES CURRENTLY RECORDED

VINES: 55,000 HECTARES OF VINES

- 72.4% located in Kakheti
- 15.1% in Imereti
- 7.4% in Kartli
- 2.3% in Racha-Lechkhumi

WINE REGIONS

There are currently ten wine regions

- | | |
|------------|-------------------|
| • Adjara | • Kakheti |
| • Apkhazia | • Kartli |
| • Bolnisi | • Meskheta |
| • Guria | • Racha-Lechkhumi |
| • Imereti | • Samegrelo |



THE WINE REGIONS OF GEORGIA

WITH ASSOCIATED GRAPE VARIETIES



PROTECTED DESIGNATION OF ORIGIN (PDO)

As of 2019, Georgia currently has 20 PDO's:

- Akhasheni
- Atenuri
- Bolnisi
- Gurjaani
- Kakheti
- Kardenakhi
- Khvanchkara
- Kindzmarauli
- Kotekhi
- Kvareli
- Manavi
- Mukuzani
- Napareuli
- Saperavi Khashmi
- Svir
- Teliani
- Tibaani
- Tsinandali
- Tvishi
- Vazisubani

GLOBAL EXPORTS AS OF 2019

- 93.4 million bottles of were exported from Georgia to 53 countries
- Total amount of exported wine value has been estimated as \$238 Million USD
- With 341 companies exporting wine



GEORGIAN EXPORTS TO THE US MARKET

FROM 2018 TO 2019 IMPORTS OF GEORGIAN WINE TO THE US MARKET WAS UP **46%**

AS OF SEPTEMBER-ENDING 2020, IMPORTS ARE TRACKING AT **29%+** AHEAD OF THE SAME PERIOD IN 2019.



THIS FOLLOWS AN **AVERAGE YEAR-OVER-YEAR GROWTH RATE OF 30% OVER FIVE YEARS.**

- 2015: 248,075
- 2016: 294,382
- 2017: 457,920
- 2018: 466,056
- 2019: 678,000

BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER 2020, 150+ WINERIES WERE AVAILABLE IN THE US MARKET

- The average ex cellar price of Georgian wine to the US market is \$5.11. This is more than double the average export price exported to China and CIS countries.

DEFINITIONS

COUNTRY

The country of Georgia was known as the “Republic of Georgia” under the USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics). The country achieved independence in April 1991. Please refer to Georgia as “Georgia” or “the country of Georgia” when referencing Georgia.



ILLEGAL OCCUPATION

In 2008, the Russian government illegally took over two regions, Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Both are widely recognized as integral parts of Georgia and together represent 20% of Georgia's internationally recognized territory.

Russia is illegally occupying 20% of Georgian land and continues to illegally advance the “border” meter by meter. When referencing these areas do not refer to these as “break away” territories, as they are illegally occupied territories.

The Georgian "Law on Occupied Territories of Georgia", adopted in 2008, criminalizes and prosecutes entry into Abkhazia and South Ossetia from the Russian side without special permission.

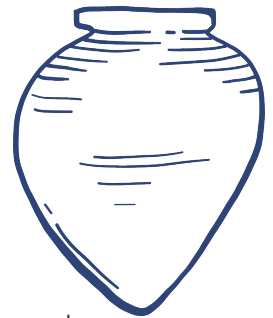
Georgia and several other members of the international community including the United Kingdom, United States, Canada, Germany, Japan, Israel, Australia, China, Italy, France, Brazil, Ukraine, the European Union, OSCE, and Council of Europe as well as the United Nations have recognized Abkhazia and South Ossetia as occupied territories and have condemned the Russian military presence and actions there.

ORIGIN OF WINE

Current scholarship names Georgia as the birthplace of wine. In 2016 in southwest Georgia, archaeologists discovered clay vessels containing cultivated grape seeds that were dated to 6000 BC using archaeological, archaeobotanical, climatic, and chemical methods. The results, [“Early Neolithic wine of Georgia in the South Caucasus,”](#) were published in November 2017 by the National Academy of Sciences.

QVEVRI

Continually, since the 6th century BC, Georgians have made wine in a vessel called a qvevri. These giant (generally 1000km) clay vessels are often lined with beeswax and buried underground to keep temperatures constant. Winemakers ferment the juice in these vessels, simultaneously allowing the grape skins to macerate with the juice, which turn what many American consumers expect to be white wines into an amber color, and adding tannin to both the resultant amber and red wines.



Qvevris are still made by hand by one of Georgia's five “master” qvevri-making families; with the rising popularity of amber and natural wines, there is an increasing demand for qvevris in Georgia and around the world. In 2013, this tradition of Georgian winemaking -- which defines the lifestyle of families and communities, and forms an inseparable part of their identity -- **the United Nations added qvevri winemaking to the UNESCO list of “Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.”**

THE NATIONAL WINE AGENCY

The National Wine Agency of Georgia is tasked to preserve the country's qvevri winemaking tradition, control the quality of all Georgian wines, and promote these wines globally.

US MARKET CONTACTS WEBSITE: WWW.WINESGEORGIA.COM

YOUTUBE: [WINES GEORGIA](#)

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