

Victoria Aslanian



Armas winery is located in the heart of the historic world of wine, in the Aragatsotn province of Armenia. **Victoria Aslanian** recounted how her family has preserved the 100-year-old tradition in its wine casks.

Speaking of her family traditions and history, Victoria Aslanian explained that Golden Grape ArmAs was founded by her father Armen Aslanyan. It epitomises his life's work and the realization of his life's goals. The goals involve the intertwined aspects of family, heritage, culture and progress, with personal values and responsibilities that Victoria Aslanian shares with her father, a successful businessman, and Armenian. His vision would consequently help uphold Armenia's 6,100 year-old history of enology, in the oldest known area for viticulture and winemaking.

Referring to mentions in the Bible, specifically Genesis 9:20, she pointed out that modern-day Armenia was where Noah and sons planted the first vines. By the 9th century BC, viticultural and winemaking practices had been established. Greek historians Herodotus, Strabo, and Xenophon mention Armenian wine trade in their records and Armenia boasts the world's oldest winery, discovered in 2007, as per records carbon dated to 4100 BC with remnants of *Vitis Vinifera* grape seeds.

Speaking of the present-day terroir conditions in Armenia, Victoria Aslanian explained that the country is located on the 45th parallel. There are 30 layers of soil, most with characteristic volcanic, limestone and clay composition. Most of the vineyards are located 700-1,900 meters above sea level and vineyards enjoy 300 days of sunshine a year along with cold winters, warm summers and cool summer nights. Asked what else makes it such a special wine producing region, Victoria Aslanian pointed to the presence of orchards in the vicinity which impart their flavours and aromas through the

soil to the vines. The vineyards are also planted with un-grafted rootstock.

ArmAs and its wines

Armenia has over 500 native grape varieties. ArmAs produces some popular indigenous varieties such as Karmrahyut, Kakhet, Areni, Kangun, Voskehat and Rkatsiteli. The company has transformed the existing terroir by heavy construction work, which has been ongoing since 2007. ArmAs has a 180-hectare estate surrounded by a 17 km-long brick wall dubbed The Great Wall of ArmAs. Of the total area, 110 hectares are planted to native grape varieties and 40 hectares to orchards of peaches, apricots, plums, cherries and apples. The winery has a lake, farm, greenhouses and a dormitory under construction. It also has a boutique hotel and tasting room alongside a world-class winery and distillery. Its current capacity is 1 million litres, with room to expand to up to 3 million to produce premium quality Armenian wines and brandy. The facility also produces dried fruits, preserves, jams, and juices for the ArmAs tasting room.

The winery produces some iconic wines such as Kangun dry white and semi-sweet wine, Voskehat dry white wine and Voskehat reserve, dry rosé wine, Areni dry red wine, Areni reserve dry red wine and Karmrahyut dry red wine. ArmAs exports wines to the USA, Canada, Europe and Japan.

