

WINE TOURISM AND WINE ROADS IN HERZEGOVINA-NERETVA CANTON - SITUATION AND PROSPECTS

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Herzegovina-Neretva Canton is an area that boasts a tradition of wine growing that last about 2000 years. The best known species in this area are Žilavka (white grape and wine) and Blatina (black grapes and wine) and their supporting varieties. The leading cultivation of grapes in the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton are white grape varieties, primarily Žilavka and Smederevka. From a total of 977,8 hectares of vineyards in the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton under varieties of white grapes is 561.3 ha or 57.4%. Most of the vineyards under is under žilavka, (485,3 ha) and smederevka (76 ha). The varieties of red grapes are under-represented, at 374 hectares, which in relative terms in the total area of vineyards in the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton is 38.2%. Among the red wine grape mostly grown is blatina (316 ha) and vranac (58 ha). These types of wine grapes are the basis for the production of wine, wine cellars and other supporting infrastructure, and ultimately predisposition to the formation of Wine Route of Herzegovina, the main carrier of the development of wine tourism in the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton.

Key words: grapes, wine, wine tourism, Herzegovina-neretva canton, wine routes, wine cellars