

WINE TRAIL TRAVELER QUARTERLY



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On the Cover:

Qvevri Maker

by Terry Sullivan

Zaliko Bodjadze has been making qvevri most of his life. His son now is helping with the business and will carry on in the future. Zaliko crafts these fermentation vessels from the red clay high in the mountains. His work crafting a qvevri is like a dance as he adds layer after layer forming and shaping a qvevri. Qvevris have been used in Georgia, Sakartvelo for thousands of years to ferment and age wines.

WINE TRAIL TRAVELER QUARTERLY

Cover Story

Focus on Georgia, Sakartvelo

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Terry Sullivan/Kathy Sullivan

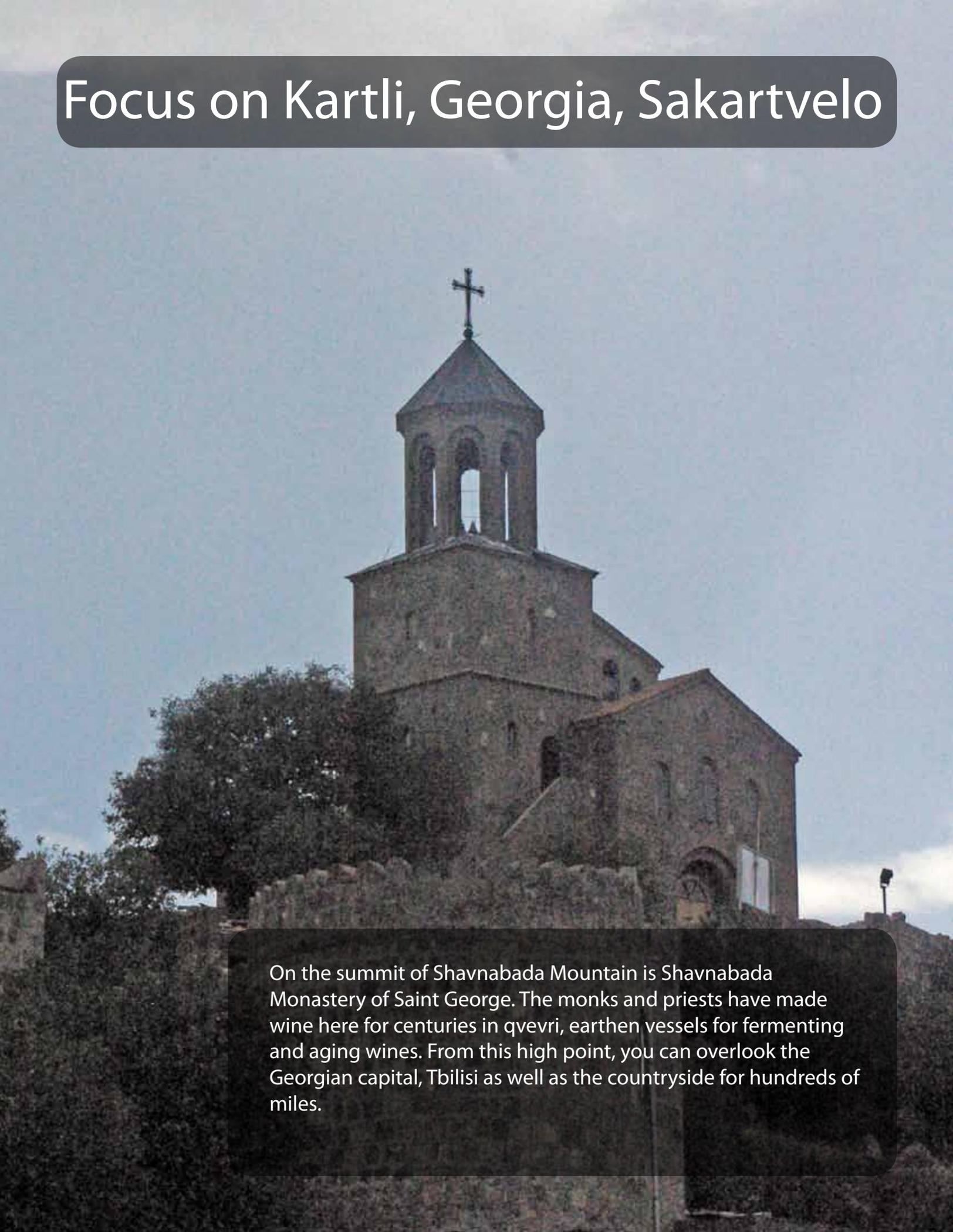
Writers

Kathy Sullivan

Terry Sullivan

Meghan A. Neumeier

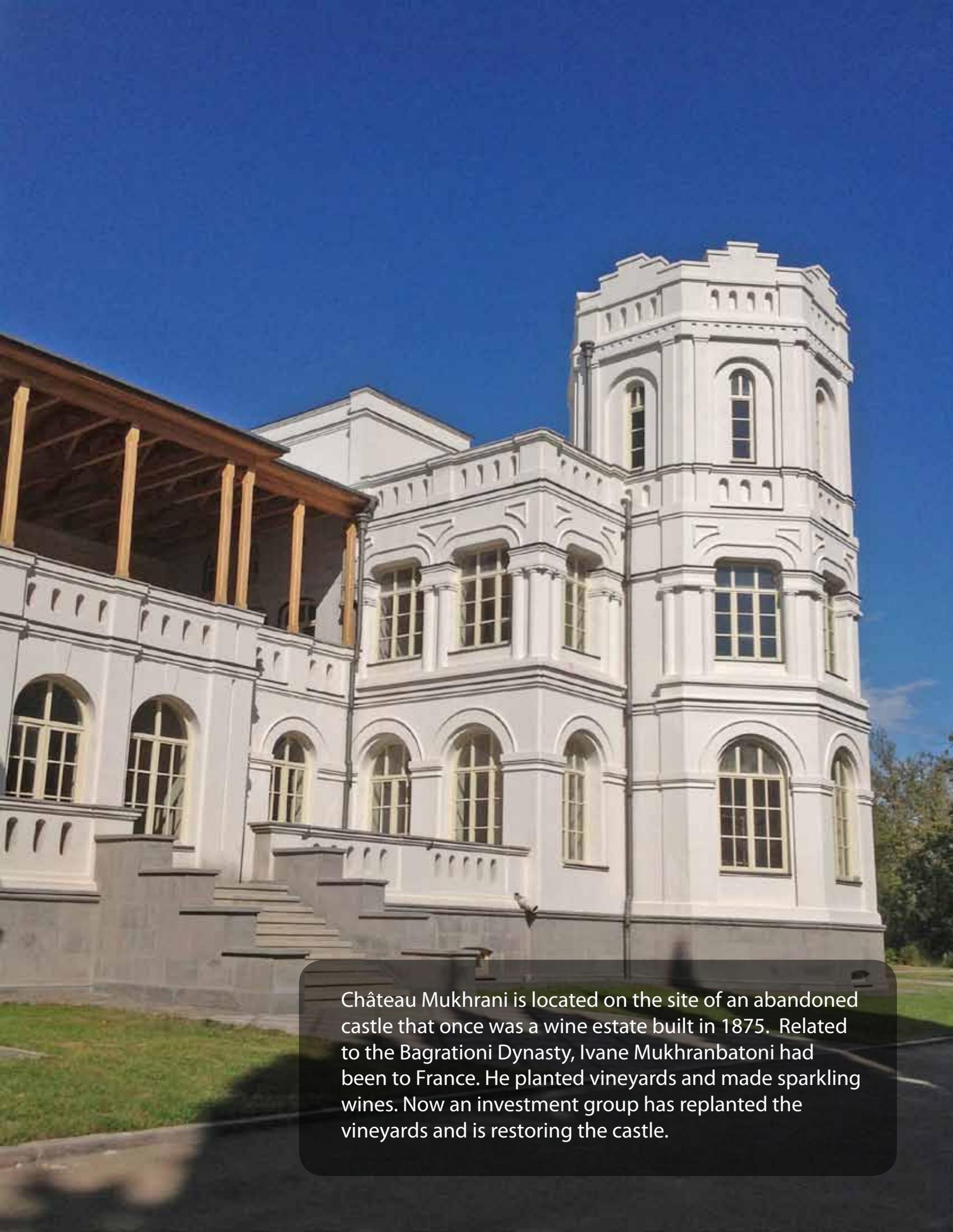
Focus on Kartli, Georgia, Sakartvelo



On the summit of Shavnabada Mountain is Shavnabada Monastery of Saint George. The monks and priests have made wine here for centuries in qvevri, earthen vessels for fermenting and aging wines. From this high point, you can overlook the Georgian capital, Tbilisi as well as the countryside for hundreds of miles.



Bagrationi 1882 makes sparkling wines from Georgian grapes such as Rkatsiteli, Chinuri, Goruli Mtsvane, and Tsitska. The name "Bagrationi" is connected to a Georgian king descendant, Ivan Bagrationi. In 1878 a large winery was built on the family estate in Mukhrani. Ivan began producing sparkling wine using the French method. In 1882 his sparkling wine won the Grand Prix in the St. Petersburg wine competition.



Château Mukhrani is located on the site of an abandoned castle that once was a wine estate built in 1875. Related to the Bagrationi Dynasty, Ivane Mukhranbatoni had been to France. He planted vineyards and made sparkling wines. Now an investment group has replanted the vineyards and is restoring the castle.



A small boutique winery in the town of Mtskheta offers an intimate wine tasting experience of a qvevri-made wine. Experience tasting a wine in a tasi rather than a wine glass. George Barisashvili, owner and winemaker is also the author of *Making Wine in Kvevri*.



The wine cellar is called a marani. Several qvevri are buried underground at Iago's Wine in Chardakhi, Kartli. Burying the qvevri helps to maintain a nearly constant temperature for the wine over a year. Iago, owner and winemaker, demonstrated how qvevri are cleaned and how the cap is punched down during fermentation.

SAPERAVI

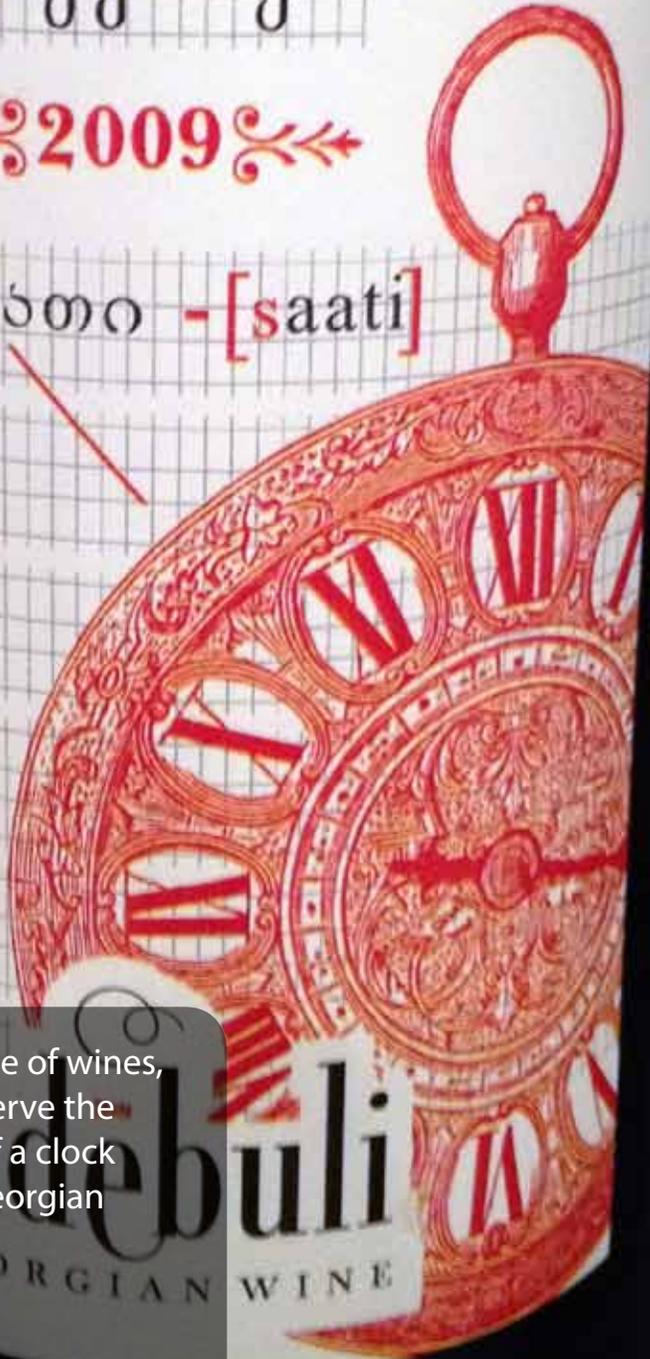
საფერავი

2009

საათი - [saati]

13% 750
300g/VOL 982/MIL
PETHOFI KAKETI
საბინაო უძრავი ქონება

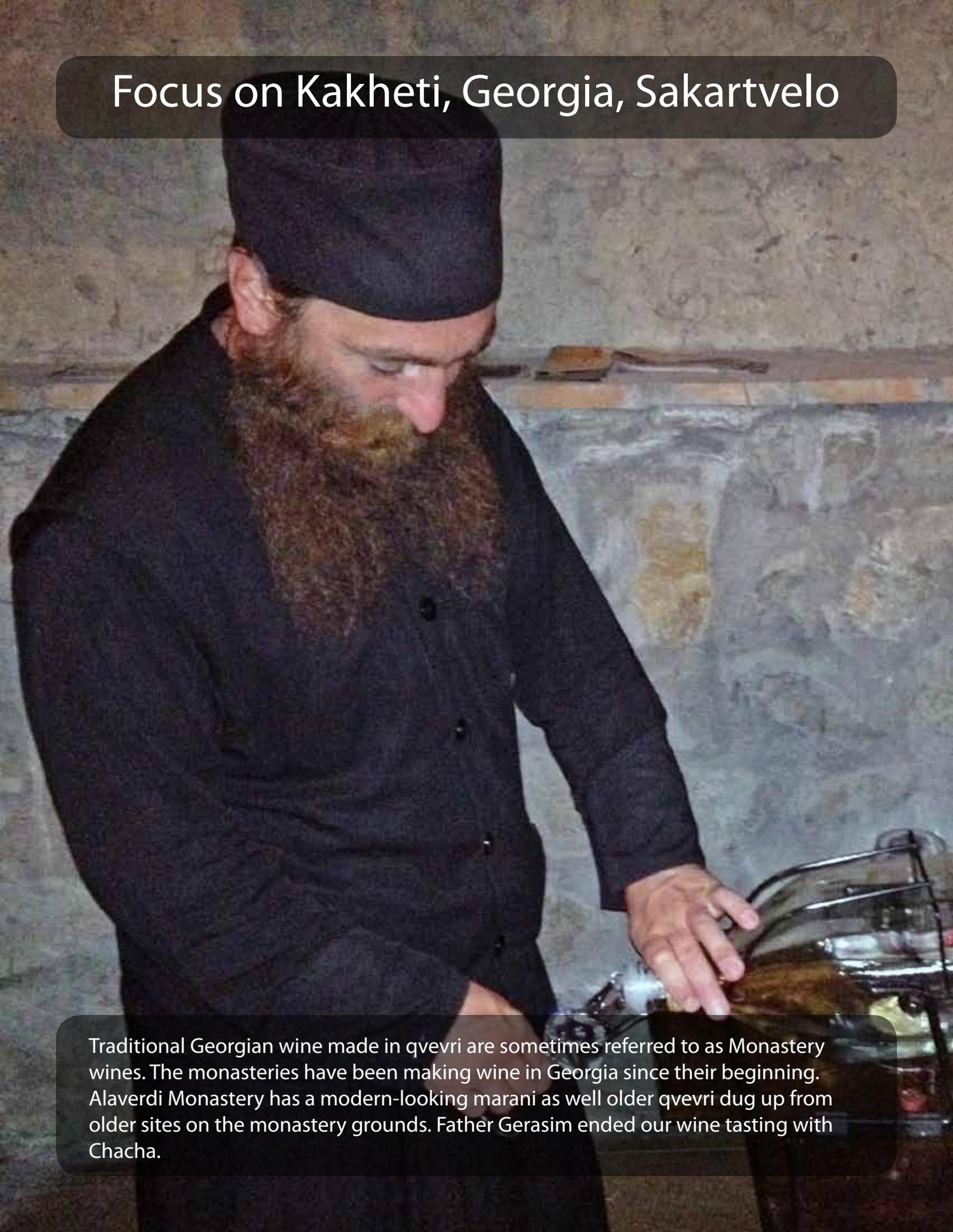
RED DRY WINE GEORGIAN WINE
საფერავი 2009 წლის ვინი



didebuli
GEORGIAN WINE

Tbilvino winery in Tbilisi has a line of wines, Didebuli, that hope to help preserve the Georgian alphabet. The image of a clock is given as saati and using the Georgian alphabet.

Focus on Kakheti, Georgia, Sakartvelo

A man with a long, dark beard and a black cap is shown from the chest up, wearing a black button-down shirt. He is looking down and pouring a golden liquid from a large, dark, rounded earthenware vessel (qvevri) into a glass. The background is a rough, textured wall. The lighting is somewhat dim, highlighting the man's features and the liquid being poured.

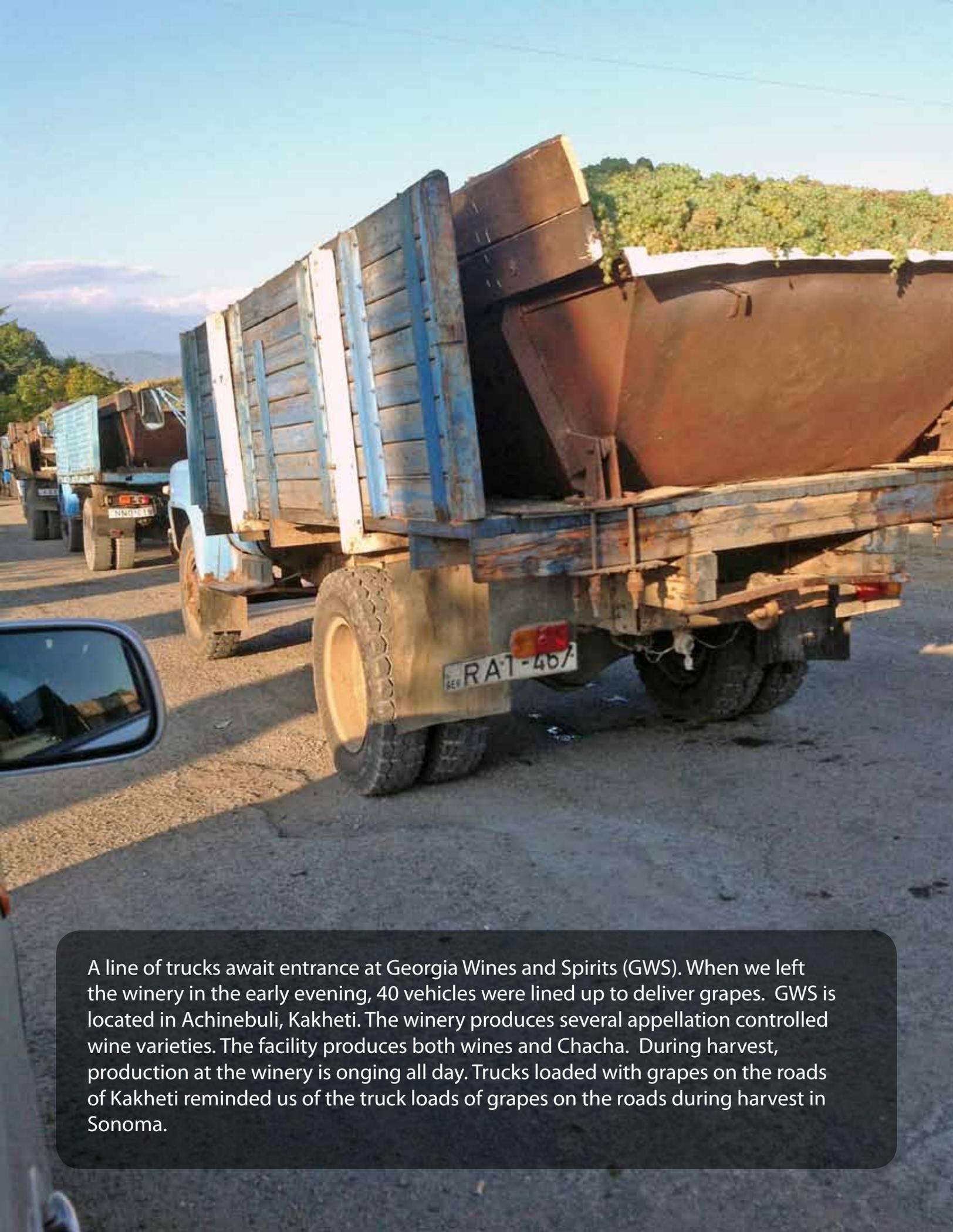
Traditional Georgian wine made in qvevri are sometimes referred to as Monastery wines. The monasteries have been making wine in Georgia since their beginning. Alaverdi Monastery has a modern-looking marani as well older qvevri dug up from older sites on the monastery grounds. Father Gerasim ended our wine tasting with Chacha.

Wine travelers can expect diversity in tasting rooms while traveling to wineries in Kakheti. At Badagoni, glass lets in the natural light and walls and floors sparkle. The mountains are closeby making this a perfect setting for wine tasting and discovery. The name Badagoni refers to the ancient Georgian God of wine and winemaking.





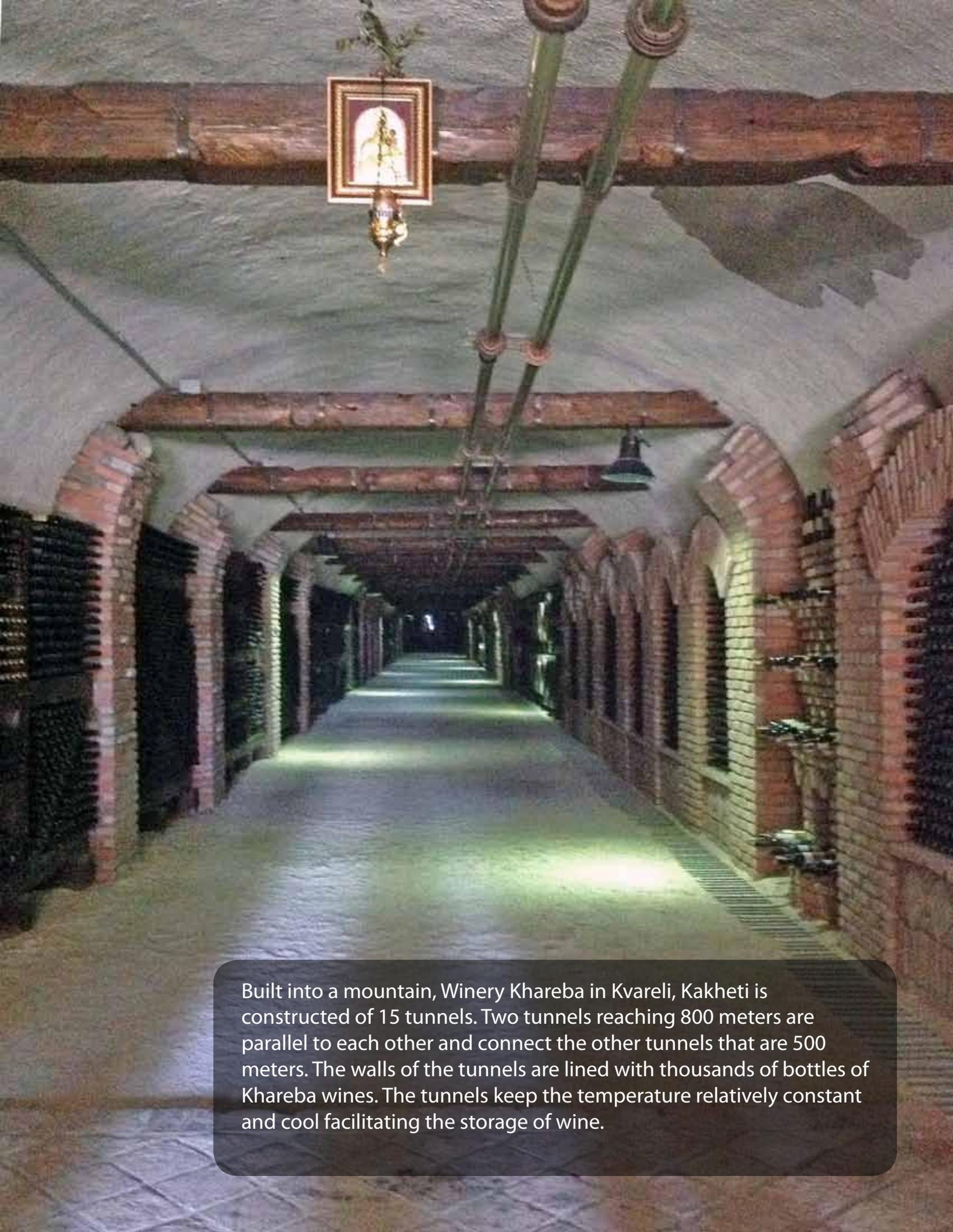
Besini Winery in Tsinandali, Kakheti has beautiful views of the Caucasus Mountains from their vineyards. The winery is in the process of building a new visitor and tasting room. We tasted wines at a picnic table near the large winery facility.



A line of trucks await entrance at Georgia Wines and Spirits (GWS). When we left the winery in the early evening, 40 vehicles were lined up to deliver grapes. GWS is located in Achinebuli, Kakheti. The winery produces several appellation controlled wine varieties. The facility produces both wines and Chacha. During harvest, production at the winery is ongoing all day. Trucks loaded with grapes on the roads of Kakheti reminded us of the truck loads of grapes on the roads during harvest in Sonoma.



Small producers may not have a tasting room for visitors. However, winetastings are delightful outdoors in a shady spot. Kakha Berishvili is located in Artana Kakheti. He makes traditional wines in qvevri from Rkatsiteli and Saperavi. The vineyard is farmed following biodynamic principles.



Built into a mountain, Winery Khareba in Kvareli, Kakheti is constructed of 15 tunnels. Two tunnels reaching 800 meters are parallel to each other and connect the other tunnels that are 500 meters. The walls of the tunnels are lined with thousands of bottles of Khareba wines. The tunnels keep the temperature relatively constant and cool facilitating the storage of wine.



There are over 540 wine grape varieties in the country of Georgia. Kindzmarauli Marani in Kvareli, Kakheti, has a library of over 400 of these grape varieties. They plan to increase the library vineyard to include over 500 of Georgia's grapes. The vineyard library affords an opportunity to preserve grapes from extinction. Also the winery is conducting research to see what varieties can make excellent wines.

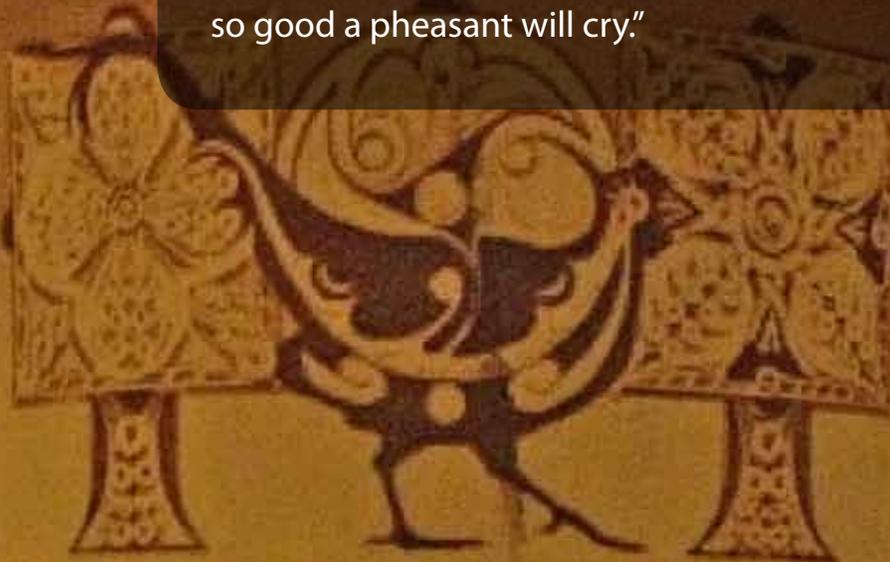


Nika Bakhia is an artist and quickly drew a wine bottle label on one of his bottles. Nika's Wine is a small family winery in Anaga, Kakheti. Nika sees his traditional winemaking in qvevri as a creative process just like his painting and sculptures.



Our Wine winemaker, Soliko Tsaishvili, crafts natural wines made in qvevri. The grapes express themselves. Biodynamic principles are followed in the vineyard and natural wine practices are adhered to in the winery. White wines fermented and aged on their skins takes on a deep gold to amber color and offer complex aromas and tastes, usually accompanied with tannins.

Pheasant's Tears winery and restaurant is owned by an American John Wurdeman. In addition to traditional qvevri wines, John also makes Chacha from the chacha left in the qvevri after the wine is racked. Chacha, like grappa, is clear. It picks up the gold color from aging in oak barrels. Pheasant's Tears' name comes from a saying in Kakheti, "You can make wine so good a pheasant will cry."



Pheasant's Tears

CHACHA

500 ml

ჭაჭა

48% ^{alc}/_{vol}

AGED IN OAK FOR 24 MONTHS

CHACHA IS A TRADITIONAL GEORGIAN BRANDY MADE FROM GRAPE SKINS & SEEDS AFTER WINE HAS BEEN PRESSED, PASSED THROUGH A COPPER DISTILLERY, RESULTING IN A STRONG PUNGENT BEVERAGE ROUNDED OFF IN OAK BARRELS.

Produced and Bottled in Georgia by Pheasant's Tears
18 Baratashvili Street, Sighmaghi, Republic of Georgia 4200.



Schuchmann Wines is a large Georgian winery in the Kakheti region, owned by Burkhard Schuchmann who resides in Germany. The winery produces qvevri and European-style wines. This qvevri is fermenting Saperavi grapes.

Shumi in Tsinandali, Kakheti has a small museum with numerous artifacts including wine vessels from the 3rd millennium BC. The Shumi wine museum has the oldest qvevri discovered in Georgia dating back to 1,000 BC.



სამუზეუმო მუზეუმი, შუმი, კახეთი, საქართველო.
ძველი კვებრი, 3-4 ათასწლიანი.
მუზეუმი, შუმი, კახეთი, საქართველო.
სამუზეუმო მუზეუმი, შუმი, კახეთი, საქართველო.
სამუზეუმო მუზეუმი, შუმი, კახეთი, საქართველო.

Teliani Valley is a large production winery in Telavi, Kakheti. They produce both European-style wines and traditional qvevri wines. Their tasting room has many artifacts including a large wood press, barrels, glass and terra cotta vessels. qvevri, harvest baskets and a still.



Telavi Wine Cellar, Marani of Telavi is located in Telavi, Kakheti. They also produce European-style wines that are made in stainless steel fermenters and aged in stainless steel or oak barrels. These European-style wines are made with international grape varieties as well as the grape varieties native to Georgia.





Some qvevri are large enough to crawl into to remove the chacha and clean. At Teleda Winery in Shalauri, Kakheti, workers lower a bucket with a burning piece of cardboard into the qvevri to burn off the gas. This is done as a safety measure before a worker places a ladder into the qvevri and crawls into it.

Twins Wine Cellar in Napareuli, Kakheti has the world's largest qvevri. This walk-in two story qvevri allows visitors to walk inside it to see what a qvevri looks like on the inside. In addition to the walk-in two-story qvevri, a building will house displays. One wall has several qvevri shapes that can display artifacts. On a lower level, visitors can view three qvevri. Two have a cut-away covered with glass. One can view what it looks like inside the qvevri. One of these had a red wine fermenting in it (pictured). A qvevri oven was also being built. Visitors can see how qvevri are fired.





Winifera Winery at Chateau Mere in the Telavi Region of Kakheti has a marani with several qvevri of various sizes. Different sizes are needed. Once fermentation and maceration is completed, the wine is often racked into a clean qvevri. Since there is less wine than the size of the original qvevri, the wine is racked into a smaller qvevri.

Wine and the Bible

The Cry of the Poor

by Meghan A. Neumeier

Since his election to the papacy, Pope Francis has made clear his intention to place the suffering of the poor at the top of his priority list. At a lunch for the poor in Assisi, Italy, the pope said, “[The world] does not care if so many families have nothing to eat.”¹ The world “does not care about those feeling poverty and hunger, who seek freedom but instead find death.”

The prophet Amos faced a similar disregard for the poor and oppressed in 750 B.C. In Amos 6:4-7, Amos condemns the leaders of the northern kingdom of Israel for their complacent attitude towards the suffering of their people. In particular, he calls attention to “those who lie on beds of ivory,” “eat lambs from the flock,” and “drink wine from bowls.” The ivory beds and feasts of lamb represent the extravagant lifestyle of the leaders. Amos’ phrase “wine from bowls” could suggest one of two things. Drinking wine from bowls could refer to the greed and gluttony associated with consuming more wine than would fit in a cup. Or, the phrase could refer to drinking

wine out of sacrificial bowls that should have only been used for religious purposes, suggesting that the leaders ignored God’s will.² How many people in Amos’ time had no bed on which to place their head, no food by which to fill their stomachs, no drink by which to satisfy their corporal and spiritual thirst? How many people today face the same material, nutritional, and spiritual needs?

The words of Pope Francis and Amos may seem harsh, but I think many of us can relate to them. If Amos were speaking to today’s world, he might condemn our taste for large houses, luxury cars, designer clothes and accessories, and copious electronics. In today’s fast-paced, materialistic, individualistic society, we tend to focus too much on what we think we need and not enough on what others truly need. It is all too easy to fall into the trap of thinking that we need what we have and of clinging to our money and possessions. St. Basil the Great prompts us to probe our conscience with these words: “The bread in your cupboard



belongs to the hungry man; the coat hanging unused in your closet belongs to the man who needs it; the shoes rotting in your closet belong to the man who has no shoes; the money which you put in the bank belongs to the poor.”³ What can you do to help the poor, the suffering, and the oppressed today? This month? This year? This life?

1 “Pope Francis urges Church to focus on helping poor,” BBC News, last modified October 4, 2013, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-24391800>.

2 James Burton Coffman, “Commentary on Amos 6:1,” Coffman Commentaries on the Old and New Testament,” accessed October 13, 2013, <http://www.studylight.org/com/bcc/view.cgi?book=am&chapter=006>.

3 “Stewardship Challenges: Church Teaching on Stewardship,” Archdiocese of Chicago, accessed October 13, 2013, http://www.archchicago.org/departments/stewardship_dev/pdf/theology_scripture/church_teaching.pdf.

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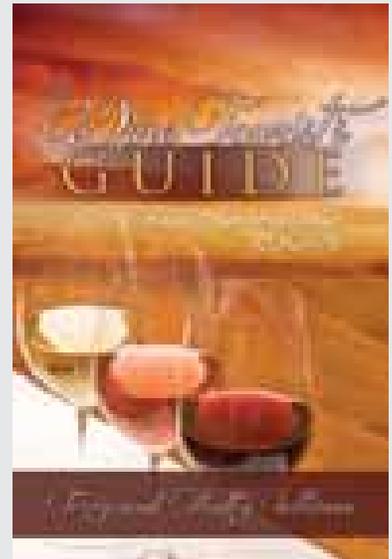
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2245 Blue Sulphur Pike
Lewisburg, West Virginia 24901
Phone: 304-645-5308 or
304-667-8843

New Book

Less than a year after the publication of *A Wine Journey*, Terry and Kathy have their second book published.

A Wine Tourists Guide: Visiting Tasting Rooms is a practical guide that informs you of tasting room expectations, etiquette, how to taste wines and much more.



On the Back Cover

*Besini in Tsinandali, 2200,
Telavi, Kakheti, Georgia*

The Besini vineyards have a backdrop of the Caucasus Mountains. Georgia lies between the Greater and Lesser Caucasus Mountains ranges. These mountains are north and are the higher Greater Caucasus Mountains. Beyond the mountains is the Russian Federation.



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