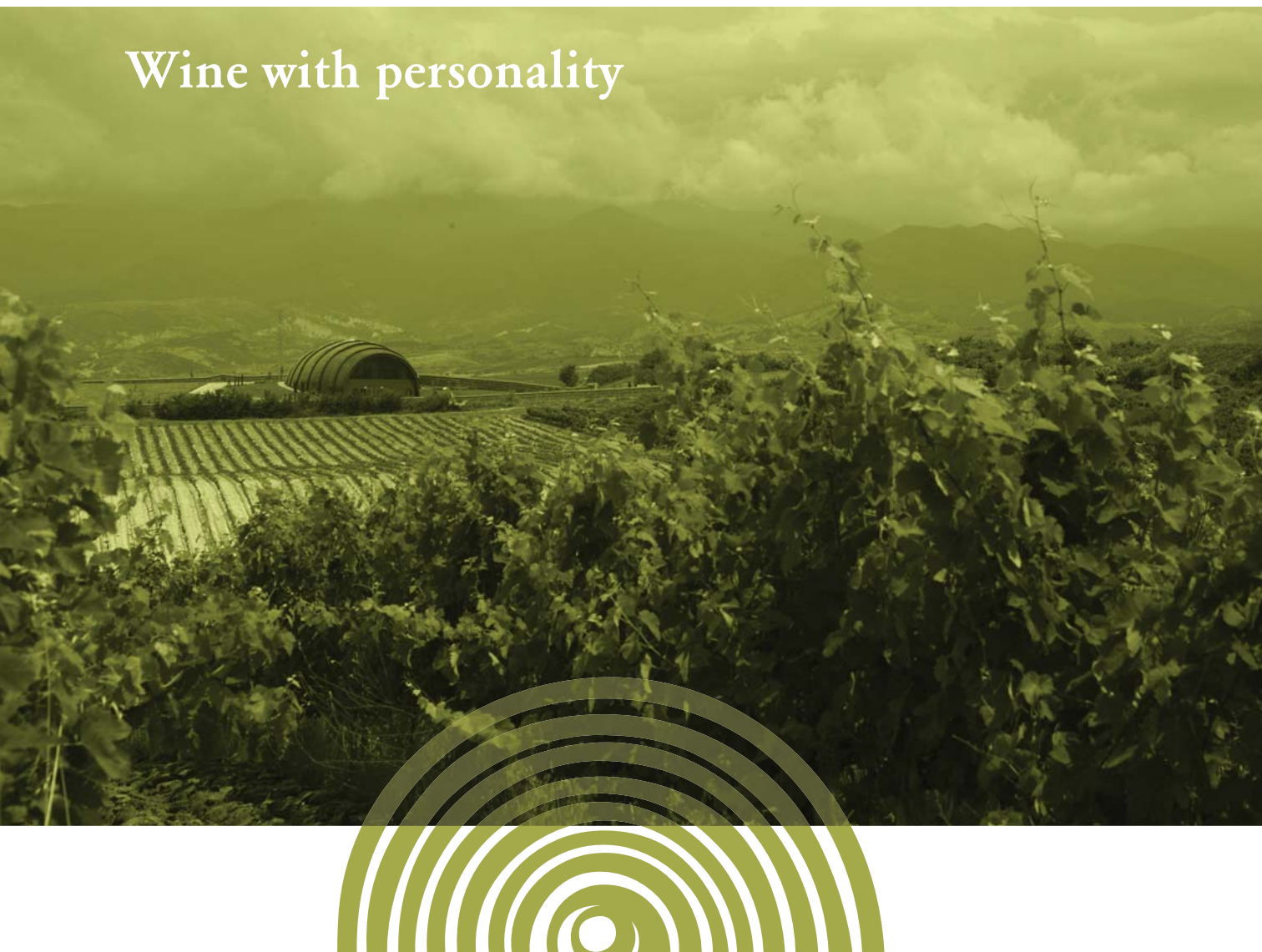
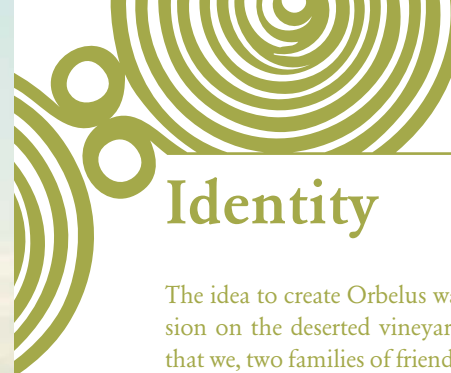


ORBELUS
organic wine

Wine with personality





Identity

The idea to create Orbelus was born during a vivid discussion on the deserted vineyards in the Struma river valley that we, two families of friends, had at the end of the 1990s.

Gradually the idea started taking shape and the more we discussed it, the more we knew that it is something worth pursuing. We wanted to show the character and our understanding of the Struma river valley and its unique grape variety – the Melnik grape.

From that point onward our path was clear. For some years we selected lands, accumulated knowledge and advice from local winegrowers – who are now part of the Orbelus family. In 2006 we planted the first vines, in 2009 we presented our first vintage of Orbelus wines, and in 2014 the winery – the “home” of Orbelus – opened its doors.

For us biological winegrowing has been the natural path since the beginning. Our understanding is that we can only truly reveal the identity of a region and its fruits when working in harmony with nature and preserving the land that we will leave to generations to come.

This path leads us to today: Orbelus is the first certified organic winery in Bulgaria (and we are happy to say that it is no longer the only one!). All of us, parents, friends and also our grown up children take part in and stand behind the Orbelus wines – from the vineyard to the bottle!

Terroir and vineyards

The vineyards of Orbelus are situated in one of the most Southern parts of Bulgaria, the East bank of the Struma river, in the territory of four villages – Kromidovo, Kapatovo, Harsovo and Marikostinovo. Their exposure is eastern, to southern, to north-western. They are situated at 160 to 250 m above sea level. The region is touched by the Mediterranean air and surrounded by seven mountains: Pirin, Slavianka, Sengelska Planina, Belasica, Ograjden, Malashevskia Planina and Rupite (Kojuh). These particularities of the climate, together with the clay and sandy soils, are among the leading factors providing the rich Southern taste to our wines. Already in antiquity the Thracians, known for their winemaking abilities, valued the qualities of these lands.

The banks of the Struma river are not only the birthplace of our wines, but also of some of the creators of Orbelus. For the Orbelus family the region is excellent for winegrowing and winemaking, and also a source of inspiration and delight.



Grape varieties

Central to us for the selection of grape varieties are the work with local grapes and the specificities of the wine region. For Orbelus the endemic varieties show best the authentic character and taste of the Struma river valley. However the qualities of the region are not limited to the grape varieties native to it. In order to highlight and develop the potential of the region we cultivate also international varieties suitable for this part of Bulgaria.

Local varieties:

The principal red grape variety at Orbelus is the early ripening branch of the Melnik grape (Melnishka loza), emblematic for the region – Early Melnik (35 per cent of our vines). In addition, we work with the local Broadleaved Melnik, Melnishki Rubin and the white Sandanski Misket.

International varieties classic for Bulgaria:

At Orbelus we grow and vinify the classic varieties for Bulgaria and the world Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah and the white Chardonnay, Pinot Gris and Viognier, on which the local terroir leaves its print.

Varieties rare for Bulgaria:

In addition, the Mediterranean (transitional) climate gives us the possibility to work with grape varieties rarely grown in Bulgaria, but very suitable for the Struma river valley – Grenache Noir, Mourvèdre, Marselan, Primitivo, Petit Verdot and the white Assyrtiko.



The Orbelus family



Blagoy, Georgi, Galia, Dima

Orbelus is the common idea of two families. Neighbors and friends for over twenty years, with children who grew up together, the Orbelus project is practically a family project. The idea and main decisions come from Blagoy, Georgi, Galia and Dima. With time their children joined as well, with ideas for blends and their names, label design, marketing and communication, and the overall development of the winery. Alexandra and Dafina (picture on the left) are an example on point.

The knowledge and experience that we gather together, as well as the values we have in common, make Orbelus something more than wine for us. All of us who share the Orbelus-philosophy are not only partners, we are also a family. These are the people who give Orbelus its identity and make it what it is.



Mitra and Hristo Ilievi

The vineyards are the territory of the Ilievi family. Local vinegrowers with years of experience, they know the land in the Struma river valley better than anyone else. For a winery such as Orbelus, whose philosophy is that the quality of the grapes is essential to good wine, their work is invaluable.



Nikolay Stoyanov, Kiril and Maria Miladinovi

The winemakers Nikolay and Kiril, as well as Maria in the laboratory, take care of each drop of wine – from the control of the grapes in the vineyard and their selection, throughout the process of winemaking in the fermenters and its aging, to its bottling.

Winery

The Orbelus winery is situated in the outskirts of Kromidovo village, where visitors can enjoy not only our wines, but also the view to the vineyards and the surrounding mountains. A local legend that wine barrels are a gift fallen from the sky inspired the architecture of the home of Orbelus.

Visitors are always welcome – we are happy to meet you!
(You will find detailed information at the end of the brochure)

To book a visit in advance:
T +359 2 951 54 95
E office@orbelus.bg



Orbelus in a bottle

As a young winery, we are not afraid to experiment at all stages of winemaking – from the cultivation of the vineyards, through the methods used in the cellar, to our blends. Experience gradually forms our wines into several series.

The classics

Orbelus is already known for the classic Orbelus Melnik, Getika and Prima – terroir wines, based on the Early Melnik grape, with a first vintage in 2009. In the following years we added a special selection of Prima (since 2011), as well as the white blends Orbelus Orelek (since 2012) and the ros Orbelus Paril (since 2013).



Orbelus in a bottle

The singles

Starting with vintage 2014, each year we present our preferred vineyards and the characteristics they give to the grape varieties planted on them in the Single (vineyard) series. No more than two barrels per series, these wines require much time and skill, and are our way of showing the specificity of the region.

The whimsicals

Since 2012 we let our imagination run wild in the series Hrumki (a Bulgarian word for whimsical idea). These are wines based on the winemaker's idea at the time and inspired by the peculiarities of the relevant vintage. Each year this is our surprise wine. Similarly in 2015 we presented the first red natural wine on the Bulgarian market – Orbelus Mitra, named after our head vinegrower.





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