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Dear Friendship Force Friends,

Think of Georgia as your next destination!

The FF of Georgia invites you to join as an ambassador for the Global exchange in July 23 to 29, 2012.

TASTE THE TRADITIONS OF WINE, HOSPITALITY AND FOLK ARTS IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

Destination: Tbilisi, Signaghi, and Kakheti region; The Democratic Republic of Georgia

HIGHLIGHTS

a.. Attend Art Gene Festival celebrating the arts, folklore, culture and wine of Georgia

b.. Participate in grape collecting and wine pressing rituals

c.. Discover traditions of Georgian wine making including the use of Qvevri - a clay vessel lined in beeswax and buried in the earth

d.. Acquaint yourself with Georgian lifestyle, religion and architecture

e.. Optional 4 day home stay with FF Tbilisi after festival

Description: Wine is a symbol of Georgian hospitality, friendship and tolerance. Over thousands of years, the people of Georgia have developed a distinct tradition of winemaking and Friendship Force of Tbilisi would like to share that with you.

We will begin our tour of Georgian culture and wine in Tbilisi. Enjoy folk dancing, singing, martial arts performances, handicrafts, Georgian cuisine and Georgian wine at the Art Gene Festival, which focuses on a new aspect of Georgian culture and art every year. Before exploring more of this country, we will visit a number of churches dating back as early as the fourth century.

The second part of our journey will be to the Kakheti region where we will visit Tsinandlai Museum, home of the oldest winery in Georgia. We will get to know a Georgian family and learn about their traditions of wine making.

Next we will visit Signaghi and tour the town of Signagi, a royal town surrounded by defensive walls with 23 towers to protect the area from invaders. Next, we will tour Pheasant Tears Vineyards. Pheasant Tears takes its name from a Georgian tale in which the hero claims that only a wine beyond measure could make a pheasant cry. See for yourself how their adherence to traditional wine making, including a method of fermentation through bottling made in qvevri, clay vessels lined in beeswax and buried in the earth, creates a flavor unique to Georgian wines.

After our exploration of these regions of Georgia, we will return to Tbilisi for an optional four night home stay with the Friendship Force of Tbilisi to further your enjoyment of the rich history of Georgia.

Estimated Price:\$1185 USD, based on 25 ambassadors. Includes FFI, 3 nights in hotel, 3 nights in guest houses; tours and meals, bus travel, English guide and wine tasting (see itinerary).

Optional four-day homestay in Tbilisi: \$80 USD.

View the detailed

http://www2.thefriendshipforce.org/catalog/catalog_europe.aspx#11184

We would love to have you all here. Please fill out the Ambassador Application and send it to Blaine McCutchan, the Ambassador ED or the Program Coordinator at FFI!

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The FF of Tbilisi- Georgia

Best regards,

KATE MAISASHVILI

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