





On February 15, 2019 was held Wine Fest DIONYSOS under Project Developing Identity ON Yield: SOil and Site, acronym <u>DIONYSOS</u>, Subsidy contract № B2.6c.04/01.11.2017 under the Cooperation Programme INTERREG V-A Greece – Bulgaria 2014-2020.

The purpose of the project is to popularize the local grape sorts, the quality wines produced by them, and to present the region to the locals and its visitors as an attractive wine tourism destination.

Haskovo chamber of commerce and industry, one of the eight project partners, was the organizer of the successful event, which was attended by more than 200 guests – representatives of the wine-production, food-production, hotel and restaurants, industry sectors, state agencies, diplomats, accredited in Bulgaria and many other guests and connoisseurs of wine and culinary.

They all were quite intrigued and wished luck to the project, while hoping that this type of publicity and the zeal of partners shall boost the region's development and position it on the global wine tourism market.

At the Festival, the project partners presented the wine DIONYSOS produced by a recipe for coupage of local sorts. The guests were able to taste the wines of proven local wineries as Yamantiev's, Malkata Zvezda, Chateau Kolarovo, Thracian Wine, Dionis, Katarzyna Estate, Zaara Estate, Castra Rubra and Wine House Lozev

Also, during the Festival for the first time in our region was held blind wine tasting under the 100-point system with the following wines:

- № 1 Merlot&Syrah & Cabernet Sauvignon, 2018, Winery Zaara Wine
- № 2 Enigma Syrah, 2016, Winery Malkata Zvezda
- № 3 Encore Syrah, 2016, Winery Katarzyna Estate
- N_{2} 4 Cabernet Sauvignon, 2015, Winery Dionis.
- № 5 Basarea Cabernet Sauvignon, 2014 Winery Thracian Wine
- № 6 Basarea Syrah, 2014 Winery Thracian Wine
- № 7 Cabernet Sauvignon, 2013 Winery Chateau Kolarovo
- № 8 Merlot&Cabernet Sauvignon&Cabernet Fran, 2013, Winery Castra Rubra
- № 9 Bratanov 3 blend, dry red, 2013, Winery Bratanovi
- № 10 Merlot, 2013, Winery Chateau Kolarovo

The tasting session had no competition characteristic as each of those wines is with great qualities, therefore the Wineries received a Certificate for successful participation in the tasting with the points that their wine has received.

Besides the tasting evaluation, the National Institute for testing wine, spirits and essential oils tested the physical-chemical specifics of the wines and presented Diplomas to the ones that reached the perfect ones.

The organizers of the Wine Festival hope this type of event to turn into an annual tradition in order to increase the interest towards the region's wine-production.