CONSIDERATIONS ON OENOTOURISTIC POTENTIAL FROM CONSTANTA COUNTY

CONSIDERAŢII ASUPRA POTENŢIALULUI OENOTURISTIC DIN JUDEŢUL CONSTANŢA

M. POPESCU[1], CORNELIA URDEA[1], ZOIA PREFAC[1], G. M. CRACU[1]

[1]University Ovidius from Constanta: Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, Constanta, Romania ; mariusp@univ-ovidius.ro

Abstract: *Constanţa County has many natural touristic resources and cultural sights, but there are traditional occupations as vineyards, because of Murfatlar and Ostrov vineyards presence. The aim of this paper is to identify wine touristic routes, by linking of touristic resources, customs, traditions and local cuisine. This form of touristic potential is an opportunity to contribute of sustainable development of tourism in rural space of Constanta County.*

Key words*: wine routes, rural space, tourism*

INTRODUCTION

Constanta county is a rich region of touristic attractions generated of natural conditions and traces of human civilization. Geographical arguments ranges Constanta county between Romania's leading regions because of tourism are: Black Sea Coast with resorts, cultural and historical sights, local customs and traditions. Winery concerns are much older than Greek colonization of Pontus Euxinus, indeed supported by numerous archaeological discoveries with symbols of dyonisiac culture.

The aim of this paper is definition of touristic specific with winery profile in Constanta county and identify solution to sustainable development of this kind of tourism in rural space of this area.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

Informations of oenotouristic potential from rural space of Constanta county were obtained through bibliographic documentation and applying a questionnaire in 20 villages.

The main elements of the questionnaire refer to rural aspects of village focused on identify local touristic resources, infrastructure, opprtunities for patent approval and licensing specialists in oenotourism and oenotouristic equipments, recreative or cultural touristic activities, opportunities of organization and practice of oenotourism.

Wine tourism potential is represented by existence of vineyards areas from Constanta county and natural resources of tourism, cultural, religious and historical sights.

Currently promising the beginning of recovery of some representative touristic villages that can offering ambience and unique, could generate important touristic flows, which revitalizing rural areas with natural touristic, ethnic-cultural and winery potential from county.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Winery resources of Constanta county totals about 18000 ha, dispersed distributed, but concentrated in two main vineyards: Murfatlar and Ostrov (fig. 1).

In ***Murfatlar Vineyard,*** the wine growing bordering Murfatlar, Medgidia, Cernavodă towns and form the great Winery Murfatlar (6000 ha). The vineyards stretches along to Danube – Black Sea Canal, most of wine growing are located in terraces. This area has warm climate with high sunstroke and air temperature, optimal conditions for special kinds of grapes for natural sweet wines. The soil, limestone, is very favorable for production of sweet, dry or semidry wines.

The representative kinds are *Chardonnay, Pinot Gris, Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Noir, Merlot* and *Cabernet Sauvignon*, but varieties developed here as *Columna*, *Mamaia*, or old kind *Fetească Neagră*. Wines and grapes from Murfatlar vineyards obtained many awards and gold medals at international wine competition.

The kinds of wines from Murfatlar are various: *Pinot Gris*, *Chardonnay* and *Riesling Italian* (unflavoured white wines), *Muscat Ottonel*, (flavoured white wine, most awarded), *Merlot, Pinot Noir*, *Cabernet Sauvignon* (red wines), plus varieties of table grapes: *Muscat Hamburg, Afuz Ali*.

Ostrov Vineyard has discovered two centuries ago, calling for table wine growing varieties. In this area of vineyards with 4000 ha, more than

50% represent table grapes, being centers and wine growing in rural areas on left terraces of Danube. The special kind of grapes is ***Afuz Ali*** which benefit here the best conditions of development. Its grapes reach maturity very quickly, enjoying a climate that gives them, an amber color.

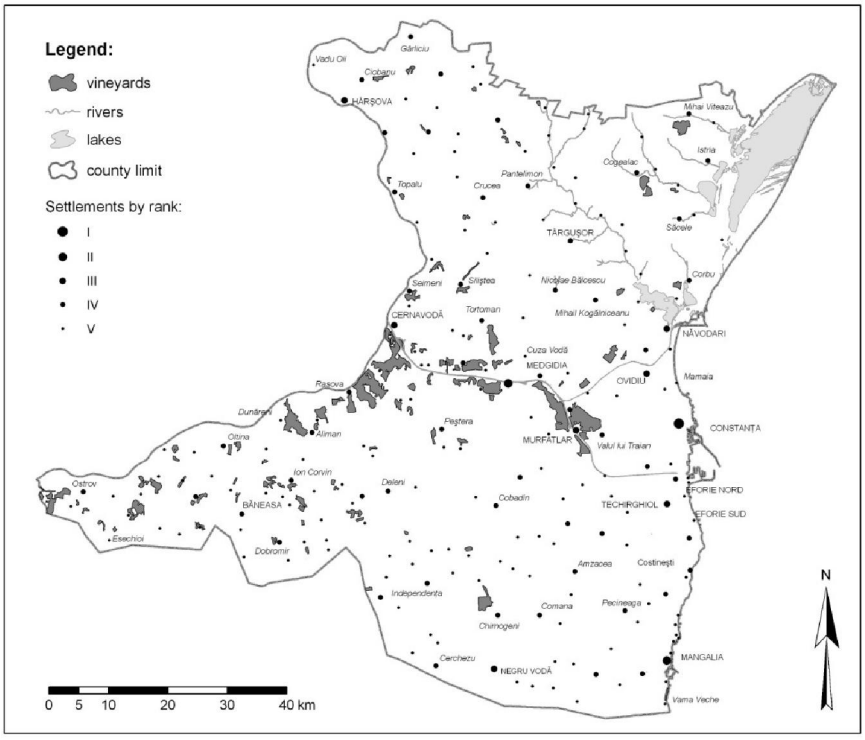


Fig. 1. Vineyards areas in Constanta County

Winery microclimate in Ostrov is conditioned of Danube River, Northern exposition of hills with wine growing sloping to river, being away from hot air currents coming from the Black Sea in summer. In Ostrov Winery grown other varieties of grapes as *Muscat de Adda*, *Muscat Hamburg*, *Sultanina*, but *Afuz Ali* remains supreme. It is grown from Băneasa to Oltina along the Danube, reaching Cochirleni and Cernavodă. Secondary is developing white wines for consumer as kind *Fetească Regală*, or red wines as *Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot* and *Pinot Noir.*

Due to location of vineyard with nearby of touristic attractions, can identify touristic routes to cross these famous vineyards, being true "***wine routes***" (fig. 2), such as:

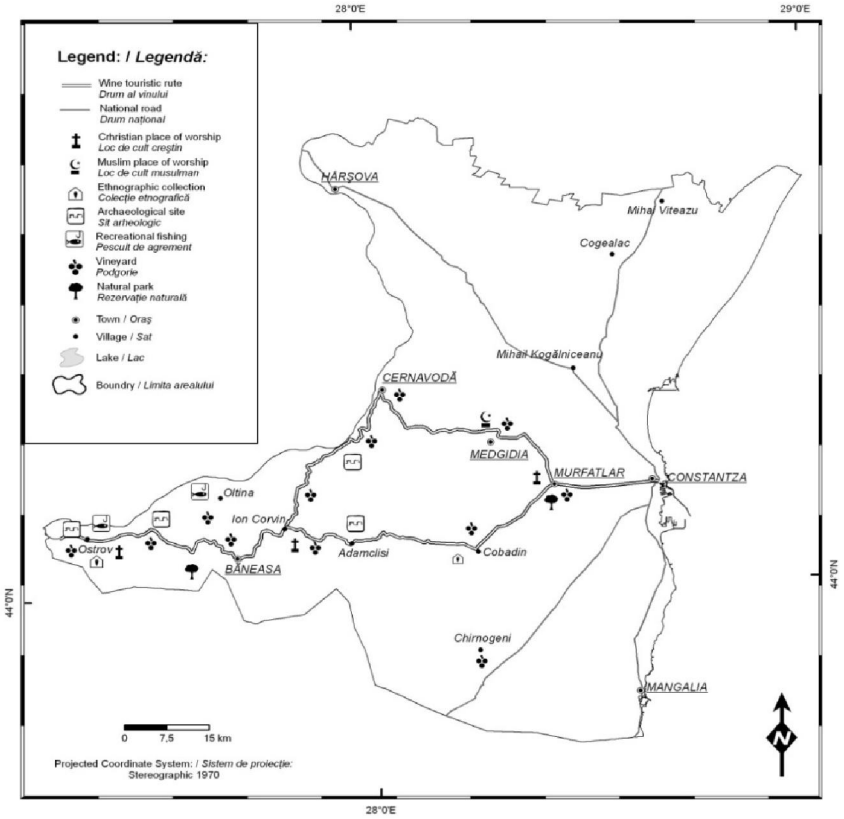


Fig. 2. Wine touristic routes in Constanta County

- Constanţa – Murfatlar – Medgidia – Cernavodă;
- Murfatlar – Adamclisi – Ion Corvin – Ostrov.

Constanţa – Murfatlar – Medgidia – Cernavodă Route represents most important vineyards roads in Dobroudja, because of Murfatlar Winery across of national road between Bucharest and Black Sea Coast. Accompanying path of touristic resources are mentioned: *Vineyards Museum Murfatlar* with many material evidences, sculptures inspired by

wine growing, drinking vessels and wine store, wine equipment used along the time showing millenary tradition of wine growing in these areas, *Winery Research Station Murfatlar*, *Oenotouristic Sight* and *Monastic complex carved in chalk* from *Murfatlar, Mosque, Church ,,Sfinţii Apostoli Petru şi Pavel"* and *Art Musem* from Medgidia, *Ruins of Axiopolis* and *Medieval Fortress, Roman quarry, Church ,,Sfinţii Împăraţi Constantin şi Elena", History Museum* and *Fossil Reservation* from Cernavodă.

Murfatlar – Adamclisi – Ion Corvin – Ostrov Route along to oldest national road between Bucharest and Black Sea Coast through Chiciu - Ostrov. On this route, natural touristic sights alternate with important historical and religious sights: *Floristic Reservation „Fântâniţa-Murfatlar"*, nearby Murfatlar Winery, *Faunistic Reservation Canaraua Fetii* situated to South of Oltina lake, *Triumphal Monument from Adamclisi,* special architectural achievement with historical and cultural sights (museum and fortress in Urluia valley and ruins of *"Tropaeum Traiani" fortress*), *Monastery ,,Peştera Sfântului Apostol Andrei"* situated in forest, nearby Ion Corvin village, this was first religious place and the Gate of Christianity of Romania, and *Dervent Monastery*, a Holly sight of Romanian Christianity, church with four celebrations: *,,Izvorul Tămăduirii", ,,Sf. Mare Mucenic Gheorghe", ,,Înălţarea Sfintei Cruci"* and *,,Sf. Cuvioasă Parascheva",* and a spring with healing water, nearby.

Between two routes there is a connecting road along Danube, from Ion Corvin village to Cernavoda, through Rasova and Cochirleni. Every village has opportunity of development recreative tourism, for fishing and nautical sports.

Wineyards potential exists in North-Eastern part of Constanta county, in Cogealac – Tariverde - Mihai Viteazu area, with natural touristic resources as Sinoe Lake, Dobroudja Gorges, and historical or cultural sights : Histria Fortress and Sf. Casian Cave.

In these areas could identify more villages where natural or cultural touristic potential combines with winery potential and local cuisine: *Adamclisi, Castelu, Chirnogeni, Făclia, Ion Corvin, Istria, Nazarcea, Oltina, Ostrov, Tariverde, Topraisar* and *Valea Dacilor*.

CONCLUSIONS

Monotonus landscape of Constanta county offers some natural resources and cultural sights with touristic potential. Following tabulation of

the questionnaire shows that there is disponibility of local peoples for licensing and obtaining oenotouristic patents.

Accomodation and meal facilities can be adapted to the standards required by touristic standards. An advantage would be roustic house with traditional architecture.

Residents, small businesses and local community are interested in organization of oenotouristic sights and building of associations to promote Romanian Wines Product in *Wine Route* to be included in touristic package for tourists arrive on Black Sea Coast.

A hunting or fishing could be finish successfully complete a wine tasting cellar around a campfire or attending local holiday.

Residents is willing to revive old customs and traditions could be attractive for tourists : wedding customs, social evenings, vineyard and wine festival.

Location of oenotouristic sights for wine tasting, demonstrations of traditional techniques for harvesting grapes and winemaking process, together with sihgts and local cuisine are resources as can contribute to sustainable devolpment of tourism in rural space from Constanta County.

REFERENCES

1. CONSTANTINESCU G., GHEORGHIU A. (1977) – Drumurile viei şi vinului în România, Editura Sport-Turism, Bucureşti.

2. GHINEA D. (2000) – Enciclopedia geografică a României, Editura Enciclopedică, Bucureşti.

3. GLĂVAN V. (2003) – Turism rural. Agroturism. Turism durabil. Ecoturism, Editura Economică, Bucureşti.

4. AURORA RANCA, DIANA BRĂDUCEANU, MIHĂILESCU I. F., POPESCU M. (2007) – Wines routes in Dobrogea-solution for a sustainable development of the local agrotouristic potential. Journal of environmental protection and ecology, Vol. 8, no. 3, pp. 591-596, Bulgaria.

5. ROMANESCU GH., GABRIELA ROMANESCU (1998) – Dobrogea. Resurse turistice, Editura Helios, Iaşi.