

Post conference tour - optional
Day trip to – Alba-Carolina Citadel and Apoldia Vineyard & Winery Fest

The trip organized on Saturday 28 September 2024 for the participants in the International Conference Life Sciences for Sustainable Development at Vinea Apoldia Maior Fest - 3rd edition!

Distance 170 km on the highway destination Apold, Sibiu county including one stop in Alba Iulia, to visit the Carolina Fortress.

Departure at 8.30 a.m. by university bus from the University Campus, Department of Mechanization (behind the Aula Building). Return in the evening around 21.00 to the university campus.

[USAMV Cluj-Napoca](#) is the welcoming host of wine, traditional dishes and quality music lovers! As usual, at the Vinea Apoldia Maior Fest you will enjoy performances, fragrant wine tastings, stories about the history of the place, spectacular photos in the vineyard and delicious food! We are looking forward to welcoming you in Apoldu de Sus (Sibiu county), to spend an unforgettable day in our vineyard, together with the USAMV Cluj-Napoca community, its friends and partners!

It is in this special place, steeped in its history of a long wine-growing tradition, that a noble vine plantation has been established on an area of 65 hectares. Pink Traminer, Italian Riesling, Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Gris and Muscat Ottonel are the grape varieties skilfully cultivated at **Vinea Apoldia Maior**. The vineyard is located 28 kilometers from Sibiu, on the road to Sebeş, in the commune of Apoldu de Sus and produces about 400,000 liters of wine annually. The vineyard is located at an altitude of 446-485 meters above sea level, south-facing, with reddish-brown forest soils.

Since 2020, the **vineyard Vinea Apoldia Maior** is part of the patrimony of **the University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca**, so the academic process can be multi-dimensional. The vineyard is the ideal place to unravel the mysteries of oenology, viticulture or other specializations such as pedology, plant pathology or agricultural machinery. A place for learning, where in addition to research and innovation, grapes are masterfully transformed into tasty Bahian liqueurs. <https://vinea-apoldiamaior.ro/despre/>. The wines from the winery of the [Vinea Apoldia Maior - USAMV Cluj-Napoca vineyard](#) combine the long local tradition with the modernity of vine cultivation, the specificity of the soils and unique microclimate conditions with the refinement of special cultivars of noble varieties, the science with the love and patience of our specialists. With vibrant aromas of tropical fruit, elderflower and grapefruit, our Sauvignon Blanc from the Academicum 2023 range is a Sauvignon Blanc that has already received countless awards: Gold Medal at Catavinum in Spain 2024, Silver Medal at Concours Mondial de Bruxelles 2024, Gold Medal at Winelovers Wine Awards, Hungary, 2024. Its aromatic notes stand out distinctly, the palate is vigorous, full-flavored, with prominent notes of mango and grapefruit and an aftertaste of green apple. Five labels of wines produced in 2023 at the Vinea Apoldia Maior Vineyard, awarded at the Winelovers Wine Awards in Budapest!

Alba Iulia is one of the earliest settlements in the country, which was known as "**Apulum**" during the Roman occupation. Back then, it was the largest economic and military center. Tatar invasions in 1241 destroyed the city, but its glory was recovered when it became **the capital of the Principality of Transylvania** (1542 - 1690). The city then became tributary to the Ottoman

Empire. **Alba Iulia** was the first capital of the three Romanian provinces (**Walla Wallachia, Transylvania and Moldavia**), an action taken by **Michael the Brave**, laying the foundations of an ideal for which Romanians have fought throughout the ages. Let's suppose you arrived in Alba Iulia by car and followed the road to the city center. Everyone you tell on the way back to **Alba Iulia** will ask you without hesitation: "**Did you visit the Citadel**"? We tell you that by visiting the largest fortress in Romania you will discover that it is possible to go back in time. Not an imaginary one, not even the physical, classic, known time that the scientists were talking about, but a time of finding oneself in a place where history has had the courage to be reborn and live again in the present. So get ready! Don't forget your camera or cell phone. The bastion fortification of Alba Iulia is **the largest fortress in Romania**, which has been standing for more than 300 years. **The fortress is the place where you can go back in time**, over two millennia, among the remains of three fortifications from as many different eras. In other words, each fortress built here incorporated the old one: The castle built by the Romans, the medieval citadel and the citadel of Alba Carolina. The **latter** was built in Alba Iulia **in the early 18th century**. **The fortification was first designed** by the Italian architect Giovanni Morando Visconti, who also supervised the first phase of the works. The architect died of the plague and rests in the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Alba Iulia. **The foundation stone of the Citadel** was laid on November 4, 1715. Broadly speaking, the year of its completion is considered to be 1738, although there were various works in later years.

The fortification, **designed on an area of 110 hectares**, with an enclosure defended by three rows of walls, **was given a stellate shape**, with seven bastions alternating with six ravelins, crossed by vaulted galleries, all bounded by deep ditches. The **shape of a seven-pointed star** is the result of the **seven bastions**, which form the most important and best protected 'security enclosure' of the fortification in the central area. The walls of the bastions are 2.5 meters thick and over 10 meters high. The fortress built in the heart of Transylvania has proved to be **the most imposing Baroque monument** in the province. **A particular feature of the fortress** is the sequence of the six gates, situated on an east-west axis. The imposing fortification **was named after the Emperor Charles VI**, as it was built during his reign, or Carlsburg - Charles's Citadel. **The role of the Citadel** was a military, defensive one, given the bastion system, the type of artillery, as well as the size of the troops inside it. The fortress was attacked once in its military existence, but never conquered. The episode took place in 1849, when 8,000 Hungarian soldiers besieged unsuccessfully.

Alba Carolina Citadel has undergone spectacular transformations in recent years, making it increasingly visible on the tourist map of Europe. In parallel with the restoration works, co-financed by European funds, it was also intended to enhance its exceptional cultural heritage. The fortress is the venue for cultural festivals, famous orchestras and concerts by top Romanian and foreign artists.

Have a wonderful day!