











### ZAHLE

**Zahle** is known as the "Bride of the Beqaa" for its geographical location and attractiveness. The city's culture has long revolved around its signature crop, the grape, and its products, wine and arak. Gastronomy is one of the elements incorporated in a new concept of cultural heritage driven by growing trends of a well-being lifestyle, authenticity, environmental protection and the need to have a high-quality experience. Tourists that flock to Zahle have a strong desire for foods that emphasis the heritage and culture of the city stimulating the preservation of traditional forms of agriculture and cultural heritage. In addition to vineyards, cherry, pomegranate, plum and mulberry orchards dot the town's upper hillsides, while potatoes and leafy vegetables are cultivated in the plain. Livestock is also an important resource, with trout fisheries on the upper course of the Berdawni river and poultry farms on the surrounding hills. Gastronomy, as a tourist resource, generates rural development by increasing rural revenue sources, improves income levels and employment of local labour.







**Monastery of Our Lady of Najat** 



Zahle - UNESCO City of Gastronomy

Our Lady of Zahle



**Berdawni River** 



**Massaya Wineries** 



**Chateau Khoury Winery (Webpage)** 



**Domaine Wardy (Webpage)** 

#### **BCHARRI AND WADI QADISHA**

Becharri is a town to the east of Tripoli, and it is in the area where the infamous cedar Forest of Lebanon are located. These forests known from the Bible to the Ottoman period as a major source for woods to construct large audience halls in antiquities, and which were essential to forge good relations between Ancient Egypt and the city of Byblos.

Wadi Qadisha is a valley known for being a sacred destination where one can visit several monasteries carved into the sides of its rocky hills.

Wadi Qadisha (the Holy Valley) and the Forest of the Cedars heritage sites are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List (1998).



**Location of Bcharri and Wadi Qadisha** 



**Bcharri and Wadi Qadisha Posters** 

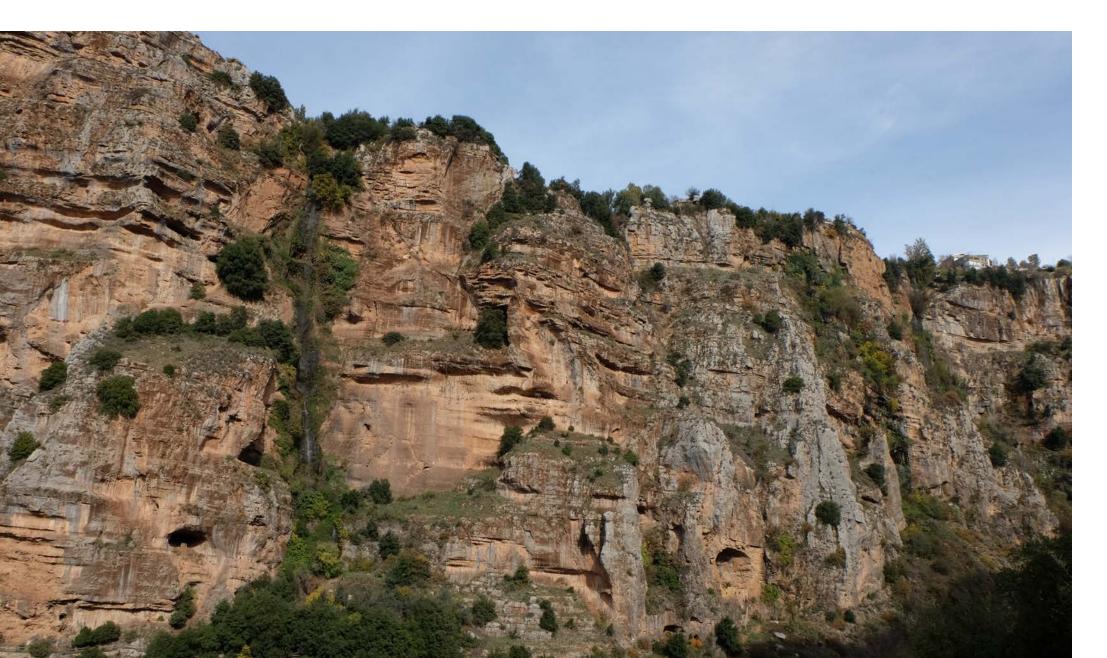
#### **DESTINATIONS IN BCHARRI AND WADI QADISHA**

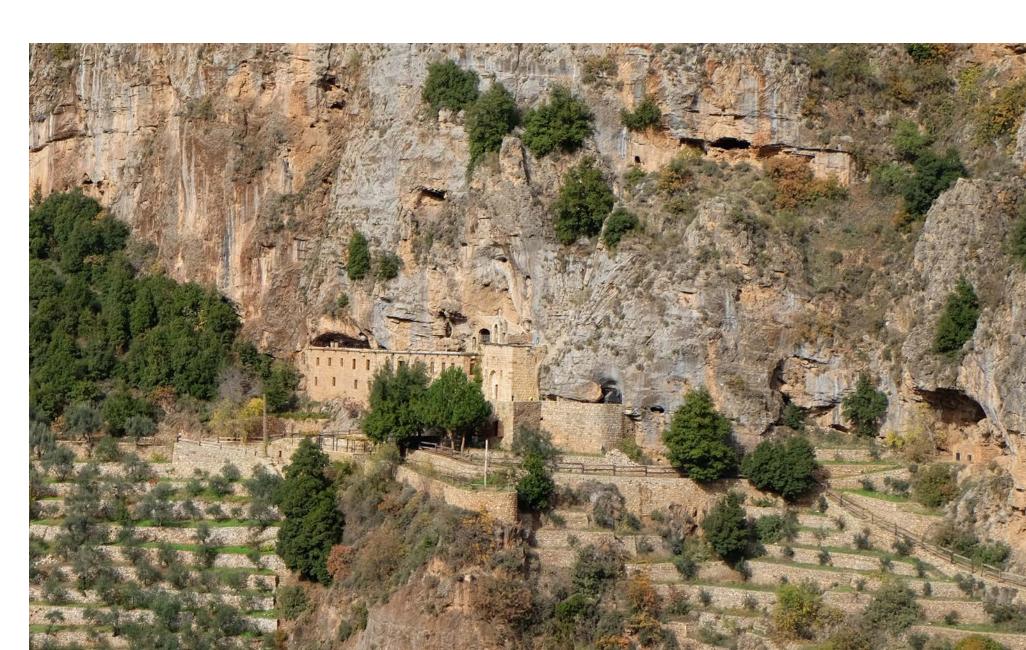


**Phoenician Tombs** 



**Hermit Cave** 





**Mar Lichaa Monastery** 

## **VISIT: JEITA GROTTOS**

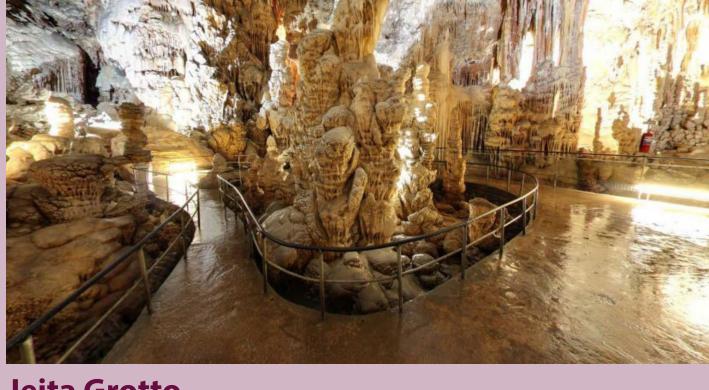
About 20 Km north of Beirut there are the Jeita Grottos, a place that offers a spectacle of rare beauty created by plastic and bizarre forms, shaped by centuries of erosion, to create a fairy tale scenery where stalagmites and stalactites (among which one of eight meters length) are reflected in the clear waters of the underground basin. The lower gallery can be visited thanks to an electric boat that moves for about 500 meters, while the equipped walkway of the upper one continues for about 750 meters. A truly magical experience!



**Location of Jeita Grotto Jeita Grotto Webpage** 



**Jeita Grotto** 



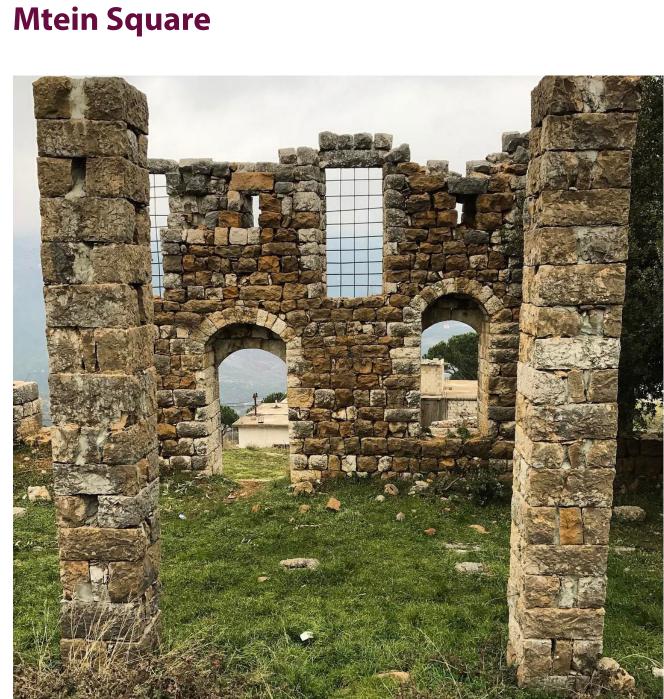
# **MTEIN**

Mtein is a sunny village of the Lebanese mountain, illustrating with its palaces and other residences a typical example of the traditional Lebanese architecture from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is one of the oldest villages in Lebanon since the human presence goes back there at least to antiquity, but its fame probably began in 1616 when the Abillama emirs decided to settle there. The most beautiful feature of Mtein is its central square of 5000 m<sup>2</sup>, the midane, around which were built the sumptuous palaces of the emirs. Note that the first duel of sung poetry known as "Lebanese Zajal" took place in Mtein.

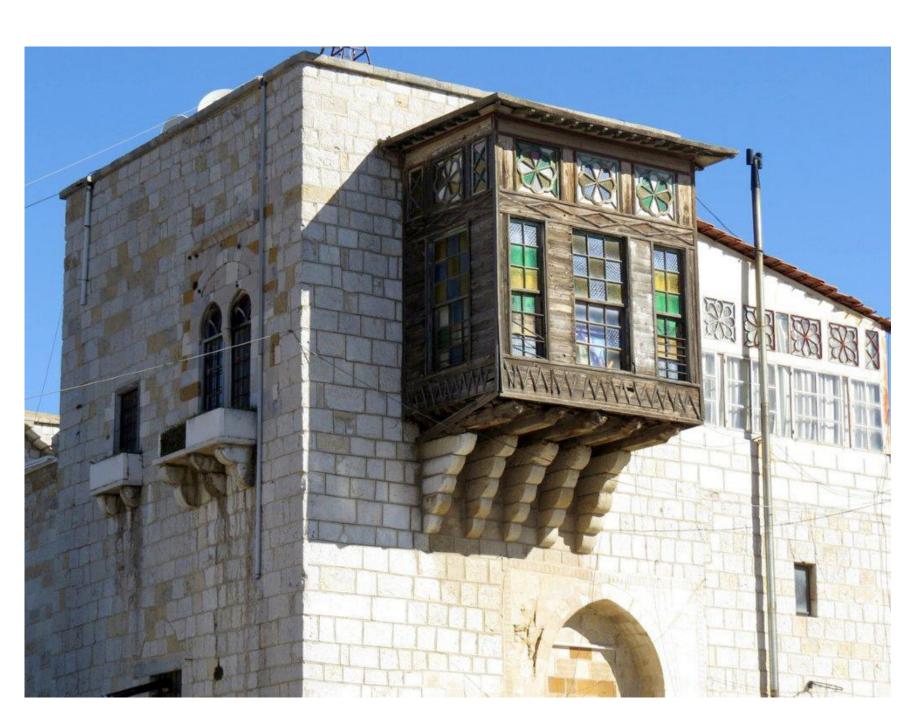


## **DESTINATIONS IN MTEIN**





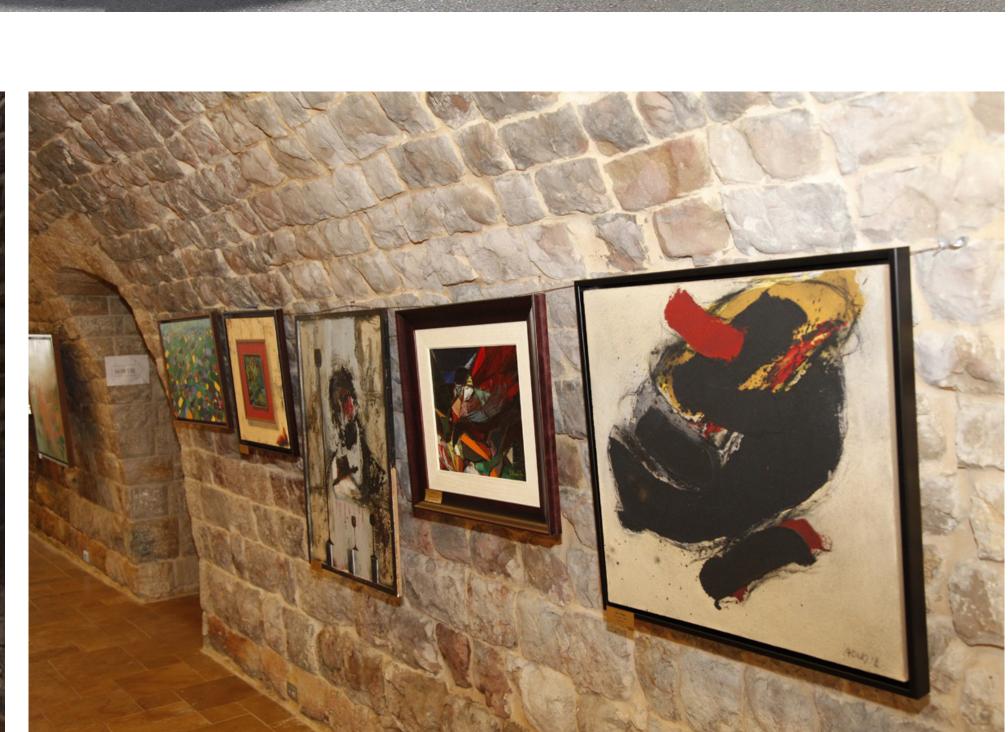
**Mtein Abandoned Silk Factory** 



The Midane of the Emirs Abillama with its Four Palaces



**Museum of George Khairallah** 



# **VISIT: KSARA WINERIES**

The oldest and most famous Lebanese winery (Ksara) stands on the site of a medieval fortress (Ksar in Arabic) of which there are no longer any traces. The vineyards, planted at the beginning of the eighteenth century are still lush and the clay-calcareous soil, combined with a dry climate are particularly favorable conditions for the cultivation of vines. In recent years, both red and white wines produced by this company, have won numerous international awards. One of the most original aspects are the underground cellars (2 km of galleries!), very spacious, where the wine is kept for mellowing and aging. The guided tour of 45 minutes allows you to see the cellars, the various stages of wine production and ends with the tasting of the products.

(Wine Route - Lebanon)

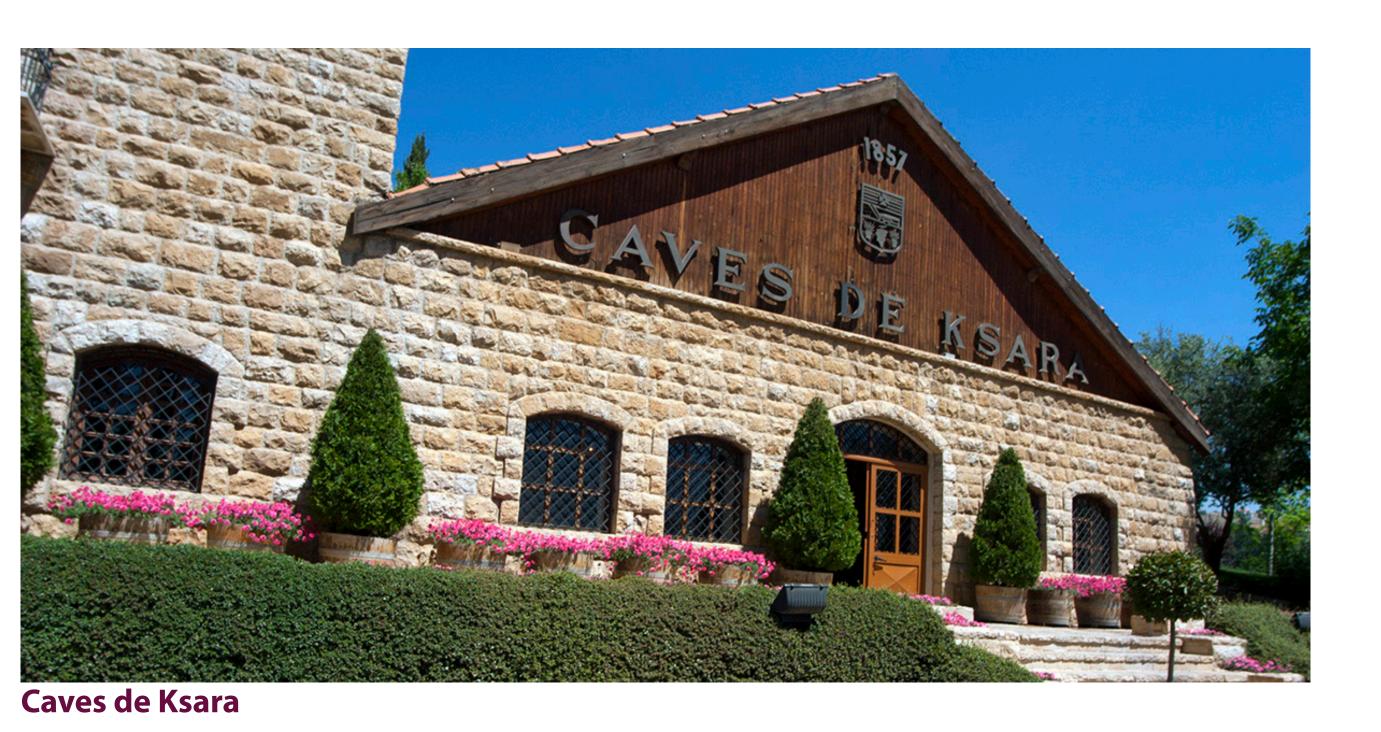


**Ksara Wineries** 

**Chateau Ksara Webpage** 



**Wine Bottles Inside the Caves** 





**Hundreds of Wine Bottles**