

Lavaux (Switzerland)

No 1243

Official name as proposed

by the State Party: Lavaux, vineyard terraces overlooking the lake and the Alps

Location: Canton de Vaud, région de Lavaux

Brief description:

The Lavaux wine terraces stretch for about 30km along the south-facing northern shores of Lake Geneva from the Chateau de Chillon, just south of Montreux, to the eastern outskirts of Lausanne in the heart of the Vaud Region. The steep, narrow stone walled terraces cover the lower slopes of the mountain side between the villages and the lake's edge. Above are forests and pasture and across the Lake, the high peaks of the Alps. The chalky limestone soils and benevolent climate, improved by the sun reflecting off the Lake and stone terrace walls, are ideal for the production of Chasselas grapes.

Although there is some evidence that vines were grown in the areas in Roman times, the origins of the present vine terraces can be traced back to the 11th century, when Benedictine and Cistercian Monasteries controlled this area.

The Lavaux has always been a highly prized area for wine and one that has been controlled and developed to optimize its returns to monasteries, cantons or wealthy owners. Its landscape of villages, small towns and intensively planted vines reflect the changing system of production and patronage over ten centuries. It is now a functioning and thriving landscape that has been adapted to allow partly mechanised production. Extensive remains of houses, mills, fortified towers, and much of the landscape structure, provide an expansive reflection of the way wine production has evolved during that time.

Category of property:

In terms of the categories of cultural property set out in Article 1 of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a *site*. In terms of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* (2 February 2005, annex 3) paragraph 47, it is also a *cultural landscape*.

1. BASIC DATA

Included in the Tentative List: 28 December 2004

International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund for preparing the Nomination: No

Date received by

the World Heritage Centre: 21 December 2005

Background: This is a new nomination.

Consultations: ICOMOS has consulted its International Scientific Committee on Historic Gardens – Cultural Landscapes.

Literature consulted (selection):

Étude thématique Thematic Study: *Les Paysages culturels viticoles dans le cadre de la Convention du Patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO*, ICOMOS, March 2004.

Technical Evaluation Mission: 21 - 24 August 2006.

Additional information requested and received from the State Party: None

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report: 21 January 2007

2. THE PROPERTY

Description

Extending along the edge of Lake Geneva for some 30 km, the Lavaux wine terraces reflect a region that has been growing grapes for fine wine for more than ten centuries.

The Lavaux is not a remote rural area where times have stood still, nor do the wine terraces exemplify traditional unchanging viticultural practices: its history is one of innovation and development to optimise and control the wine growing potential of an area whose wine has for long been highly prized. The wine growers of the Vaud Region have in the last fifty years successfully adapted their ways to ensure the survival of their industry, and theirs is the most recent of several adaptations over the past three centuries.

Wine making was probably practised in the area in Roman times; by the 11th century it was well organised by monasteries on parcels of land given by the Prince-Bishop of Lausanne, and in the 14th century, as a written description attests, there were already terraces supported by stone walls.

In the intervening centuries, the high value of the wine (in 1397 a quarter of the incomes of the Bishop of Lausanne came from Lavaux) attracted control of, and investment in, the vine terraces by variously the monasteries, the Bishops and merchants of Lausanne, the wealthy families of Bern, the Canton of Vaud and finally the Federal Government. The terraces were worked by wine growers who lived in villages, in narrow houses above cellars built tightly in order to encroach as little as possible on land suitable for vine terraces. The growers were also farmers until after the Second World War, keeping animals, growing crops and working the forests. Many of those who now manage the vineyards are descended from those who worked the areas in the 16th century and some even earlier.

The value of the wine and the interest of its patrons are reflected in the rich assembly of buildings within the nominated area: churches, castles, cellars and houses. The buildings reflect the history of the landscape from monastic

holdings, fortified dwellings, to small scale mixed farms with grain, animals and vines right down to the changes made in the last fifty years when the landscape achieved its present form.

The nominated area covers fourteen communes and six wine producers and encompasses the following appellation controllees: The Villette, Saint-Saphorin/Lavaux, Epesses, Dézaley and Chardonne. Within the nominated area are small towns of Lutry and Cully, seven villages of Aran, Grandvaux, Riex, Epesses, Rivaz, Villette and Saint-Saphorin, as well as the hamlets of Savuit, Châtelard, and Treytorrens with together a population of some 5,600 people. There are now between 400 to 450 kilometres of retaining walls, supporting more than 10,000 terraces.

The nominated property covers 898ha in the communes of Lutry, Villette, Grandville, Cully, Riex, Epesses, Puidoux, Chexbres, Rivaz, Saint-Saphorin, Chardonne, Corseaux, Corsier-sur-Vevey, and Jongny, all of which are located with the Canton of Vaud.

The nominated property includes the following:

- *Wine terraces*
- *Villages*

Wine terraces

The terraces present regular lines mostly parallel to the Lake. Below is the Lake and above more rectangular fields originally used for arable crops. Roads cut diagonally across the terraces. The property has been surveyed and mapped in detail and the dossier provides information on the way the terracing has evolved.

The terraces were traditionally constructed of local limestone laid with lime mortar. The earliest documentation for the construction of terraces dates back to the 14th century, when there was clearly a huge expansion of land under vine cultivation. Consolidation and even abandonment in the 15th and 16th centuries was followed by improvements in the 18th and late 19th centuries when major rebuilding was carried out to improve the efficiency and drainage of the land, and in response to the *phylloxera* outbreak (see history). Further rationalisation has been carried out in the past twenty years with smaller parcels being removed to allow better mechanised access and thus sustain terrace cultivation. Today some of the terraces are constructed of concrete with stone facings. Concrete has been used in particular by the public authorities for strengthening terraces that underpin roads or railways.

Villages

The boundary includes most of the settlements within the 30km stretch of vineyard. Excluded are areas of post-World War II development near the urban centres of Lausanne and Vevey–Montreux. These include the area to the north of Grandvaux and the north-east of Villette, that to the south of Chexbres, and most of the *commune* of Corseaux. On the other hand, the small historic town of Lutry has been included as an enclave lying outside the nominated area by virtue of its significance for the history

and development of Lavaux and the high quality of its architecture and urban fabric.

History and development

A chance find of Latin inscription on the worship of wine in antiquity, together with many Roman remains - Saint-Saphorin overlies what survives of a substantial Roman villa built along a main Roman highway, and Lausanne was a Roman settlement - suggests that the area was probably cultivated for wine in Roman times.

The city of Lausanne grew from the Roman camp and was ruled by the Dukes of Savoy and the Bishop of Lausanne and then later by Bern before joining the Swiss Federation in 1803.

The oldest written testimonies to attest to the culture of the vine date from the 9th century and mention various places of the current canton of Vaud. By the 12th century several large abbeys had been given land in the area by the Bishops of Lausanne – such as the Cistercian Abbeys of Hauterive, (1138), Hauterêt (1141) and Montheron (1142), and over the next four centuries until the Reformation, it was the Abbeys that managed these fertile lands and shaped the landscape, introducing terraces and developing roads to export their wines. Many of the current boundaries and roads follow these mediaeval structures.

By the 14th century, the growth and extent of work had encouraged the monks and brothers of the monasteries to let out most of their land to tenants who cultivated the land as mixed farmers – as well as vines they also had arable fields, grazing animals and orchards – against the payment of a percentage of their crops (a half, a third or two fifths of the fruit) to the monasteries. By this time many of the families who still farm the area had become established. For instance the Chappuis family history records vine growers back to 1335.

A document of 1331 is the first to describe the structures created for the vines: terraces 10 to 15 metres wide, supported by walls up to 5 or 6 metres in height. Terms requiring vine growers to maintain walls and the ‘slides’ for heading the water run-off appeared in 1391.

In 1536 Lausanne came under the control of Bern and several wealthy patrician families from Bern started to acquire land in Lavaux. Bern carried out improvements to the roads, for instance from Vevey to Moudon.

Wine growing was carefully controlled to keep up quality: first by the Prince-Bishops of Lausanne and later by the Bernese. The first testimonies for this control dates back to 1368. Wine cellars were defined and local wines were encouraged, while ‘foreign’ wines and distillation (which would deprive the vines of manure and take too much wood) were discouraged. The value of the land on which the vines were grown was much higher than that for arable fields resulting in much interest from the middle-class of Lausanne and pressure to extend the wine growing areas. In response, there was much legislation to try and prevent this and maintain quality, often doomed to failure.

By the 1800s there were many small plots and a huge diversity of landowners (including some monasteries such as Hauterive associated with Freiburg, who had managed

to hold onto land after the Reformation), as well as many representatives of wealthy secular and ecclesiastical families. This patchwork of often very small land-holdings meant that work on the land was inefficient. After 1803 when Lausanne had become the capital of the newly formed Swiss canton Vaud, and joined the Swiss Federation, a period of agricultural improvement was ushered in. Terraces were rationalized and larger walls created and new drainage of whole sectors created to limit erosion.

In 1849 the Great Council of Vaud agreed to the improvement and widening of the road connecting Lausanne to Vevey by the edge of the lake. At the end of the 19th century, the Corniche road along the Lake made it possible to connect the villages between Cully and Chexbres. Finally the railway arrived in 1861; it was enlarged in 1862 and again in 1904 and the lines now form a triangle round the site.

One of the biggest changes to vine growing was brought about by the *phylloxera* vine disease imported from North America; it arrived in Lavaux in 1886. To recover from this, the growers changed their methods to allow easier access to the vines for chemical treatment in order to prevent a recurrence of the disease. In order to have better access, many of the old methods disappeared as new grafted vines were planted along lines rather than 'goblet' fashion.

Change came also at a Canton level: in response to the crisis, the authorities intervened to support the industry at canton and federal level. In return the industry was much more tightly regulated with the introduction of Statutes of Wine to maintain quality but also a decent income for the wine growers. This brought to an end the relative freedom of the wine growers.

Following the Second World War, the expansion of Lausanne and other towns attracted growers to leave their plots and at the same time, improved transport offered the possibility of growers living in towns. Mixed farming finally disappeared and with it the orchards and cows and pigs. Between 1957 and 1977 legislation was introduced to sustain what had come to be seen as part of Swiss culture (see below). Resisted by many initially, it is now seen as the saviour of the industry in protecting not only wine making but also the vineyard landscape.

The final major alteration to the landscape was the building of the A9 *Autoroute* along the upper edge of the site, in the proposed Buffer Zone.

3. OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE, INTEGRITY AND AUTHENTICITY

Integrity and Authenticity

Integrity

The nominated boundaries include all the elements of the wine growing process, and the extent of the traditional wine growing area since at least the 12th century. Development is controlled and the area does not suffer from neglect. The energy and commitment of the vineyard

proprietors ensures that neglect of the terraces is not a problem.

An intrusion into the landscape is the A9 *Autoroute* which delineates the northern boundary of the nominated property over much of its length, within the proposed buffer zone. This does impact somewhat on the visual integrity of the whole area.

Authenticity

As explained above, the terraces have evolved over several centuries to their present form. There is now agreement that change needs to be tempered by respect for local traditions. Terrace walls are now stone or stone faced. Some terraces have been amalgamated over the past half century to improve access to the vines, but further amalgamation is resisted unless there are exceptional circumstances.

In places there are stretches of massive strengthening of vineyard walls, particularly those below a road or railway; using reinforced concrete. These were constructed and funded by the public authorities. They are however in the minority and new walls are all stone faced, the stone proving much more beneficial in landscape and environmental terms, than concrete. Overall ICOMOS considers that the nominated areas of vine terracing and related settlements display adequate authenticity.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the nominated areas display integrity and adequate authenticity.

Comparative analysis

The Comparative Analysis put forward by the State Party compares Lavaux with other sites where vines are grown on terraces, both those already inscribed and those that are not. It does not include comparison with other World Heritage sites such as St Emilion (1999) or Tokaj (2002) where vines are grown on the plains without terracing, or Pico (2004) where vines are grown in small fields and parts of the landscape are abandoned. The analysis considers the values of the Lavaux landscape, in tangible and intangible terms and then makes comparison with the values of other comparable sites where the land is terraced and the landscapes are still thriving.

The following values were considered:

1. The area offers panoramic sights of extraordinary beauty;
2. The cultural landscape is preserved and protected as one territory, clearly distinguished in the landscape;
3. The wine terraces are constructed on steep slopes;
4. Settlements are protected as part of the landscape;
5. Wine making has a long tradition identified with the inhabitants of the area.

Reference was made to the ICOMOS Thematic Survey on vineyards (2004).

The conclusions were set out in tabular form. What this showed was that no one landscape could be said to demonstrate exclusively all these values: most sites demonstrated some. In the case of Lavaux what emerges is the strength of the living landscape, and its readability.

The first value, related to beauty, is not applicable to cultural criteria as, under the World Heritage convention beauty is seen as a natural attribute. Nevertheless the harmonious aspect of a site can contribute to its value as it attracts artists, writers and visitors, as Lavaux did in the 18th and early 19th centuries, which in turn heightened its value and supported its protection.

The analysis highlighted the relevance of the following terraced sites:

- Cyprus: due to the integration of the terraces in the rock exposures and with the presence of villages and hamlets.
- Banyuls-Collioure (France): the viticulture goes back to Roman times, and is associated with the culture of olive-trees. The sparse vineyards are arranged in terraces on the buttresses of Albères.
- Carema (Italy): the vineyard has inclined terraces built up to 700 meters in altitude and cultivation goes back to Roman times. Antique pillar stones support the vines.
- Valteline (Italy): the terraces of the vineyards are arranged on the escarpment slopes of the southern slope of the Alps. The production of wines probably goes back to Roman times.
- Madeira (Portugal) in the volcanic islands of Madeira, Oporto Santo and Desertas, many vineyards are arranged in terraces.

The conclusion drawn was that the cultural landscape of Lavaux is not distinguished from other wine areas by specific values, but rather by a combination of all these values. The analysis also draws the conclusion that Lavaux constitutes an exceptional example of the protection of a living thousand-year-old tradition near to urban areas and strongly supported by its local communities as demonstrated by the citizens of Vaud who have twice voted for its protection within the Canton of Vaud.

ICOMOS considers that the Lavaux landscape is unquestionably a continuing organically evolved landscape of significance. There is abundant visual evidence of its historical development from the Roman period to the present day, and also of its complex socio-economic evolution. This information can be 'read' in the layout and diversity of form of the individual vineyard parcels, in the communication system (from the Roman road to the contemporary *autoroute* and the railway lines), and in the architecture and layouts of the communities (in the case of Saint-Savorin based on an extensive Roman villa).

Lavaux is also a landscape 'which retains an active social role in contemporary society closely associated with the traditional way of life, and in which the evolutionary process is still in progress'. It possesses these qualities to a

far higher degree than any of the other vineyard regions already on the World Heritage List. The only exception might be Cinqueterre (Italy), the socio-economic trajectory of which is similar to that of Lavaux. Its contemporary role is, however, much diminished by the fact that a high proportion of the terraced vineyards are no longer being cultivated. There are some similarities with the Wachau (Austria), but the vineyards there are much more widely dispersed than those of Lavaux, and a number have been converted for fruit production (principally apricots). Perhaps because Swiss wines for the most part are not exported, its vineyard landscapes have received less attention than their more renowned contemporaries elsewhere in Europe and so Lavaux is for the moment, less well-known.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that Lavaux can be distinguished from other vineyard landscapes both inscribed and not, as a major, extensive and coherent thriving vineyard landscape, which demonstrates evolution and progress over almost ten centuries and a strong role in contemporary society.

Justification of the Outstanding Universal Value

The State Party justifies the Outstanding Universal Value of Lavaux as:

- a built landscape that is highly representative of a human work perfectly integrated in its natural environment;
- the living illustration of its important socio-economic history which continues to the present;
- an unusually well protected landscape in the context of its location near a fast growing urban area, strongly reinforced by popular support; and,
- a man-made landscape, facing the lake and the Alps, with a beauty that has attracted workers and artists.

Criteria under which inscription is proposed

The property is nominated on the basis of criteria iii, iv and v.

Criterion iii: The State Party justified this criterion on the basis that the Lavaux landscape is of exceptional beauty and vitality, testifying to its difficult exploitation over nearly one millennium. Its harmony has inspired many poets and artists. The landscape is underpinned by the deep traditions of the local communities as manifest in the vine growers' festivals.

ICOMOS considers that the Lavaux vineyard landscape demonstrates in a highly visible way its evolution and development over almost a millennia, through the well preserved landscape and buildings that demonstrate a continuation and evolution of longstanding cultural traditions, specific to its locality.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been justified.

Criterion iv: The State Party justified this criterion on the grounds that the evolution of this landscape represents a significant period in the history of the country.

ICOMOS considers that the evolution of the Lavaux landscape, as evidenced on the ground, illustrates very graphically the story of patronage, control and protection of this highly valued wine growing area all of which contributed substantially to the development of Lausanne and its Region and played a significant role in the history of the geo-cultural region.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been justified.

Criterion v: The State Party justifies this criterion on the basis that the Lavaux landscape, as an exceptional example of vineyard terraces, is vulnerable through its position next to fast-growing settlements and that this vulnerability has prompted the exceptional protection, confirmed by popular votes, of a large 900 ha area in a zone with a high population density.

ICOMOS considers that Lavaux is an outstanding example of vineyard landscape that displays centuries of interaction between people and their environment in a very specific and productive way, optimising the local resources to produce a highly valued wine that was a significant part of the local economy. Its vulnerability in the face of fast-growing urban settlements has prompted protection measures strongly supported by local communities.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been justified.

4. FACTORS AFFECTING THE PROPERTY

Terrace maintenance

Vine terraces are very expensive to maintain in terms of repairing stone walls and the difficulty of access to the vines. Their costs are therefore much greater than for vine plantations on the plains. On the other hand, maintenance of the terraces are a crucial element for the value of the property. The added value placed by consumers on the way the wine is produced and its relation to landscapes and traditions is therefore a crucial factor.

Tourism

Tourism could be a threat if falling incomes persuade vineyards to look for alternative sources of income. The possibility of large-scale tourism developing is being given serious consideration by bodies such as the *Association pour l'inscription de Lavaux au patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO* (AILU) and the *Commission CIUL-UNESCO* (CCU), and one of its four working groups (see below). The objectives include the development of an integrated tourism marketing strategy that will avoid the perceived pitfalls of too precipitate and uncontrolled a tourism policy.

Some method of imparting basic information, for the benefit of inhabitants and visitors alike, about certain key points within the nominated area would be desirable, given the wealth of information that has been gathered for the area.

Services

All overhead cables for different services (electrical supply, telephones, cable television,) are now underground; whilst the buildings have no television antennae of any kind on their roofs (this service is now available by means of underground cables).

A recent innovation that is somewhat contentious locally is the provision of underground car parks in small villages such as Rivaz, mainly for the use of local residents. Those already in place have been sympathetically sited and designed. There is a need for continued strict control by the relevant planning bodies so as to ensure that future projects of this kind do not, by virtue of their size, location, or design, adversely and irreparably impact on the overall landscape.

Natural impacts

The area is only very seldom threatened by natural phenomena apart from landslides. Like all areas of Europe, it periodically suffers from storms, sometimes accompanied by hail, which can destroy part of harvests – as happened in 2005. Although the area is near the seismic zone of the Alps, the ground tremors are rare and of low intensity.

ICOMOS considers that the main risks to the property are economic in terms of a falling market price of wine. Adding value to the wine produced on the basis not only of its quality but also of its provenance may help to counter this threat.

Climate change

The vineyard landscape developed in response to a very particular micro-climate on the south facing slopes next to the lake which produces a kind of Mediterranean climate much suited to the ripening of vines. The vineyards could be vulnerable to climatic changes which brought colder weather to the area or which raised the height of the lake. The terraces could also be vulnerable to bursts of very wet weather or higher than usual winds.

Risk preparedness

No formal arrangements are set out for reacting to foreseen or unforeseen risks and hazards.

5. PROTECTION, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone

Considerable care has been taken when defining the boundaries to exclude areas of post-World War II development in what are in effect overspill from the major urban centres of Lausanne and Vevey–Montreux. To the north of the wine-growing area that constitutes the heart of the nominated property, the buffer zone has been selected so as to protect the nominated landscape against intrusive developments that may encroach up on its visual aspect. As a result it follows the line of the Alpine crests where appropriate. Where there has been encroachment upon the sight-lines below these crests by unsympathetic post-war

building development, the visual qualities of the nominated landscape are protected from further adverse impacts by the imposition of strict planning and building controls.

There is an industrial area running north-west from Chexbres which lies below the crest and so is not visible from the nominated area. For a short stretch there is no buffer zone here, since it lies beneath the crest. There is, however, some justification for the incorporation of the reverse slope of the crest here so as to ensure that there could be no possibility of unsympathetic constructions here at some time in the future which would be visible from within the nominated property and from the lake.

ICOMOS considers that the boundaries of the core zone are adequate and that there should be a slight extension of the buffer zone in order to close the small gap overlooking the industrial area located roughly between Chexbres and Epesses.

Ownership

The vineyards and buildings are almost entirely privately owned. Within the nominated areas there are 1,840 owners and 1,153 economic units covering the 702 hectares of vines.

Protection

Legal Protection

Strong protection has evolved as a reaction to the creeping urbanization from the growing towns of Lausanne to the west and the Vevey–Montreux conurbation to the east, in both of which a number of multinational and national companies have established substantial operational centres over recent decades. It was in response to this phenomenon that the movement which led to the *Loi sur le plan de protection de Lavaux* (LPPL) emerged, at a time when only the Grandvaux–Villette, Chexbres, and Corseaux areas had been adversely impacted.

The Federal *Loi sur l'aménagement du territoire* (LAT) lays down the fundamental principles for land-use planning in Switzerland. Lavaux is inscribed on the *Inventaire fédéral des paysages, sites et monuments naturels* (IFP) resulting from the LAT, in which it is described as '... a large wine-producing region characteristic of the Lake Geneva region with picturesque villages overlooking the lake'. The perimeter of the area protected by the IFP, from Lutry to the eastern boundaries of the *communes* of Corseaux and Saint-Saphorin, coincides with that of the area covered by the cantonal LPPL. Within it almost all the villages, hamlets, and vineyards are registered and protected.

The Confederation also has its *Inventaire fédéral des sites construits* (ISOS) which covers sites and monuments of national importance. The number and density of the protected sites in Lavaux is high. Over 1,228 buildings are listed in the central zone, with nearly 400 of national interest.

Whilst there are Federal services with overall responsibility for the implementation of these measures, it is the corresponding cantonal services that are responsible for day-to-day monitoring and application.

Lavaux landscape is not simply on the cantonal statute book, but its protection is also embodied within the Constitution of the Canton of Vaud. In 1977 a campaign entitled *Sauvez Lavaux* was set up and became the subject of a referendum by the people of the Canton. The successful outcome of this vote resulted in the enactment of the *Loi sur le plan de protection de Lavaux* (LPPL) that year. The strong wish of the people of Vaud to protect this region, the qualities of which they deeply appreciated, was confirmed again in November 2005 by the result of a second referendum, the object of which was to incorporate the protection of Lavaux permanently into the cantonal constitution.

The cantonal *Inventaire des monuments naturels et des sites* (IMNS), which came into force in 1972, provides another level of protection for the nominated property. It covers more than two hundred buildings, as well as the villages of Aran (Villette), Grandvaux, Riex, Epesses, Rivas, and Saint-Saphorin, the hamlets of Châtelard and Treytorrens, and a substantial proportion of the vineyards.

The Communes

The nominated property comes under the provisions of the cantonal land-use plan (*Plan général d'affectation* – PGA) and its building regulations (RPGA). It is, however, the authorities at *commune* level that are responsible for the application of these regulations and for authorizing projects coming within their scope. This ensures that there is in practice virtually no possibility of any new construction or other form of intervention being made in the landscape. On the very rare occasions when such interventions have to be authorized, they are subject to strong architectural and landscape constraints.

The buffer zone

Within the buffer zone a considerable measure of regulation is in place, notably in respect of the designated building areas (*territoires urbanisés*). All projects relating to construction require authorization at *commune* level and are subject to restrictions relating to size, location, and appearance.

The farming and forest areas within the buffer zone are covered by Federal legislation designed to protect and conserve the non-urban landscapes. Authorization of new non-rural projects is very rare.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the protective measures for the property are adequate.

Conservation

History of Conservation

The history of conservation of the property goes back through several centuries and is outlined under *History* (above).

Present state of conservation

The state of conservation of the villages, individual buildings, roads and footpaths, and vineyard plots within the nominated area is high. The standards of conservation

of individual buildings, both public and private, within the villages and among the vineyards are very high with great care taken, both inside and out, to ensure proper conservation by using authentic materials and techniques on private and public buildings. Advice is available from cantonal monuments and architectural services on materials and techniques, and some proprietors avail themselves of it.

The retaining walls of the terraces are kept in immaculate condition, primarily for practical reasons, since degradation and collapse of these walls would be disastrous for the vines, but also in a spirit of *émulation*, each proprietor wishing to maintain the walls in a condition that vies with that of neighbouring proprietors. In many cases, flowers such as roses embellish the ends of the rows of vines.

Active Conservation measures

On-going conservation of the buildings and landscape by private owners is the major way in which the overall cultural landscape is maintained. As outlined above this is very effective.

ICOMOS considers that the conservation of the property is satisfactory.

Management

The body which promoted this nomination to the World Heritage List, the *Association pour l'inscription de Lavaux au patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO* (AILU), charged a body which had been in existence for more than thirty years, the *Commission intercommunale d'urbanisme de Lavaux* (CIUL) with the preparation of a management plan. Detailed work on this project was entrusted to a *Commission CIUL-UNESCO* (CCU), chaired by the President of CIUL and composed of the chairmen of four working groups on research and culture, economy, land-use planning, and tourism respectively. The intention is that this body will expand its activities and redefine its role in the event of Lavaux being inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2007.

The overall objectives of CCU were identified as:

1. Identifying the key elements making it possible to identify both the vulnerabilities of the Lavaux landscape and opportunities for its protection and promotion;
2. Establishing recommendations for the future management of the site and its vineyards so as to preserve the essential character of the cultural landscape;
3. Increasing the information available to the general public and inciting their interest in Lavaux, and developing its educational and cultural value as well as its essential character as 'the terraced vineyards between the Lake and the Alps';
4. Developing a management plan common to all the local stakeholders (landowners, residents, wine producers, merchants, population) in order that they

may put into practice action plans both as individuals and in partnership;

5. Setting up systems of surveillance, reactive monitoring, coordination, and information.

The remit of the four working groups was to establish working methods and to identify shortcomings and risks and to propose lines of research that would respond to the requirements of World Heritage listing.

A Management Plan has been drawn up and approved for the property. The Plan provides an analysis of socio-economic data such as population growth, economic activities, '*pendularisme*' (the phenomenon of being poised between two large conurbations), land use, jobs in the area (viticulture, craft activities, tourism), and transportation.

There follows a series of management strategies for each of the areas assigned to the four working groups. This is followed by a project list detailing aims, methodologies, proposed actions, dates for initiation of projects, and assigning responsibility to specific bodies or institutions.

The 'Research' group, for example, proposes the creation of a relevant and coherent image of Lavaux by encouraging an academic institute to register on an inventory all the research carried out on Lavaux from which to develop research programmes and produce appropriate literature.

The 'Culture' group has projects for encouraging a series of cultural events and for improving the presentation of Lavaux to the general public; whilst the proposals emanating from the 'Economy' group are concerned with the optimization of production techniques relating to wine and developing an institutional entity for the site (*Lavaux-Région*). The Management Plan is commendable since it seeks to put management of the area into a new dimension, looking beyond the conventional (yet essential) approach of official bodies and local administrations.

Interpretation and presentation

At the present time there is little formal presentation of the history and economy of Lavaux, since it has been little visited by outsiders, even from within Switzerland. There are, however, plans for educational, promotional, and tourist projects within the Management Plan, emanating from all four working groups.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the management system for the property is adequate.

6. MONITORING

The documentation for all aspects of the history, architecture, and socio-economic evolution of Lavaux is of a high quality.

A number of static and dynamic indicators are in place. The static ones cover state of conservation of terraces and walls, and number of buildings restored, while the dynamic ones include methods of cultivation, methods of harvesting (mechanization), methods of protection against diseases and parasites, and local information (web site) fostering

local traditions. The former involve quantitative measurements, while the latter need qualitative assessment. Both are carried out as part of the Management Plan process.

7. CONCLUSIONS

The living vineyard landscape of Lavaux is testimony to the combined determination of local people and the authorities to protect the area as a living working landscape. The standard of research, surveys and documentation produced for the nomination dossier is impressive and the State Party is to be congratulated.

The main vulnerability for the landscape is the maintenance of the terraces and the associated costs, which potentially impact on the economic viability of the wine production. Lavaux needs to sell high quality wine in order to counter the high cost of production associated with terrace cultivation. Lavaux is not as well known as some other vineyards and currently there is little effort to pass on knowledge to visitors or buyers on the detailed provenance of the wine.

ICOMOS commends the objectives of the Cultural, Research and Economic Groups which, as part of the Management Plan, aim to promote and disseminate research into the history of the viticulture of the area, and its production techniques, strengthen its identity and investigate optimal production methods for the future. All this could help add value to the products of the landscape, and make them better known, both of which in the long term might help to secure its future.

In order to protect the boundaries of the nominated property, ICOMOS recommends a slight extension to the Buffer Zone in order to close the small gap overlooking the industrial area located roughly between Chexbres and Epesses.

Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that Lavaux, vineyard terraces overlooking the lake and the Alps, Switzerland, be inscribed on the World Heritage List as a cultural landscape on the basis of *criteria iii, iv and v*.

ICOMOS recommends that the Buffer Zone is enlarged between Chexbres and Epesses.

ICOMOS further recommends that the name of the property be changed to “Lavaux, vineyard terraces”.

Recommended Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

The Lavaux vineyard landscape is a thriving cultural landscape that:

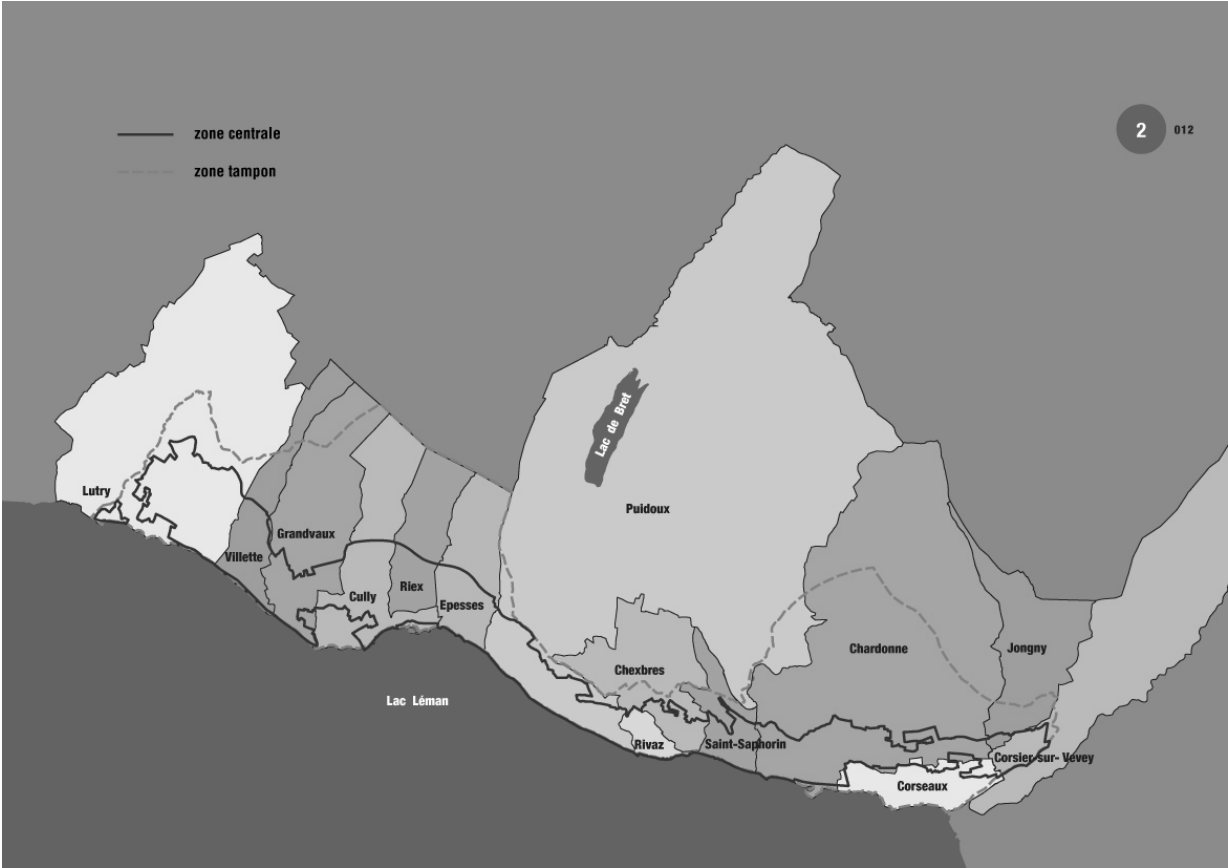
- demonstrates in a highly visible way its evolution and development over almost a millennia, through the well preserved landscape and buildings, and also the continuation and adaptation of longstanding cultural traditions, specific to its locality;

- illustrates very graphically the storey of patronage, control and protection of this highly valued wine growing area, all of which contributed substantially to the development of Lausanne and its Region and played a significant role in the history of the geo-cultural region; and,
- has prompted, in response to its vulnerability next to fast-growing settlements, exceptional popular protection.

Criterion iii: The Lavaux vineyard landscape demonstrates in a highly visible way its evolution and development over almost a millennia, through the well preserved landscape and buildings that demonstrate a continuation and evolution of longstanding cultural traditions, specific to its locality.

Criterion iv: The evolution of the Lavaux vineyard landscape, as evidenced on the ground, illustrates very graphically the story of patronage, control and protection of this highly valued wine growing area, all of which contributed substantially to the development of Lausanne and its Region and played a significant role in the history of the geo-cultural region.

Criterion v: The Lavaux vineyard landscape is an outstanding example that displays centuries of interaction between people and their environment in a very specific and productive way, optimising the local resources to produce a highly valued wine that was a significant part of the local economy. Its vulnerability in the face of fast-growing urban settlements has prompted protection measures strongly supported by local communities.



Map showing the boundaries of the nominated property



Cully's Bay



Rivaz village



Walls near Rivaz



Saint Saphorin