



LEPL National Wine Agency

Report on Annual Activity 2022

<i>Introduction</i>	<i>p. 2</i>
<i>Vintage</i>	<i>p. 3</i>
<i>Promotion of Georgian wine</i>	<i>p. 4</i>
<i>Quality control.....</i>	<i>p. 16</i>
<i>Vineyards cadaster</i>	<i>p. 17</i>
<i>Research of Georgian vine and wine culture.....</i>	<i>p. 19</i>
<i>Legislative activities.....</i>	<i>p. 20</i>
<i>Designation of origin.....</i>	<i>p. 21</i>

Introduction



The main activity of the National Wine Agency is to promote the development of the field of viticulture and winemaking. To achieve the mentioned goal, the National Wine Agency works in the following directions:

- ◆ *Development of viticulture;*
- ◆ *Promotion of Georgian wine;*
- ◆ *wine quality control;*
- ◆ *Facilitating measures for vintage;*
- ◆ *Research and promotion of Georgian vine culture;*
- ◆ *Development of designation of origin system of Georgian wine.*

The year 2022 started with challenges for the wine-viticulture industry of Georgia. Considering the complex political situation in the region, in the first half of the year, the export of Georgian wine to the markets of Russia and Ukraine decreased, which had a negative impact on the final export figure. However, from the second half of the year the situation stabilized and the export growth trend of recent years continued. As a result, in 2022, up to 104 million liters of wine worth USD 252.5 million were exported to 66 countries of the world, which is the highest figure in the history of independent Georgia. Revenues received from exports have increased by 5.5% compared to 2021, and the quantity to 30%, the share of vine alcoholic beverages in total exports is 4.5%.

Out of the activities of 2022, the following is to be noted:

Vintage 2022

The state's promise that the vintage would be organized and all the viticulturists would be able to allocate the harvest without interruption has been fulfilled. Almost 100% of the harvest in Racha - up to 1,500 tons of grapes - was received by the private sector. And in Kakheti, private enterprises received almost 75% of the harvest. It is important to note that during the 2022 vintage, the main part of the grapes was received by the private sector.

According to the decision of the Government of Georgia, a subsidy program was implemented in order to fully allocate the harvest and actively involve and stimulate private enterprises in the process during vintage 2022. The vintage was completed in organized manner, with the active involvement of the private sector, which was stimulated by the state subsidy program. About GEL 100 million has been spent for the "Vintage Support Program".

About 245 thousand tons of grapes were processed in Kakheti. About 23 thousand viticulturists allocated the harvest, whose income reached GEL 246 million. 485 enterprises were involved in the process of receiving and processing grapes.

Out of the processed grapes, up to 138.5 thousand tons are Rkatsiteli, 90 thousand tons are Saperavi, 5.7 thousand tons are Kakhuri Green, and the rest are grapes of various varieties.

It is worth noting that the state enterprise "Harvest Management Company" purchased only half of 38% of the processed Rkatsiteli and Kakhuri Green, which is an improved figure and is 12% less than the figure of 2021, when the state enterprise purchased 50% of the total harvest of Rkatsiteli and Kakhuri Green.

The largest amount of grapes was processed in Gurjaani municipality - 60 thousand tons, followed by: Kvareli - 59 thousand tons, Telavi - 44.5 thousand tons, Signaghi - 24.1 thousand tons, Sagarejo - 24 thousand tons, Lagodekhi - 11.8 thousand tons, Akhmeta - 11.3 thousand tons and Dedoplistkaro - 8 thousand tons,

In the municipality of Ambrolauri, 1570 tons of Aleksandrouli and Mujuretuli grapes were processed. About 1,300 viticulturists handed over grapes to wine enterprises and the received income reached

GEL 11 million. This year, more than 40 private companies were registered at the vintage coordination headquarters in Ambrolauri.

In total, up to 257 thousand tons of grapes were processed throughout Georgia, and the viticulturists received up to GEL 270 million as income.

Similarly to the previous years, the harvest headquarters coordinated the organized vintage, accounting and traceability of the grapes to be handed over.

Promotion of Georgian wine

- Activities aimed at promoting and increasing the awareness of Georgian wine were actively carried out in 2022 on the strategic markets of Georgian wine: the United States of America, Great Britain, Poland, Germany, the Baltic countries, China, Japan and South Korea. During the reporting period, Georgian wine was presented at 41 exhibitions, and 55 tastings in different countries of the world and within the Georgia; Moreover, 32 different types of targeted events (webinar, seminar, competition, forum) were arranged on international and local markets. Among the events held during the reporting period, it is worth noting:
 - International exhibition of wine and alcoholic beverages "Vinexpo America" was held on March 9-10 in the United States of America, in New York. 23 companies producing Georgian wine and alcoholic beverages participated in the exhibition with the support of the National Wine Agency. This was the largest international presentation of Georgian wine since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to establish themselves on the strategic American market, this exhibition was another best opportunity for Georgian producers to find new trade partners and consumers. It should be noted that the USA is one of the strategic markets of Georgian wine, where the historical maximum of export - 1 million bottles of wine was recorded in 2021.



- A professional training course was delivered to representatives of small wineries of Racha-Lechkhumi with the support of the National Wine Agency from March 28 to April 1. A one-week professional training course was held in Tbilisi. Participants received information from industry experts on various technical and legal issues including labeling, wine and spirit drinks regulations, certification, inspection, customs procedures, wine tasting basics, WSET/OIV international rating systems, marketing tools and other information. Sound knowledge of the mentioned issues is the most important factor for the effective functioning of small wineries.
- A Georgian wine tasting was held in London, on April 28 with the support of the National Wine Agency, which was hosted by Sarah Abbott, master of wine and head of the British company "Swirl Wine Group", a contractor of the National Wine Agency. The event was attended by more than 70 guests - sommeliers, representatives of the wine industry and media. At the tasting held in London, Georgian wine importers presented about 150 names of Georgian wines, including wines that are not yet sold on the British wine market. Great Britain is one of the largest importers and consumer of wine in the world that since 2014 has been identified as one of the potentially growing strategic markets for Georgian wine exports.
- The exhibition "Georgia - 8000 years of winemaking" was opened in Zurich, Switzerland on May 6. The visitors, during six months, had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with exhibits, artifacts and other informational and illustrative material related to the culture and history of Georgian wine at the ethno wine museum "Ortsmuseum Hongg" located in Zurich. The exhibition was organized by the National Wine Agency of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia and the "Georgian Wine Gallery" (GeoHaus GmbH) located in Zurich and with the support of the Embassy of Georgia in the Swiss Confederation. The exhibition was officially opened with a ceremony of planting Georgian vine.
- A Georgian wine tasting was held in Manchester, Great Britain on May 11, with the support of the National Wine Agency. About 40 guests - sommeliers, representatives of the wine trade and media - attended the event, which was hosted by Sarah Abbott, the Head of the British company "Swirl Wine Group", the contractor of the National Wine Agency. At the tasting held in London, Georgian wine importers presented about 60 names of Georgian wines.
- Natural wine festival "ZERO COMPROMISE" was held in Tbilisi on May 13. The third "ZERO COMPROMISE" festival organized by the "Natural Wine" association and supported by the

National Wine Agency, was held in the capital, in a former silk factory. At the festival, 90 producers from different regions of Georgia, members of the "Natural Wine" association, were presented. The event is visited annually by wine importers, journalists, writers and other industry professionals from different countries, allowing representatives of local wineries to introduce wines to potential buyers on the spot.

- The 13th "New Wine Festival" organized by the Georgian Wine Club was held in Mtatsminda Park, on May 14. The purpose of the festival is to promote the traditional Georgian Qvevri wine, to introduce new varieties, to distribute information about the wine produced in Georgia and to develop the wine consumer culture. The 61 wine companies, 89 family wineries and 10 wine packaging/consumption related accessory manufacturing companies participated in the festival.
- The international exhibition of natural wines "RAW" (The Artisan Wine Fair) was held in London, Great Britain on May 14-15, in which, with the support of the National Wine Agency, 9 companies from Georgia producing Qvevri wine participated. The organizer of the exhibition is the famous master of wine Isabelle Legeron (France). Georgia has been participating in "RAW WINE" (The Artisan Wine Fair) since 2012. Presenting Georgian wine at the mentioned exhibition gives wine producers an opportunity to present their products to a wide audience of wine professionals and potential importers.
- The international exhibition of wine and alcoholic beverages "ProWein-2022" was held in the Dusseldorf, city of Germany on May 15-17. With the support of the National Wine Agency and the organization of the "Georgian Wine" association, 24 Georgian wine producing companies participated in the exhibition. ProWein has been held since 1994 and is one of the world's most important wine and spirits drink exhibitions and the main event of the year for wine producers. Initially, only 5 companies from Georgia participated in the exhibition. Due to the scale and importance of the exhibition, the interest of Georgian companies is increasing, and therefore, the number of participating companies is also increasing.
- For the purposes on promoting Georgian wine in Scandinavian countries, a master class and presentation of Georgian wine was held at "The Wine Hub" School of Sommeliers in Stockholm, Sweden on May 16, which was hosted by Goga Tevzadze, the Advisor to the Chairman of the National Wine Agency. The event was held with the support of the National

Wine Agency and the organization of the Embassy of Georgia in the Kingdom of Sweden for local sommeliers, representatives of the field of food and alcoholic beverages.

- A tasting of Georgian wine was held in Shenzhen, city of China on May 20, for a local media representative with the support of the National Wine Agency and the organization of the agency's contractor marketing company "Meiburg Wine Media". The event was hosted by the Head of "Meiburg Wine Media", master of wine Debra Meiburg, who, along with the tasting, introduced the history of Georgian wine and the modern industry to the participants. The special presentation included information about the diverse Georgian vine varieties and winemaking regions of Georgia.
- A Georgian wine tasting-seminar was held with the support of the National Wine Agency and organization of the agency's contractor marketing company "Peope PR" in Warsaw, the capital of Poland on May 19. Wines from 12 Georgian wine companies were presented at the event. The event which was hosted by school's founder, Szymon Milonas, was attended by Polish sommeliers, wine distributors and representatives of famous restaurants. A similar event was held in Warsaw on May 25.
- The wine exhibition "ROME WINE EXPO" was held in Rome, city of Italy on May 20-23, where 8 wineries producing Georgian wine were presented with the support of the National Wine Agency. Seminar-tasting of Georgian wine was held within the framework of the exhibition.
- With the support of the National Wine Agency, the 14th international exhibition of wine and alcoholic beverages WinExpo Georgia 2022 was held on June 10-12. About 200 companies (family wineries, medium and large enterprises, producers of organic wine and Qvevi wine, suppliers of wine technologies, packaging materials, accessories and services) participated in the exhibition. The exhibition had international participants from Italy, Turkey and Germany. Within the framework of the exhibition, a wine export forum - WinExport FORUM was held, which had an objective of meeting of entrepreneurs and wine importers, discussion of various export markets and giving recommendations to entrepreneurs.
- The international exhibition of wine and alcoholic beverages "London Wine Fair 2022" was held at the London exhibition center "Olympia London" on June 7-9, in which 17 Georgian wine producing companies participated with the support of the National Wine Agency. Within

the framework of the exhibition, the Head of the contractor company of the National Wine Agency "Swirl Wine Group", the British master of wine, Sarah Abbott, made a presentation-tasting of Georgian wine for wine professionals. At the exhibition, which has been held since 1981 and is considered one of the main events in the wine industry, about 400 participants from different countries of the world presented more than 3,000 alcoholic beverages of various types this year.

- The "Merano" wine festival was held in "Chateu Mukhran" on June 19, which has been held in Italy since 1992 and is one of the unique in the world not only in the field of wine, but also in the field of producing gastronomic products. Organizers and supporters of the festival were: Association "Georgian Wine", National Wine Agency, "Merano Wine Festival" and online platform "Merano Wine Hunter"; The partner of the event is "Chatto Mukhrani". About 100 companies were represented at the festival. Culinary master classes, seminars, tasting of Italian and Georgian wines were carried out as part of the event.
- A group of 10 British wine professionals visited Georgia, with the support of the National Wine Agency, on June 13-17. The visit was organized by the contractor company of the National Wine Agency "Swirl Wine Group". Within the scope of the tour, the guests visited Georgian wine-producing companies, tasted different styles of Georgian wines, and were introduced to the variety of Georgian vine varieties at the Jigaura Perennial Crops Research and Demonstration Bases of the Scientific Research Center of Agriculture of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture.
- A presentation of Georgian wine was held in Gdansk, city of Poland on June 21, organized by the marketing company "People PR", a contractor of the National Wine Agency, and the Polish Sommeliers Association. At the event, which was hosted by the famous wine expert, sommelier and founder of the wine school, Szymon Milonas, a presentation was presented about the history and traditions of Georgia, Georgian winemaking. Within the scope of the event, tasting of wine from various Georgian companies was held. Famous Polish sommeliers and representatives of the commercial industry attended the event.
- The first Racha-Lechkhumi wine festival was held with the support of the National Wine Agency and the organization of "G S Service Group" LLC on June 24-26. At the festival, 65 large, medium and small wineries of the Racha-Lechkhumi region were represented, who had

the opportunity to present their products to representatives of retail chains, European importers and Georgian exporters invited to the festival.

- A tasting of Georgian wine was held for importers and distributors with the support of the National Wine Agency and the organization of the Agency's contractor marketing company "Meiburg Wine Media," in Shenzhen, city of China on June 25. The presentation of Georgian wine was hosted by Raintree Jun Wei, the founder of Tasting Annex, a wine and spirits drinks consulting company.
- Representatives of the National Wine Agency stayed in the Kingdom of Denmark on June 20-23. During the visit, the Deputy Chairman of the agency, Davit Tkemaladze, met the manager of the Danish branch of the Scandinavian Wine Academy, Thomas Ilkaer. Within the framework of the visit, a Georgian wine tasting was held in the city of Copenhagen, organized by the Embassy of Georgia in the Kingdom of Denmark and supported by the National Wine Agency and the company "Georgisk vin", which was attended by wine professionals, including the manager of the sommeliers' school, sommeliers, organizers of wine tours, publishers of the online wine magazine and wine writers. David Tkemaladze, the Deputy Chairman of the National Wine Agency, discussed the issue of sale of Georgian wine in Denmark's retail chains at a meeting with Thomas Trust, the wine and spirits drinks manager of the largest Danish retail outlets association "Salling Group". With the support of the National Wine Agency and the initiative of the "Georgisk vin" company, a screening of the scientific-documentary film "Georgia, the Homeland of Wine" was held in the Danish city of Aarhus. After the screening of the film, a Georgian wine tasting was arranged, which was hosted by Giorgi Tevzadze, the Advisor to the Chairman of the National Wine Agency. Organized by Sofo Sagharadze, the founder of "Georgisk Vin" company, a presentation on Georgia, Georgian cuisine, history of wine and modern winemaking industry was held in Aarhus, in wine club "Capo Aarhus", which was also hosted by Giorgi Tevzadze.
- At the international wine and spirits exhibition "Seoul International Wine & Spirits Expo 2022", 14 Georgian wine producing companies were presented from June 30 to July 2, in Seoul, the capital of the Republic of Korea. Georgia participated in the exhibition "Seoul International Wine & Spirits Expo" for the third time. It should be noted that the interest in Georgian wine increased significantly, which was confirmed by the number of wine professionals and visitors

at the Georgian wine stand. The Seoul International Wine & Spirits Expo is one of the largest annual wine and spirits drinks events in the Asian region.

- For the purposes of increasing the export potential of Georgian wine on the German market, a group of German wine professionals visited Georgia from June 30 to July 2, with the support of the National Wine Agency and the organization of the agency's contractor German marketing company "ff.k Public Relations". The group was composed of sommeliers, including 3 masters of wine, as well as wine journalists who visited Georgian wine producing companies in Kartli and Kakheti and tasted different styles of Georgian wine. In addition to this, within the scope of the tour, a special tasting (Speed Tasting) was organized in Tbilisi, where 20 Georgian wine producing companies presented their products to wine professionals for the purposes of evaluation and recommendations.
- With the support of the National Wine Agency and the organization of the Georgian Business Development Center (GBDC), 36 Georgian wine producing companies presented more than 100 different wines at a tasting held in the city of Leipzig on July 8. Among the guests of the Georgian wine tasting event were representatives of the Leipzig Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Georgian Diaspora of Leipzig, wine shops, restaurants and private sector, wine traders and marketers from various German cities. Georgian wine from both small wineries and large and medium-sized companies was presented at the tasting.
- With the support of the National Wine Agency, American wine professionals visited Georgia on August 13-20. The visit was organized by the American marketing company Colangelo&Partners, a contractor of the National Wine Agency. The group was composed of representatives of wine trade and marketers. The guests tasted the wines of about 40 Georgian wine producing companies from Kartli and Kakheti.
- The 14th conference of the American Association of Wine Economists was hosted by Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University for two days on August 26-28. After the end of the conference, about 100 participants visited Kartli and Kakheti, where they got introduced to the Georgian wine producing companies, Georgian vine varieties, wine production technologies, Georgian wine culture and history, and tasted Georgian various wines. The delegation included guests from the USA, Germany, the United Kingdom, Japan, Hungary, France, Canada, Australia, South Africa, the Netherlands, Italy and other countries. The 14th conference of the

American Association of Wine Economists was held with the support of the Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, the National Wine Agency and the America-Georgia Business Council.

- With the support of the National Wine Agency, at the international festival "Daejeon International Wine Festival" on August 26-28 in the city of Daejeon, the Republic of Korea, the wines of 24 Georgian wine producers, both large companies and small wineries, were presented. The opening ceremony of the wine festival "Daejeon International Wine Festival" was held in the largest exhibition center "Daejeon Convention Center" in the city of Daejeon. Georgian wine stand was shown at "Daejeon International Wine Festival" for the first time. It should be noted that the interest in Georgian wine in the Republic of Korea is growing every year, which is confirmed by the number of local wine experts, buyers and visitors at the Georgian wine stand.
- About 300 guests attended the event "Discover Georgian Wine" held on September 3, in Tokyo, the capital of Japan, with the support of the National Wine Agency. Including local importers, wine professionals, representatives of restaurant and hotel chains and media. Teimuraz Lezhava, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Georgia to Japan, attended the presentation of Georgian wine. Wine tasting was held as part of the event, where about 200 Georgian wines were presented by importers. Kenichi Ohashi, the Director of the marketing company "Red Bridge", the contractor of the National Wine Agency, Kenichi Ohashi, and the famous Japanese sommelier, Motohiro Okoshi, spoke about the history and modernity of Georgian winemaking.
- Wine professionals from Asia (China, Hong Kong, Singapore) visited Georgia on September 5-9 under the leadership of master of wine Debra Meiburg, Director of the marketing company "Meiburg Wine Media", a contractor of the National Wine Agency. Within scope of the tour, the members of the 10-person group, which included wine masters, sommeliers and importers, visited wineries in Kartli and Kakheti, and in Kakheti they also got introduced to the technology of Qyevri production. According to the master of wine, Debra Meiburg, the awareness and export of Georgian wine to Asian markets has increased significantly. As part of the wine tour, a wine tasting of various companies was also held in Tbilisi, where the producers had the opportunity to familiarize the guests with the wines of different regions of Georgia, to

interview wine professionals and to receive from them advice related to the characteristics of the Asian market.

- A group of British wine professionals visited Georgia on September 12-15 in order to increase the awareness of Georgian wine in the wine market of Great Britain and increase the export potential. The group was composed of sommeliers, wine importers and media representatives. The visit of wine professionals to Georgia was organized by the contractor company of the National Wine Agency "Swirl Wine Group". As part of the tour, the guests visited Georgian wine-producing companies in Kartli and Kakheti, got introduced to the variety of Georgian vine varieties at the Jigaura Perennial Crops Research and Demonstration Bases of the Scientific Research Center of Agriculture of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture. As part of the wine tour, tasting of wines from different companies was held in Tbilisi for British guests.
- A large-scale event dedicated to Georgian wine was held on September 22, in Seoul, the capital of the Republic of Korea with the support of the National Wine Agency. The event was attended by 140 guests, including local experts in the field of winemaking, media representatives, importers and influencers. Within the framework of the event, a professional master class and presentation of Georgian wine was held. An event of such scale, aimed at raising awareness of the unique history and culture of Georgian wine and winemaking, has not yet been arranged in the Korean market, which is a step forward in the direction of promoting Georgian wine. At the event, wines of different designations of 21 Georgian wine producing companies were presented.
- As part of the "Georgian Wine Week" organized by the Government of Georgia, with the support of the National Wine Agency, the International Wine & Spirit Competition (IWSC) was held in Georgia. Out of an unprecedentedly high number of 487 Georgian wines registered at the competition, medals were awarded to 288 of them, 16 gold, 63 silver and 209 bronze. The wine samples presented in the competition were evaluated by an international and local jury, headed by British wine master Sarah Abbott.
- The jury was composed of wine experts Kate Lomax, Megan Clarke, Maggie McPherson and Christel Gilbert, Senior Sommelier Salvatore Castano. The presented wine samples were also evaluated by the local judges of the IWSC jury.

- Georgian Qvevri wine was presented at the "RAW Wine" exhibition of natural wines on November 6-7 in Los Angeles, with the support of the National Wine Agency. Seven wineries from Georgia participated in the exhibition. Traditionally, there has been great interest in Georgian wine from wine professionals and the media. The visitors who came to the two-day exhibition had the opportunity to get acquainted with the ancient traditions of Georgian wine production, its culture and history, along with Georgian wines. Presentation of Georgian wine at the international exhibition increases the awareness of Qvevri wine, which provides an opportunity to find potential importers and increase exports. Consul General of Georgia in San Francisco, Levan Beridze attended the exhibition. Participating companies of the Los Angeles exhibition were represented in the city of New York at the same format exhibition "RAW Wine NY" on November 13-14.
- Georgia becomes the presiding country of the World Wine Trade Group (WWTG) in 2023. Chairman of the National Wine Agency, Levan Mekhuzla, took part in the annual meeting of the World Wine Trade Group (WWTG) held on November 6-9 in Santa Rosa, California, USA. The main goal of Georgia's participation in the mentioned group is to increase the export potential of Georgian wine and diversify export markets, which is very important for the Georgian wine industry. The chairmanship of the group is held annually, by each participating country, on the principle of rotation. This year, the presiding country of the group is the United States of America. World Wine Trade Group (WWTG) is a union of wine producing countries (Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, Georgia, New Zealand, South Africa, USA, Uruguay). The main objective of the organization is to facilitate wine trade, promote international trade in wine by sharing information and taking joint actions to remove trade barriers. Georgia presided WWTG in 2014. During the mentioned period, an important issues were agreed upon and documents were developed, which simplify the wine trade procedures between the member countries of this organization. The World Wine Trade Group (WWTG) evaluated Georgia's one-year chairmanship positively. During the chairmanship of WWTG, the main coordinator from the Georgian side was the National Wine Agency. The document adopted at the WWTG plenary meeting held in Tbilisi in August 2014, on the analytical methodology and regulatory limitations of wine composition and potential contaminants, is still, up to this day called the "Tbilisi Application" in the organization.

- The "Expovina Weinschiff" exhibition was held on November 3-17, 2022, in the city of Zurich. At the initiative of the Head of the company "GeoHaus GmbH", the products of 13 Georgian wine companies were presented at the exhibition. Georgia was represented at the exhibition as a special guest in 2018. In order to raise awareness on the market in the mentioned country, the participation of the Georgian side was of importance, so that high-quality wines of various Georgian companies could be decently presented.
- Seven Georgian wine companies participated in the "Stockholm Food and Wine" exhibition on November 11-13, with the support of the National Wine Agency, in Sweden. In Stockholm, the capital of the Kingdom of Sweden, at the "Stockholm Food and Wine" international food and wine exhibition, seven Georgian wine producing companies participated. The guests who came to "Stockholm Food and Wine" showed a special interest in Georgian wine and the 8000-year history of its production. The presentation of Georgian wine at the mentioned exhibition, where thousands of wine professionals traditionally gather, was carried out with the support of the Georgian Embassy in the Kingdom of Sweden and was particularly important for the promotion of Georgian wine in Scandinavian countries.
- A Georgian Qvevri was set in the center of the city of Merano in Italy. The Georgian Qvevri, as a wine monument, was set in the center of Merano, one of the oldest cities in Italy. The opening of the monument took place within the framework of one of the most prestigious wine festivals in the world - the Merano Wine Festival. The event was attended by the Mayor of Merano Dario Dal Medico, the founder of the festival Helmud Kiokheri, the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Georgia to the Republic of Italy Konstantine Surguladze, the Deputy Chairman of the National Wine Agency Davit Tkemaladze and the Executive Director of the Association "Georgian Wine" Tina Kezeli. The 30-year-old Merano Wine Festival is one of the outstanding festivals in the world, which is attended by representatives of leading European scientific institutions, wine producers, experts and journalists; And thousands of guests have the opportunity to participate in master classes and tastings.
- 24 Georgian wine producing companies participated in the international exhibition "EnoExpo 2022" held on November 16-18 in Krakow, Poland with the support of the National Wine Agency and the Embassy of Georgia in the Republic of Poland. Georgian wines won gold, silver and bronze medals at the competition held within the framework of the exhibition. Poland is

one of the strategic export markets of Georgian wine, where, with the support of the National Wine Agency, a number of events are held throughout the year. The aim of the events is to promote Georgian wine and increase its export potential.

- "Georgian Wine Forum" was successfully held in California on November 15-17. In the cities of the state of California, Davis and San Francisco, the Georgian Wine Forum was held with the support of the National Wine Agency and the Consulate General of Georgia in San Francisco and organization of the Georgia-American Business Council. The three-day program of the fifth forum included the "Saferavi Festival", a Georgian wine tasting and a conference held at the Robert Mondavi Institute in Davis, with the participation of scientists, economists and wine professionals. Within the scope of the conference, the strategy of establishing Georgian wine on the USA market, the marketing potential of Georgian wine on the USA market, the state of the modern Georgian wine industry, the key elements of the policy to increase the export of Georgian wine to the USA and other issues were discussed. Chairman of the National Wine Agency, Levan Mekhuzla, spoke at the conference about the current state of the Georgian wine industry and the vision of its development. "Saferavi Festival" was held at the Consulate General of Georgia in San Francisco and was hosted by Master Sommelier Taylor Parsons. He presented Saperavi wines produced by different companies to the guests of the event, wine professionals and representatives of the wine trade. The interest in the event was great both from scientific circles and wine professionals, economists and representatives of various fields related to winemaking and viticulture.
- 18 cellars of Georgian Qvevri wine presented their wines at the "RAW Wine" exhibition of natural wines on November 27, in Berlin. This was the largest-scale presentation of Georgian Qvevri wine at "RAW Wine Berlin", which is important in terms of increasing the international awareness of Qvevri wine and finding potential importers, which, as a result, provides an opportunity to increase exports. "RAW Wine" (The Artisan Wine Fair) is one of the outstanding international exhibitions where producers of high-quality natural, organic and biodynamic wines gather. The organizer of the exhibition is Isabelle Legeron, a well-known wine expert from France. 160 natural wine producers from 20 countries were represented at the Berlin exhibition. Traditionally, there has been great interest in Georgian wine from wine professionals and visitors. Considering the possibility of finding potential importers and

increasing exports, it is particularly important to present Georgian wine in Germany, since, starting from 2019, this country is one of the strategic export markets for Georgian wine.

- within the framework of the Georgian Wine Week, a tasting of Georgian wines from 10 small wineries was held at three different locations in Berlin with the support of the National Wine Agency and the organization of the "Saamuri" wine bar on November 23-30. The wines that are currently not sold on the German wine market were presented. Within the week, together with Georgian wine, Georgian cuisine was presented, a lecture-seminar was held on the 8000-year tradition of Georgian wine. According to local wine experts, due to its uniqueness and variety, Georgian wine has great potential on the German market.
- The project "Georgian Winemaker Women Without Borders" was carried out in Krakow, with the support of the National Wine Agency, on December 3-4, 2022. Within the scope of the project, which was organized by the association "Women in the Wine Industry", a memorandum of cooperation was signed between Georgian and Polish women winemakers, presentations, tastings/master classes dedicated to Georgian viticulture and winemaking were held. The guests of the event had the opportunity to introduce themselves to the wine samples of Georgian women winemakers, their production technologies and methods. The event was attended by local representatives of the field, sommeliers, experts, influencers and journalists working on the topic of wine.

As a result of the aforementioned marketing events, according to preliminary data, exports to the strategic markets of Georgian wine have increased: Poland - 6.6 million liters (32%), USA - 993.5 million liters (28%), Latvia - 1.6 million liters (20%) , Germany - 834.2 thousand liters (34%), Lithuania - 785.8 thousand liters (9%), Estonia - 725.6 thousand liters (53%), Japan - 231.2 thousand liters (68%).

Quality of Georgian wine

State control and state supervision was carried out in 53 wine companies, from which 975 samples of alcoholic beverages were taken, non-compliance was found in 30 samples of 9 companies.

245 inspections were carried out, 625 samples were taken, 200 inspections were carried out by international companies (SGS, Bureau Veritas). During the inspection, non-compliance was found in 43 samples of 29 companies, including 10 samples of 10 companies during the inspection conducted by the Agency.

125 samples were taken as a part the control of the local market. Laboratory studies are ongoing. A number of violations have been found at this stage in terms of the label rule, as well as in terms of certification and laboratory report on the lot.

Tastings

For the purpose of organoleptic testing of export alcoholic beverages, 280 tastings were held. A total of 12,632 samples were received, out of which 630 samples were evaluated as negative, the remaining as positive.

Certification

Based on the received applications, the following were issued: VI-1 form certificate /for European Union countries/ - 8249 pieces; Certificate of conformity - 11058 pieces; A total of 19,307 certificates have been issued by the Certification Department of the National Wine Agency to various alcoholic beverage producing companies.

Vineyards cadastre program

The following works were performed in 2022:

- Tender documentation was prepared and a tender was announced for the aerial photography of new vineyards and preparation of orthophoto map for the municipalities of Kvemo Kartli, Mtskheta-Mtianeti, Shida Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti regions with an approximate area of 7000 hectares.



The company "Alligator" LLC, selected by the tender, performed the cadastral works and compiled the maps of the target municipalities. A 2228 hectares of vineyard was ruled from this.

- The maps of the Kartli region were uploaded to the single database of the vineyard cadastre, on which vineyard polygons were ruled and vineyard information was added.
- In order to organize the interview of viticulturists and collect cadastral information, 18 operators were trained through trainings, and they were allocated to work in administrative units of Kvemo Kartli, Mtskheta-Mtianeti, Shida Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti.
- The cadastral information of vineyards for Kakheti and Racha-Lechkhumi viticulture zones was updated and 6,226 new extracts were issued.
- Vintage 2022 was held in Kakheti and Racha-Lechkhumi viticulture zones on the basis of updated cadastral records of vineyards.
- For the purposes of informing the viticulturists, within the framework of the organized information campaign, the viticulturists were provided with information about the cadastre of vineyards through the local media of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and the National Wine Agency, informational posters and booklets were prepared for on-site distribution.
- To present the results of the vineyard cadastre, the 2021 report was printed in Georgian and English under the title "Georgian Vineyards Cadastre, 2021 Report" (p. 51).
- During the year, the cadastre database of vineyards was systematically perfected and discussed within the framework of cooperation with the company "ABACO" and international expert Anna Luz in the area of improving the database functions, which are planned to be implemented in 2023.
- The Wine Agency's vineyard cadastre working group hosted a delegation of Armenia's Vine and Wine Foundation (state agency) organized by GIZ and international expert Anna Luz, to ensure exchange of information and experience between countries. The visit aimed to discuss the main achievements and challenges of the vineyard cadastre projects. The visit of the delegation included a working meeting at the National Wine Agency and also visits to wineries to become aware of the opinion of the private sector on this topic.

Scientific project for vine and wine culture research



The agency started in 2014 and still continues to implement the "Georgian vine and wine culture research scientific project" within the framework of the agency's "Georgian vine origin promotion" program.

The goal of the project is to collect new data for multidisciplinary studies of the vine and wine of Georgia, to reconstruct the continuous history of viticulture and winemaking and to show the rich heritage for the promotion of Georgian wine.

The following works were performed during the reporting period:

- Bilingual (Georgian and English) books "Climate Analyses for Modern Georgian Viticulture: a practical handbook for viticulturists" with authorship of Milan University and Georgian researchers (G. Kola, L. Mariani, O. Faila, L. Brancadoro, D. Maghradze). The books are of a practical use and are intended for employees of the technical level of viticulturists.
- In the D-REAMS laboratory of the Weisman Institute of Israel, carbonized grape stones found in the territory of the Gonio-Apsaros castle, provided by the Adjara Cultural Heritage Agency, were dated by radiocarbon method and their age was determined as the late Middle Ages.
- 20 grape stones of Gonio-Apsaros castle vines were sent to the researcher Laurent Bouby of Montpellier University (France) for studying by biometric method for restoration the historical chronology of viticulture in the territory of Georgia.
- University of Milan researcher Gabriele Cola gathered and processed the phenological phases of wild and cultivated vines for the period 2017-2022 and the agroclimatic data of the corresponding years in order to find out the characteristics of the phenological phases between these groups based on climatic parameters. The material was collected in order to publish a scientific article in the future.
- Four reports were presented by project participants Davit Maghradze, Laura Rustioni (University of Salento), Gabriele Cola and Gabriela Di Lorenzi (University of Milan) at the "Fifth Wino Forum

of America" conference held at the University of California, (USA) Davis on November 16, 2022 regarding the works performed within the framework of the project, dedicated to the genetic resources of Georgian vines and the agro-climatic features of Georgian viticulture.

- On behalf of the National Wine Agency, scientific articles were published with the co-authorship of program coordinator Davit Maghradze:

1) Brillouet J-M., Romieu C.s, Bacilieri R., Nick P., Trias-Blasi A., Maul E., Solymosi K., Teszlák P., Jiang J-F., Sun L., Ortolani D., Londo J.P., Gutierrez B., Prins B., Reynders M., Van Caekenbergh F., Maghradze D., Marchal C., Sultan A., Thomas J-F., Scherberich D., Fulcrand H., Roumeas L., Billerach G., Salimov V., Musayev M., Ejaz Ul Islam Dar M., Peltier J-B., Grisoni M.. 2022. Tannin phenotyping of the Vitaceae reveals a phylogenetic linkage of epigallocatechin in berries and leaves. *Annals of Botany* XX: 1–13, 2022.

2) Ricciardi V., Marciànò D., Sargolzaei M., Marrone Fassolo E., Fracassetti D., Brilli M., Moser M., Shariati J.V., Tavakole E., Maddalena G., Passera A., Casati P., Pindo M., Cestaro A., Costa A., Bonza M.C., Maghradze D., Tirelli A., Failla O., Bianco P.A., Quaglino F., Toffolatti S. L., De Lorenzis G. 2022. Dissecting the susceptibility/resistance mechanism of *Vitis vinifera* for the future control of downy mildew. *BIO Web of Conferences* 44, 04002 (2022)

3) Maghradze D. and Faill O. (Eds) 2022. Wild grapevine in Georgia, multidisciplinary comparative research to unravel the mystery of its domestication. Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation of Georgia (SRNSFG). Tbilisi. 384p.

Legislative activities

- The Government of Georgia adopted a resolution "On Determining the General Rules for the Production of Alcoholic Beverages and Spirits Drinks of Grape and the List of Permitted Processes, Materials and Substances". The purpose of the mentioned technical regulation is to determine the unified principles of regulation at the stages of production and sale of alcoholic beverages of viticultural origin. The regulation establishes general rules and requirements for labeling, presentation, placing on the market and use of the official name of alcoholic

beverages and spirit drinks viticultural origin, as well as special requirements for wine companies, a list of persons exercising compliance control with the technical regulation. Moreover, the materials and substances of the permitted processes for the production of alcoholic beverages of viticultural origin and alcohol production were determined. According to the new regulation, it is not allowed to place the alcoholic beverage of viticultural origin on the consumer market without packaging in a consumer container, therefore, the deviation between the actual volume of the alcoholic beverage packed in the consumer container and the alcohol content stated on the label should not exceed $\pm 0.3\%$. The technical regulation also defines brand categories based on age or cultivation. The technical regulation was developed in accordance with the Law of Georgia "On Grapes and Wine" and compliance with its requirements is mandatory for all wine companies whose business activities include the production of alcoholic beverages and spirits drinks of viticultural origin.

- The Government of Georgia adopted a resolution "On the Approval of the Certification Rules for Alcoholic Beverages, Ethyl Alcohol of Agricultural Origin and Distillate of Agricultural Origin". The purpose of the resolution is to regulate issues related to the certification of alcoholic beverages, ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin and distillate of agricultural origin, which ensures the high quality of these products. The resolution describes in detail the stages of certification, the obligations of the business operator, the procedures for the laboratory examination of the sample, the conditions for conducting the inspection and issuing the certificate. The certification is carried out by the legal entity of public law National Wine Agency of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia.

Program for promoting the development of the Georgian wine designation system and the protection of Georgian wine designations

"Zegaani", "Okureshi Ushakhelouri", "Asuretuli Shala" and "Okami" were added to the wines of protected designation of origin registered in Georgia, as a result the number of wines with designation of origin was increased to 29, which indicates the diversity of Georgian wine and is especially important for its promotion and growth of export potential.

At present, the following wines of protected designation of origin are registered in Georgia: Kindzmarauli, Manavi, Kakheti, Nafareuli, Teliani, Mukuzani, Tsinandali, Akhasheni, Gurjaani, Khvanchkara, Ateni, Sviri, Vazisubani, Kardenakhi, Tibaani, Tvishi, Kvareli, Kotekhi, Khashmi

Saperavi, Bolnisi, Salkhinos Ojaleshi, Akhmeta, Tsarafi, Akhoebi, Maghraani Kisi, Okureshi Usakhelouri, Zegaani, Asuretuli Shala and Okami.

- The activities carried out by the National Wine Agency are actively covered in print, electronic, social and TV media (<http://wine.gov.ge/>, <https://www.facebook.com/nationalwineagency/>, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0CPwXo8f7-QA329kmicFwQ>)