

The Landscape-Geographic Analysis Viticulture and Enology in Georgia

Manana Sharashenidze

e-mail: manana.sharashenidze@tsu.ge

Department of Geography, Iv. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, 0179 Tbilisi, Chavchavadze ave. #3

Georgia has been the country of vines and wine since ancient times, and historically vine-growing and wine-making has performed the function of one of the leading branches of economy. The diverse and rich information about growing vines and producing wine in Georgia can be found in historical and modern scientific literature as well.

Iv. Javakhishvili reviewed 413 vine species from the ancient period in his work: Economic History of Georgia [1].

Nowadays there are more than 420 species in Georgia or 2.5% of the whole world assortment, from which 27 are for wine, 14 - for table, 41 standard species. According to the ecological and economic conditions Georgia is divided into 10 main regions from the view point of specialization and concentration of vine growing, of which Kakheti, Kartli, Imereti, Racha and Lechkhumi are the most important regions (see map 1). All these regions are both producers and users of grapes and wine (see map 1).

The climate of Kakheti is favorable to develop industrial species of vine of high quality. They are: Rkatsiteli, Saperavi, Mtsvane, Kaberne, Khikhvi. Kakheti gives more than half of branded wines of the republic. In Kakheti, 54% of vineyards of the country are placed and 65-68% of total in Georgia are produced. In Kakheti Alaznis Valley is situated 250-300 metres above sea level and Telavi 800 metres above it. Within these heights vine grows everywhere and gives abundant crop, but typical Kakhetian wines are made from the vines situated on the slopes, the height of which are between 400-450 m and 700m. The climate of Kakheti is the best for developing high-quality industrial vines.