

University of Zielona Góra educates winemakers

Since the 2019/2020 academic year, our university's Faculty of Biological Sciences has offered oenology as postgraduate studies. The studies last 3 years and give also agricultural qualifications because their programme includes the content related to a manufacturing activity in agriculture within crop and animal production.

Students gain knowledge and skills concerning, among other things, establishment of a grapevine plantation and its further cultivation, nurturance and protection against pest and diseases, production technology, storage and composition of wine, biochemical reactions that take place in wine, instrumental and sensory analysis of wine products, designing a production process in a small winery as well as trading of wine products and knowledge of a wine product range. The studies are practical thanks to both laboratory and outdoor classes.

Information source:
www.wikipedia.pl
www.visitzielonagora.pl

Photos:
- Lubuskie Winemaking Centre,
- Visit Zielona Góra,
- Michał Adamczewski,
- UZ's archive.

Zielona Góra – Academic City



Grapevine cultivation in Zielona Góra and the region



Winemaking in Zielona Góra and its vicinity

Zielona Góra can boast the few-hundred-year-old, rich winemaking traditions. The transitional temperate climate with significant oceanic influences is one of the key factors making this area favourable for grapevine cultivation. According to oral tradition, the first local vineyards originate from the 13th century. However, the oldest documented information about the cultivation of grapevines in this area appeared in 1314. Since that time, local winemaking has experienced its ups and downs but has never stopped being an important characteristic of Zielona Góra. Over 200 years ago, there were several hundred wine houses in the city inside where winepresses were used, wine was matured in barrels and equipment was stored. The best-preserved wine house, which dates back to 1818, now is a part of the Palm House Restaurant.

In 1852 for the first time winemakers marched through the city in order to celebrate a rich harvest together with local residents. Since that time, the Winobranie Wine Festival has been organised in Zielona Góra every year. It takes place in September and is the most important event in the city, full of fun and local wine. Many sports, cultural and entertainment attractions are prepared for both residents and tourists. During this week-long festival it is Bacchus, the god of wine, who reigns over the city.

The traces of local winemaking traditions can also be found in the Wine Museum (a part of the Lubuskie Region Museum), the only such place in the country. Visitors can also see more of the fascinating world underground Zielona Góra, i.e. the most unique wine cellars in the whole country. They are opened a few times in a year during the Open Days of Wine Cellars. Such events create a perfect opportunity to taste our regional wines which are becoming increasingly well-known in Poland and abroad.

University of Zielona Góra supports the development of the local winemaking traditions

In 2022 the University of Zielona Góra became a leader of a consortium called the Lubuskie Winemaking Innovations (LuWIN). Apart from the university, its members are, among others, a few vineyard owners as well as the Lubuski Centre for Innovation and Agrotechnical Implementation Ltd. (LOLIWA) in Kalsk.



The consortium aims at developing and implementing an integrated system of grapevine cultivation in the Lubuskie province. Thus it supports the regional winemaking branding that refers to the long, estimable history and at the same time presents its new image fit for the 21st century. Grapevine cultivation involves a high economic risk and that is why the further development of winemaking in the Lubuskie province requires an innovative approach to the running of vineyards, which will make it more predictable.

The Lubuski Centre for Innovation and Agrotechnical Implementation Ltd. is the only research-development-implementation centre that comprehensively aids the innovation and growth of winemaking sector in the region. The centre's own experimental vineyard is aimed at helping winemakers and wine producers who are making an effort to regenerate the winemaking traditions in the Lubuskie province and other places. On the 3.3-hectare area, 1066 grapevines of various varieties have been planted. They allow of producing wines of rich bouquets.

The technological section of the centre has faithfully rendered technological industrial lines. A winemaking laboratory situated there is equipped with a workroom for raw material pretreatment and a fermentation department with a ripening facility, which allows of full controlling the process from budding fruit must to a finished product. Another advantage of these technological lines is the multi-function metering system, which allows of registering and collecting important parameters of the production process. The laboratory section has modern research infrastructure, which allows of quantitative and qualitative analysis of the composition and microbiological safety of wine raw materials as well as a target product, i.e. wine.

The University of Zielona Góra is also an owner of a 35-hectare vineyard in Zabór (located circa 15 km from Zielona Góra) where regional winemakers grow their crops. Right next to the vineyard, the Lubuskie Winemaking Centre is located. The centre informs about the history of grapevine cultivation in our region, revives the local traditions and promotes the contemporary winemaking in the Lubuskie province. Additionally, the centre deals with an educational activity and popularises viticulture.

