

Ancient winemaking traditions in the Mediterranean region

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The beginnings of winemaking in this part of the world date back for minimum 8000 years. The starting point of wine culture - of grapevines - is considered to be the South Caucasus region.

Studying the history of the development of human civilization, we can observe that all the technical and technological occupations/inventions/advancements occur at the same time in different places: stone carving, secrets of fire lighting, transition to sedentary life, taming/domestication of animals, invention of the wheel, grains cultivation, etc. In conclusion, we can propose a hypothesis that emerges from the analysis of several sources and data provided in our research: grapevine cultivation appeared simultaneously in the regions favourable to its growth, which includes the Danube basin of the Black Sea. Archaeological discoveries throughout the territory confirm this affirmation, as do many pieces of evidence - archaeological artefacts, written/transmitted in various forms over time. We intend to carry out our research - in time and space - outlining the development of the vine in this territory. Thus, we start from the South Caucasus, moving through the Black Sea basin, passing through Anatolia (Asia Minor), the Balkan Peninsula, the Danube area, the Bugeac steppes and Ukraine, Crimea, the North Caucasus.

Key words: human civilisation, Black Sea basin, vineyards, wine production, artefacts.