



WHERE OUR OAK COMES FROM

A Simple Guide to the Enchanting Ancient Forests
of Eastern Europe, Serbia

This presentation is created at the request of BARRIQUE SA, with facts gathered from official sources such as Serbia Forest (srbijasume.rs), Adria-Balkan Forest Stewardship Council (adria-balkan.fsc.org), and Global Forest Watch (globalforestwatch.org).

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SERBIA'S FORESTS: A NATURAL TREASURE

Serbia's forests are a vital part of the country's natural heritage, covering around 30% of its land. Rich in biodiversity, these forests are home to majestic oak, beech and pine trees, playing a crucial role in sustaining ecosystems, regulating the climate and supporting local communities.

Much like South Africa's commitment to conservation, Serbia takes sustainable forestry seriously. Managed by **Srbijašume** (Serbia Forests) and other environmental bodies, these forests are carefully preserved to balance economic needs with environmental responsibility. With deforestation and climate change posing global challenges, Serbia is actively investing in reforestation and sustainable practices to ensure its forests thrive for generations to come.

1 M ha of various forest types in Serbia is FSC-certified, ensuring and demonstrating responsible forest management, according to the 10 FSC principles.

The only FSC-certified honey in the world comes from wonderful forests of Serbia!



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GEOGRAPHICAL ADVANTAGE: BELOW THE 46TH PARALLEL

Serbia's forests are located ***below the 46th north latitude***. This latitude is known for producing top-tier wine regions, ensuring that the oak grown in these forests develops the ideal characteristics for barrel production. The climate, soil composition and slow growth of Serbian oak contribute to the production of barrels that enhance the aging process of fine wines.





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KEY FOREST REGIONS PROVIDING OAK FOR OUR WINE BARRELS

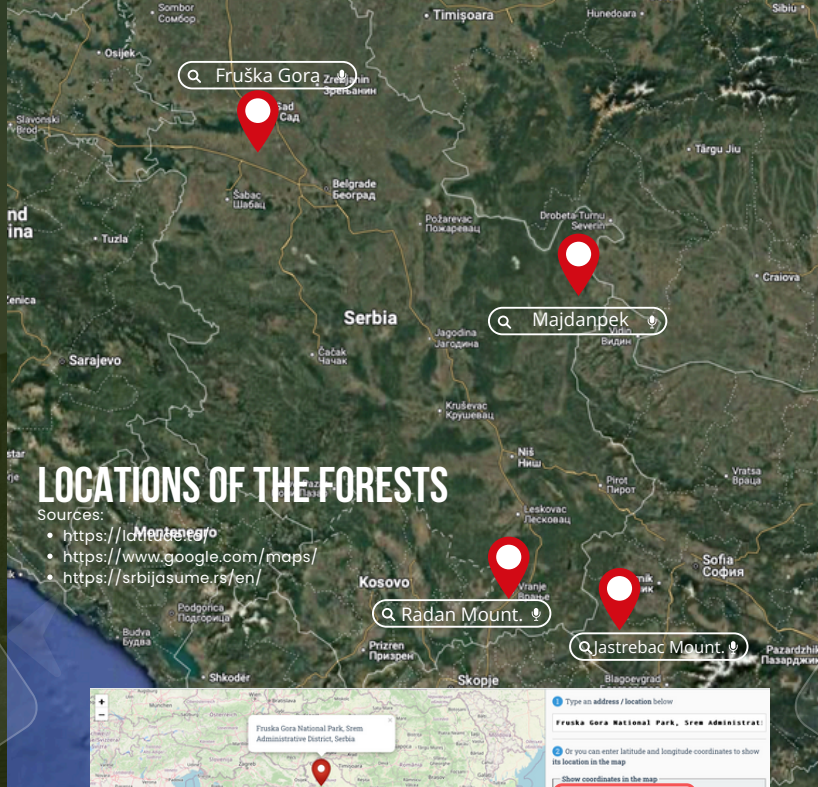
Fruška Gora: Known for its rolling hills and old-growth oak forests, providing oak with fine grain and smooth tannin structure.

Majdanpek Area: A rugged and mountainous region with slow-growing oak, ideal for barrel-making.

Radan Mountain: Offers oak with exceptional density, ensuring a controlled and gradual influence on wine aging.

Jastrebac Mountain: Home to some of Serbia's oldest and highest-quality oak trees, ideal for premium barrel production.





LOCATIONS OF THE FORESTS

Sources:

- <https://icm.me.rs/>
- <https://www.google.com/maps/>
- <https://srbijasume.rs/en/>

FORESTS

Fruška Gora National Park, from Administrative District, Serbia

45.15931 19.78256

Valid coordinate formats:
45° 16' 45" N 19° 46' 54" W
45°16.750' 19°48.840'

Majdanpek, Bor Administrative District, Serbia

44.42246 21.93592

Valid coordinate formats:
44° 25' 40" N 21° 56' 09" W
44°13.230' 21°55.440'

Radan, Jablanica Administrative District, Serbia

43.88867 21.49752

Valid coordinate formats:
43° 53' 18" N 21° 29' 51" W
43°13.230' 21°49.440'

Jastrebac, Jablanica Administrative District, Serbia

42.94598 22.14198

Valid coordinate formats:
42° 56' 45" N 22° 08' 31" W
42°13.230' 22°08.440'

Sources:

- <https://latitude.to/>
- <https://www.google.com/maps/>
- <https://srbijasume.rs/en/>



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QUALITY OF SERBIAN FORESTS

FSC-certified forests are responsibly managed by the state. Forest ownership and management responsibilities in Serbia are equally distributed between the state (53%) and private forest owners (47%). 100% of the certified forest area in Serbia is state-owned and managed, and indeed, most of the state-owned forests are FSC-certified.

There are two public forest management companies in charge of FSC-certified forests:

Public company **"Srbijašume"**

Public company **"Vojvodinašume"**

International organisations like the Forest Stewardship Council Adriatic-Balkan and Global Forest Watch recognise Serbian forests for their ecological value and sustainable management.





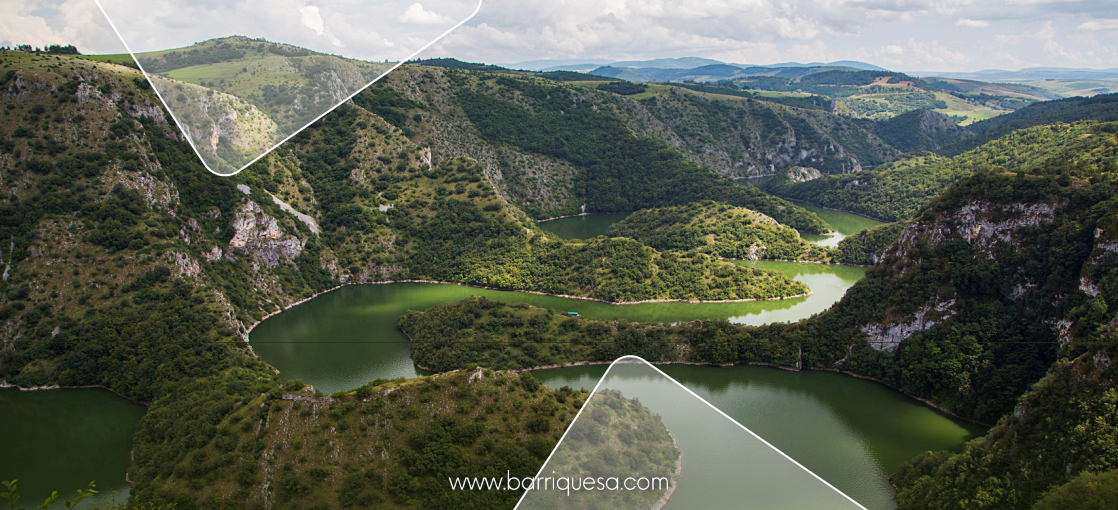
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THE EXCEPTIONAL QUALITY OF SERBIAN OAK

The oak from Serbia is highly valued for its tight grain, subtle tannins and elegant aroma profile—qualities that make it perfect for wine barrel production.

Compared to other Eastern European oaks, Serbian oak offers a well-balanced influence on wines, allowing for refined aging without overpowering the wine's natural flavours.





SUSTAINABILITY & CERTIFICATION

Sustainability is at the core of Serbian forestry. All oak used for barrel production is harvested responsibly, with strict adherence to international environmental standards.

Srbijašume ensures reforestation efforts, while Forest Stewardship Council Adria-Balkan certifies the sustainable management of Serbia's forests. Global Forest Watch monitors and protects these valuable ecosystems from deforestation.





WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE FSC CERTIFIED

When a company is FSC® certified, you can trust that its products and packaging are sourced from responsibly managed forests or wood material. This provides assurance that the material used in your products and displays was harvested in an ethical way, with respect for natural environments, local communities and worker rights.

Here's a quick understanding of What FSC® Certified is!



YouTube video link: <https://rb.gy/ol1zcv>





A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR SOUTH AFRICAN WINEMAKERS

Serbian oak is an undiscovered gem for winemakers seeking high-quality barrels.

With its ideal geographical location, exceptional wood quality and commitment to sustainability, Serbia offers a unique alternative to traditional French and American oak barrels.

By choosing Serbian oak, South African winemakers can enhance the aging process of their wines while supporting sustainable forestry practices.

We're all about supporting South African winemakers with top-quality Serbian oak barrels, paired with competitive pricing and outstanding service!





THANK YOU

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