Vineyard Landscape of Langhe-Roero and Monferrato (Italy) No 1390 rev

Official name as proposed by the State Party

The Vineyard Landscape of Piedmont: Langhe-Roero and Monferrato

Location

The nominated serial property is located in the Piedmont region. It is comprised of six separate components in the provinces of:

Cuneo (properties n°1 Langa of Barolo, n°2 Grinzane Cavour Castle, n°3 Hills of Barbaresco, and part of property n°5 Canelli and Asti Spumante),

Asti (property n°4 Nizza Monferrato and Barbera, and part of property n°5 Canelli and Asti Spumante) Alessandria (property n°6 Monferrato of the *Infernot*)

Italy

Brief description

The vineyard landscapes of Langhe-Roero and Monferrato in the Piedmont region cover five distinct winegrowing areas and one castle, whose names are emblematic of profound and ancient expertise reflecting the relationship of man with his environment. They express a slowly refined association between a diverse range of soil types, grape varieties that are often native, and suitable winemaking processes. They offer panoramas of carefully cultivated hillsides, following ancient land divisions punctuated by buildings which provide structure to the visual space: hilltop villages, castles, Romanesque chapels, farms, ciabots, cellars and storerooms for the cellaring and sale of wine, notably in the small and larger towns on the margins of the vineyards. The property claims to be emblematic in the harmony and balance between the aesthetic qualities of its landscapes, the architectural and historic diversity of the built elements associated with the vineyards and viticulture, and an authentic and ancient art of winemaking.

Category of property

In terms of categories of cultural property set out in Article 1 of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a serial nomination of five *ensembles* and one *monument*.

In terms of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (July 2013), paragraph 47, it is also a cultural landscape.

1 Basic data

Included in the Tentative List 1 June 2006

International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund for preparing the Nomination None

Date received by the World Heritage Centre

21 January 2011 30 January 2013

Background

This is a nomination whose examination has been deferred (36 COM, Saint Petersburg, 2012).

The World Heritage Committee has adopted the following decision (decision 36 COM 8B.32):

Decision: 36 COM 8B.32

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1 Having examined Documents WHC-12/36.COM/8B and WHC-12/36.COM/INF.8B1,
- 2 Defers the examination of the nomination of the Vineyard Landscape of Piedmont: Langhe-Roero and Monferrato, Italy, to the World Heritage List, in order to allow the State Party, with the advice of ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre, if requested, to:

a. Review the application of the selection criteria of the sites and the choice of the series' components, taking into account the central notion of a native grape variety associated with a terroir and a grand cru of truly exceptional value and to demonstrate in what way each site significantly contributes to the potential Outstanding Universal Value of the ensemble,

b. Review the boundary of each of the sites making up the series as a function of an approach that better integrates all the material elements testifying to the winemaking and wine cellaring values,

c. Review the buffer zones as a function of the property's redefinition,

d. Draw up a precise inventory of the monuments and sites covered by national or regional historic heritage listing within the property and an inventory of the vernacular heritage; the maps need to be completed in a way that these elements are easily identifiable by name,

e. Ensure the conservation measures recommended in the Agreement Act and local town planning rules are adopted by all the municipalities in the property,

f. Specify the material and human resources of the property's overarching management Association, and more broadly all the staff employed for the property's management, stating their sectors of activity and any training requirements,

g. Rank the Management Plan actions by order of priority for the explicit benefit of the property's conservation; provide precise implementation schedules for those actions for which finance has been consolidated,

h. Confirm that monitoring is effectively coordinated by the property's overarching management Association,

i. Supplement the property's monitoring plan indexes with a group covering tourism and permanent cultural activities,

3 Considers that any revised nomination would need to be considered by an expert mission to the site.

On 30 January 2013, the State Party submitted a revised nomination.

Consultations

ICOMOS has consulted its International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes, and several independent experts.

Technical Evaluation Mission

An ICOMOS technical evaluation visited the property from 9 to 13 September 2013.

Additional information requested and received from the State Party

ICOMOS requested additional information from the State Party in a letter dated 13 December 2013, asking it to confirm whether all the municipalities concerned had signed the Agreement Act and the local development plans including the appropriate building regulation measures. On 28 February 2014 the State Party sent additional documentation that is incorporated into the present evaluation report.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

6 March 2014

2 The property

Description of the Serial Nomination

The serial property nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List comprises a selection of five Piedmont winegrowing areas, with outstanding landscapes, and the Castle of Cavour, an emblematic name both in the development of vineyards and in Italian history. It is located in the southern part of Piedmont, between the Po River in the north and the Ligurian Appenines in the south, across a wide region of hills, framed by shallow valleys. The soil is mainly comprised of sedimentary rock from the tertiary period, although this does not preclude local geological particularities. Overall, the soil has low organic content but is rich in mineral elements.

With a relatively homogeneous tonality of landscape, the property nonetheless covers a great diversity in its composition and in its winegrowing and winemaking particularities. The landscape is dotted with farms, winegrowers' huts (*ciabot*), isolated winegrowing farms, villages often perched on high ground, larger towns on the edge of the vineyards, castles, Romanesque churches and ancient monastic buildings. The Castle of Cavour (property n°2), together with urban elements at Nizza Monferrato (n°4) and Canelli (n°5), have been added since the first nomination dossier; in contrast, a series of properties whose contribution to overall outstanding universal value was limited have been withdrawn, in accordance with decision 36COM 8B.32.

In winegrowing terms, each winegrowing area is identified by the matching, through expertise and practical experience, of a given soil and a specific grape variety. The grape varieties are often native, such as nebbiolo, barbera and moscato (white muscat with small grapes). The selection of rootstock, which in some cases dates from ancient times, was refined from the 18th-19th onwards. The vineyards are on hills with mild or slight slopes, characterised by the absence of walls and terraces. This gives rise to the systematic arrangement of rows of vines along successive contour lines, which results in a highly original landscape, linked to soil conservation concerns. In terms of vinification, the property is characterised by precise and ancient knowhow, that is specific to each of the vineyards, producing a great diversity of unique wines that are specific to each winegrowing area. The property is also characterised by specific installations of winemaking cellars and cellars for storage ready for sale (Infernot). The whole range of technical and economic processes relating to the winegrowing and winemaking expertiseare adequately represented in the property, which was not the case with the first nomination.

Part 1: Langa of Barolo

This property constitutes an emblematic part of the vineyards of Piedmont, because of the extremely celebrated expertise associated with its red wine, produced from the Nebbiolo grape variety. Its exploitation is regulated by the appellation area of Barolo (DOCG), which covers the whole of the property and extends beyond it. The export of this wine in bottles dates back at least to the mid-18th century. The property forms a large hollow around the village of Barolo. Its landscape is comprised of carefully kept vineyard plots, accompanied by a few fields of cereals and woods on the slopes. The settlement consists of Medieval villages with their central castle, laid out in a circular bastide arrangement as at Serralunga d'Alba. The landscape also includes a large number of ciabots, and isolated farms, some of which are very old and whose architecture is outstanding.

Part 2: Grinzane Cavour Castle

Comprising the castle and nearby vineyard plots, this property is situated close to Part 1 of the serial property, on a slightly elevated piece of land next to the village of Grinzane Cavour. The castle and its domain were, in the mid-19th century, the property of the Count of Cavour, an emblematic figure of Italian unity, and the driving force behind modern winegrowing in Piedmont. This was a place of pioneering experiments in winegrowing and winemaking, leading to the adoption of many French methods which then gradually spread throughout the vineyards of Piedmont. The castle is a square brick edifice, which is well preserved. With its central courtyard and its many towers, it embodies a mixed style, combining a reorganised Medieval castle with an Italian renaissance villa, notably in its interior decoration. Today the castle houses a regional wine shop, a restaurant and a cultural centre dedicated to winegrowing.

Part 3: Hills of Barbaresco

This is the smallest nominated area within the series, and is situated in the north-east between Barolo (1) and Canelli - Asti (5). The landscape is identified by its clear visual boundaries, between the Tanaro Valley and a line of hill crests close to 600 metres in altitude. This is a second favourable area for growing the grape variety Nebbiolo on clay and marl soils, or sandstone that has high water retention. Vinification of this grape produces the red wines of Barbaresco, also of high reputation (DOCG). Other crops are rare. The wines from this region. like those from the following one, use the typologies applied in France to identify the best vines, using the "cru" and "grand cru" labels. The area includes the village of Barbaresco and the medieval part of Nieve with its castle. along with winemaking establishments with characteristic and ancient architecture.

Part 4: Nizza Monferrato and Barbera

This area is located in the upper part of the region, in which Nizza Monferrato is the main town. The name Barbera denotes both the grape variety and the local wine. The matching of the soil and grape variety dates back at least 500 years, and the wine has the protected appellation Barbera d'Asti (DOCG). The landscape is relatively composite, formed of vines and woods on the slopes, and small valleys with green meadows. The dominant atmosphere is rural, with magnificent russet hues in the vineyards in autumn. Settlement is concentrated in several villages (Castelnuovo Calcea, Vinchio and Vaglio Serra), and dispersed as farms and isolated winegrowing houses. Nizza Monferrato is the historic market town for this wine. Its small historic centre. bearing considerable testimony to an ancient winegrowing activity, has been incorporated into the nominated property, with typical buildings, and traditional storehouses and cellars.

Part 5: Canelli and Asti Spumante

This area, at the centre of the series, has been considerably reduced compared with the first nomination, in order to include only the most comprehensive landscapes and the most significant winegrowing areas. The whitish soil, mixed with limestone, sandstone and marl, is particularly good for growing white muscat grapes (Moscato). Derived from the Champagne method, winemaking here produces the well-known aromatic sparkling wine Asti Spumante (DOCG). The homogeneous and continuous landscape is almost exclusively comprised of vines. Urban skylines are visible in the distance, with their bell towers. The property includes ancient winegrowing market towns, of which the most extensive is Calosso, and a substantial built heritage related to housing and winemaking activities. The centre of the ancient market town of Canelli has been incorporated into the property. The town, with its cellars and its wine production, storage and trading establishments, some of which are on an industrial scale, illustrates the culmination of ancient technical expertise and international trade. This is presented as one of the

major sites for wine cellar architecture in Piedmont and indeed in Italy. The town includes the emblematic houses of Asti Spumante wine merchants, in premises generally dating from the 19th century. It is dominated by the Gancia Palace, which constitutes an image of the economic power attained by the great winemaking families during the last century.

Part 6: Monferrato of the Infernot

This part of the property, further north in the Lower Monferrato region, has been considerably reduced in size compared with the first nomination, in order to include only the most significant area. Wine is produced mainly from the Barbera grape variety, corresponding to the controlled appellation Barbera de Monferrato (DOCG). Its soil includes a hard marl that is favourable for the growing of vines. The landscape is rural and fairly homogeneous. with gently rolling hills. It is dominated by mixed farming based on grapes and cereals. Six large villages lie entirely or partially inside this section of the property. On the tops of hills. Vignale Monferrato and Montemagno have fortified urban cores dating from the Middle Ages. The architecture is often outstanding, as in the urban dwellings of the winegrowers, and the cellars (infernots) used for the cellaring of the wine.

History and development

Vine pollen has been found within the area of the property dating from the 5th century BCE. This was a period when Piedmont was a place of contact and trade between the Etruscans and the Celts. Etruscan and Celtic words, particularly wine-related ones, are still found in the local dialect.

In the Roman period, vine growing was organised in large vineyards across the Italian Peninsula. A large number of wine amphorae have been found in the region. New grape varieties were introduced at this time, in particular the ancestor of the *Nebbiolo* variety. Pliny the Elder mentions the Piedmont region as being one of the most favourable for growing vines in ancient Italy; Strabo mentions its barrels.

The landscapes and agricultural management of the winegrowing territory underwent change in the Middle Ages, under the authority of the bishops and monasteries. Vast ecclesiastical winegrowing domains were established. A substantial architectural and urban heritage still today bears witness to the development of vineyards during this period: winegrowers' villages on the hilltops, isolated farms, castles, Romanesque churches, small urban trading centres in the lowlands, remains of monasteries, etc. This medieval settlement established the structure of the winegrowing landscape that is still there today. The settling of the "new towns", together with the castles, marked the rising baronial power in the 12th and 13th centuries. These various strongholds provided a place of refuge for winegrowing peasants; the production and cellaring of wine became established in these places. Some farms were also fortified.

Starting in the 14th century, then during the Renaissance, the wealthy middle classes tended to take over the winegrowing lands, and even more so the making of wine and its commercial distribution. The urban centres grew, and communication routes were improved. This was a period of growing wealth through the development of the vineyards, which were consolidated and improved by the selection of grape varieties. The names of today's grape varieties appeared for the first time: Nebbiolo, Barbesino, Lambrusca, etc. A new land ownership and social structure was established, distributing the vineyards between numerous owners, title-holders and vineyard and wine production workers. The current vineyards bear witness to the land ownership and landscape heritage from this period, as seen for example in engravings from the 16th century.

Having become wealthy, wine merchants and winegrowers opted for more sophisticated and comfortable styles of housing in the 16th and 17th centuries, grouped in villages and small towns around earlier castles. The wine houses were organised around wine storehouses and cellars. Architectural styles based on a mixture of influences became more defined. Vineyard slopes were sometimes levelled, and planting in regular and ordered rows became consolidated. During this period, treatises on winegrowing and winemaking were printed in the Piedmont region.

In the 18th century, the rising population and the region's enrichment encouraged the construction of farms and annexes within the vineyards, as well as the breakup of the ancient large religious domains. The Savoy dynasty undertook a vast regional land survey with a view to taxing vines (1713); the roads were improved. Baroque elements appeared in urban buildings. Aristocratic villas appeared in the countryside, sometimes alongside older farmhouses. They marked the emergence of a rural gentry in Piedmont. Vineyards and wine production became the target of property speculation and economic investment. The drinking of wines of high quality amongst the richer classes became a social custom in the towns of Northern Italy.

In the 19th century, the vineyards in the Langhe-Roero and Monferrato regions continued to be expanded. Wine production increased by nearly 40% between 1835 and 1864, reaching 3.8 million hectolitres. At the same time, especially in Monferrato, the ownership structure of vineyards was broken up into smaller family-owned holdings. The commercial market for wine expanded geographically with the growing use of glass bottles. The desire for high-quality wine, and the presence of a landowning aristocracy linked to the political regime in the Kingdom of Piedmont-Sardinia encouraged the introduction of the French model of winegrowing and winemaking, notably under the impetus of the family of the statesman Cavour. French oenologists contributed to improving the technical management of the vineyards, winemaking and ageing. Some French elitist traditions were adopted, such as the concepts of "crus" (Bordeaux region) and "climates" (Burgundy region). The Champagne method of winemaking was successfully applied to muscat grapes in the Asti and Canelli regions in the 1860s, resulting in the creation of "spumante", a sweet sparkling wine with the specific fragrance of the Muscat grape variety.

The last part of the 19th century saw the *phylloxera* calamity that ravaged the Piedmont vineyards, like all others in Europe. Replanting by grafting to American rootstock provided the Piedmont vineyards with an opportunity to rebuild quality vineyards on the proven foundations of ancestral knowledge. The great grape varieties were then stabilised and described as characteristic of the various regions of the Piedmont vineyards. This period also ushered in a scientific dimension, evidenced by the creation of an experimental oenological station (1872).

This effort to regenerate the Piedmont vineyards paid off at the end of the 19th century, and in the 20th, with national recognition of its wines, through Italian Unity, and then the international export of the best *crus*. The towns became major centres of the international wine trade, and this was accompanied by the appearance of representative architecture at the largest wine houses. Collective initiatives sprang up from the early 20th century to protect the expertise associated with the Piedmont wines and to differentiate them from ordinary wines. A cooperative movement was set in place to group together and improve smallholders' production. Diversification appeared with vermouths in Canelli and Asti.

The 1930s Depression affected the Piedmont vineyards; prices collapsed and the trend towards expanding the vineyards reversed, with a new focus on better vines and more severe pruning practices. Based on the French model of *Appellations d'origine contrôlée* or controlled appellations, a system for standardising winegrowing and winemaking was introduced after the Second World War. This began with the "DOC" label, and then in 1992 the "DOCG" label was introduced for the wines meeting the most exacting standards in terms of codification of practices and expertise.

3 Justification for inscription, integrity and authenticity

Comparative analysis

The State Party takes into consideration the winegrowing landscapes already inscribed on the World Heritage List, those inscribed on the Tentative Lists, and others mentioned in the ICOMOS thematic study. In the first instance, these are the Jurisdiction of Saint-Émilion (France, 1999, criteria (iii) and (iv)), the Alto Douro Wine Region (Portugal, 2001, criteria (iii), (iv) and (v)), the Tokaj Wine Region Historic Cultural Landscape (Hungary, 2002, criteria (iii) and (v)), and Lavaux, Vineyard Terraces (Switzerland, 2007, (iii), (iv) and (v)). Other World Heritage List properties with a winegrowing dimension amongst other components are also taken into consideration: Val d'Orcia (Italy, 2005, criteria (iv) and (vi)), Upper Middle

Rhine Valley (Germany, 2002, criteria (ii), (iv) and (v)), Costiera Amalfitana (Italy, 1997, criteria (ii), (iv) and (v)), Portovenere, Cinque Terre, and the Islands (Italy, 1997, criteria (ii), (iv) and (v)), Landscape of the Pico Island Vineyard Culture (Portugal, 2004, (iii) and (v)), The Loire Valley (France, 2000, (i), (ii) and (iv)). In addition to these are mentioned the vineyard landscapes of Tuscany (Italy), Rioja (Spain), South Africa and Alsace (France).

The constituent elements of the vineyard landscapes of Langhe-Roero and Monferrato are in particular examined. They do not come under the category of "heroic" vineyard landscapes but rather in the category of gentler hillside vineyards, without terraces, of which they are a very harmonious example, with a rich diversity of built and structural components illustrating a particularly long and rich social history of vineyards and winemaking. The typology of these settlements, notably the hilltop villages, differs from the other properties; their diversity and density are exceptional. The Piedmont vineyards have a much older history than most of the other European vineyards, the origins of which date at best from Roman times. Here, Greek, Etruscan and Celtic influences intermingle from remote antiquity. There is also significant testimony from all historic periods from the Middle Ages to the present day. All the elements of winegrowing built heritage are present in the vinevards, with a highly diversified professional architecture, and a heritage of ancient villages, small market towns, wine cellars and storehouses, along with castles, churches and monastic remains.

The State Party compares the grand wines of the Piedmont vineyards making up the nominated serial property with other wines produced worldwide. It stresses the importance of ancient expertise rooted in centuries-old traditions, and also the adaptability shown from the 19th century onwards in taking on board the best practices in the profession, particularly those of the French vineyards at that time. The Piedmont wines are specific in that an exceptional role is played by the vinification of native grape varieties - gradually selected according to the soils and the land - whose roots date back to the Middle Ages.

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis shows that the five historic vineyards nominated, and the Castle of Cavour, form a homogeneous and complete ensemble, which bears testimony to a consummate body of expertise, and to cultural landscape values of great aesthetic and historic quality.

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis justifies consideration of this serial property for the World Heritage List.

Justification of Outstanding Universal Value

The nominated property is considered by the State Party to be of Outstanding Universal Value as a cultural property for the following reasons:

- Piedmont is an outstanding example of one of the most ancient wine-producing regions in the world, a meeting place of many influences from high antiquity, notably Etruscan, Greek and Celtic. The vineyards underwent significant development in Roman times, then in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, and finally in the modern and contemporary period.
- It constitutes an outstanding and emblematic cultural landscape of particularly harmonious hillside vineyards. It presents numerous subtle aesthetic and cultural nuances. It bears testimony to a deep and long-established relationship between man and his natural environment.
- The property illustrates the patient process of building up winegrowing and winemaking traditions and expertise, and their successive improvements which have enabled highly accomplished adaptations between a variety of soils and native grape varieties, to produce some of the world's bestknown wines: Barolo, Barbaresco, Barbera, Asti Spumante and Canelli Spumante.
- The property contains highly diverse built components, which provide a large number of significant landmarks in the vineyard landscape and in the urban and village settings.
- The property is an epitome of winegrowing and winemaking culture down the ages within the context of European civilisation.

ICOMOS considers that the new serial property nominated is justified, because it is better selected and comprehensive than the previous nomination. It brings together properly the whole spectrum of the most significant values of the winegrowing district of the Langhe-Roero and Monferrato region. Each of the nominated vineyards corresponds to the historic development of a specific wine, which bears witness to expertise of the highest level, that has long been widely acknowledged. The hillside vineyard landscapes, accompanied by an elegant and diversified built heritage, make this very ancient wine-producing region an epitome of vineyard landscapes in Europe. The property expresses a variety of social and cultural structures, which have continuously evolved over the course of history, and to which it still today bears abundant and diverse testimony.

Integrity and authenticity

Integrity

The State Party claims that the property presents all the essential elements for a complete representation of its values. Considered as a whole, its five components fully express the cultural, residential, architectural, environmental and productive complexity of this region of winegrowing and winemaking. It bears testimony to an ensemble of centuries-old traditions, that have been gradually built up.

All the stages of the production cycle of wine - from cultivation to vinification, ageing and distribution - are

appropriately illustrated. They include a sufficient number of attributes that are distributed in a balanced way across the various properties. Their functional relationships are clearly visible, from the vine to the cellar, from the farm to the large company, from the village set around its castle and church to the urban and commercial centre. The landscapes fully express ancestral social and professional traditions, and their history. Each of the properties is sufficiently complete to express in an understandable way the functional relationships between its elements and the aesthetic qualities of its cultural and urban landscapes. A great wealth of expertise, which is specific to each of the winegrowing areas, is also perceptible.

ICOMOS considers that the nominated serial property is justified as a result of the strict vineyard selection process. The vineyards chosen contain the most comprehensive and emblematic landscapes. They represent the most significant elements of professional, rural and urban architecture. They also correspond with the expression of a full spectrum of consummate expertise and professional traditions, from the vineyard and growing of the vines, to vinification, cellaring and the commercial distribution of the end-product. The choices made in redefining the properties are in line with decision 36COM 8B.32.

ICOMOS considers that the integrity of the whole series has been justified; and that the integrity of the individual sites has been demonstrated.

Authenticity

Abundant and diverse documentation bears testimony to the authenticity of the landscape and cultural components of the serial property. In particular, these include the religious and seignorial archives, later the archives of the owners and of the wine houses, bearing witness to the transmission of expertise and customs through the centuries. The ensemble is testimony to diverse and authentic winegrowing and winemaking practices.

The land has been used for grape growing since antiquity, as attested by Pliny the Elder and Strabo during the Roman Empire. The collections of maps and plans provide thorough knowledge of the geographic and agrarian structure of the vineyards, and their transformations over time. The various stages in the social organisation of winegrowing and winemaking provide both a characteristic historical dimension of the property and the mark of a living evolving landscape.

The oldest built structures date from the Middle Ages (10th to 14th centuries). As in the case of the more recent constructions, heritage studies have proven their authenticity: Romanesque churches, monastic buildings, forts and castles, farms and storehouses, etc. The hilltop villages and the network of roads and pathways have retained satisfactory structural and architectural

authenticity. The conditions of authenticity of the vineyard vernacular architecture are satisfactory.

The professional practices, as part of a living tradition and a continuation of ancient expertise, offer a high degree of authenticity.

The Piedmont vineyard landscape is undoubtedly one of the most harmonious and most consistent with the ideal of a "scenic" rural and vineyard landscape, accentuated by the gently rolling environment that provides many vistas and panoramas with subtle nuances. The vineyard stakeholders are today aware of these aesthetic values that could be described as "perceived authenticity". The only reservation comes from the presence of several built elements dating from the second half of the 20th century, generally for public or wine industry purposes, which jar somewhat with the surrounding landscape.

ICOMOS considers that the serial property as a whole, and its component parts, are authentic in material terms, but that it is necessary to better highlight the intangible social elements which constitute an essential value of the property and its management (farmers, companies and workers, winegrowing and winemaking trade organisations, transmission of expertise and know-how, popular traditions, etc.).

ICOMOS considers that the authenticity of the whole series has been justified; and that the authenticity of the individual sites has been demonstrated.

ICOMOS considers that the conditions of integrity and authenticity of the whole series have been justified; and that for individual sites, the conditions of integrity and authenticity are satisfactory. However, ICOMOS recommends that the intangible social elements that contribute to authenticity should be given more prominence.

Criteria under which inscription is proposed

The property is nominated on the basis of cultural criteria (iii) and (v).

Criterion (iii): bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilisation which is living or which has disappeared;

According to the State Party, the cultural landscapes of the Piedmont vineyards constitute an outstanding living testimony to winegrowing and winemaking traditions that have a very long history, and that have evolved and been constantly improved right up to the present day. The serial property forms the foundation of a social realm and economic structures that are sustainable, and which are at the heart of an outstanding heritage of knowledge, based on a progressive understanding of the best possible adaptation of a local grape variety to the land and to a given climatic environment, and the development of the best methods for its vinification and ageing. This wealth of expertise, know-how and social traditions is illustrated in a multitude of landscape, architectural and urban details.

ICOMOS considers that the new definition of the serial property, which is more selective in landscape terms and has been enlarged to include the urban and built components of winemaking and cellaring practices, is an outstanding illustration of an ancient cultural tradition that is still alive. The vineyards of Piedmont, the towns, the rural settlement and the associated castles bear witness to a great diversity of historical periods and of successive adaptations of the socio-technical system of vines and wine production to the natural economic and cultural environment. The entire serial property embodies a great wealth of expertise and know-how, forming an epitome of the traditions of historic vineyards in Europe.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been justified for the whole series.

Criterion (v): be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;

The vineyard landscape of Langhe-Roero and Monferrato, according to the State Party, represents an outstanding example of human interaction with the environment. Down the centuries, the vines, the farms and the traditional forms of rural life have been continuously organised in a diversified natural environment to form a traditional cultural landscape in which each component expresses mankind's determination to optimise production structures and processes for the benefit of winegrowing. The whole serial property constitutes the characteristic vineyard cultural environment of Piedmont, which is aesthetically very homogeneous but which expresses a multitude of nuances that are specific to each of the components in the series, their physical traits (geology, morphology, hydrology etc.) and their cultural characteristics (growing techniques, socio-economic systems, built environment and architecture, etc.).

ICOMOS considers that the living cultural vineyard landscape of Langhe-Roero and Monferrato represents an eminent example of man's interaction with his environment, following a very long historical evolution. The winegrowing landscape has great aesthetic quality, expressing the harmony between the vineyards and the many built elements that bear witness to the various periods of their history, between the gently rolling shapes of the vineyards and the hilltop villages, and between the multiplicity of autumnal tones, the castles and the ancient churches. It also presents the best possible selection of grape varieties that are adapted to the land with a variety of soil and climatic components, which themselves are related to a winegrowing and winemaking expertise that has gradually evolved until it has become an internationally recognised hallmark.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been justified for the whole series.

ICOMOS considers that the serial approach is justified.

ICOMOS considers that the nominated property meets the conditions of integrity and authenticity, and meets criteria (iii) and (v).

Description of the attributes

- Created in ancient times, the vineyards of Piedmont bear testimony to an interchange of very ancient influences from the Etruscans, the Greeks and the Celts. The vineyards were developed significantly in Roman times, then in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, and finally in the modern and contemporary period. It is one of the oldest wine growing regions in the world in which wine production has never been interrupted.
- It constitutes an outstanding and emblematic cultural landscape of particularly harmonious hillside vineyards, presenting numerous subtle aesthetic and cultural nuances. It bears witness to deep and longestablished relationships between man and his natural environment.
- The property illustrates the long and patient process of establishing winegrowing and winemaking traditions which have enabled particularly successful adaptations between a variety of soil types and native grape varieties to produce wines that bear witness to outstanding and world-renowned expertise.
- The property contains highly diverse built components, which are well integrated into the landscape, and which bear witness to winegrowing and commercial expertise, and to the diversity of social structures and cultural interchanges during its long history. The property quintessentially expresses winegrowing culture down the ages within the context of European civilisation.

4 Factors affecting the property

Housing pressure is being exerted on the villages and towns as a result of demand for holiday homes. Up to now this demand has been channelled towards appropriate restoration of existing buildings.

In the 1960s and 1970s, the renovation and modernisation of winegrowing and winemaking operations in some cases had an adverse impact on landscape quality. This phenomenon is also affecting the buffer zones, where industrial and commercial buildings have appeared, which are sometimes quite visible, particularly along roads. Tourism in the property is mainly cultural and oenological, and is largely local. The places with the highest tourist traffic are the castles, museums and commercial "caves". There are approximately 130,000 tourists a year. The State Party does not consider that there is any particular threat from tourism and believes that the available infrastructure can cope with a quite significant increase in the number of tourists.

Earthquake risk is considered relatively low. There is little risk of flooding given the hilltop location of the properties. The lower-lying quarters and the cellars in urban centres (Canelli) could be affected by exceptional river levels. Soil erosion may on occasion affect some parts of the properties as a result of storms, but this is a phenomenon that has always existed, and is usually well managed by the winegrowers and municipalities. More generally, the rows of vines planted along the contour lines, and the drainage systems, are a technical response to erosion.

The vines and grapes are fragile and can be affected by certain exceptional climatic events, such as hail, or endemic diseases, as was the case with *phylloxera* at the end of the 19^{th} century. The Piedmont vineyards also suffered in the 2000s from *flavescence dorée*, and the affected rootstock was destroyed.

There is a degree of fire risk in the villages, towns and woods in summer.

The effects of climate change are so far not noticeable in the property and in its main climatic and hydrological characteristics. The region is under both Mediterranean and continental influences, resulting in dry, hot summers and relatively cold winters. Increased summer drought could eventually occur together with more extreme climate events, such as violent storms, tornadoes, etc.

ICOMOS considers that the main threats to the property are the development of inappropriate modern winegrowing or commercial buildings that are not in keeping with the values of the traditional buildings, overhasty restorations of vernacular properties, and the presence of the vine disease *flavescence dorée*.

5 Protection, conservation and management

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone

The serial property nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List is comprised of 6 independent elements (from 1 to 6) inside two distinct buffer zones (A and B):

Site name	Surface area (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)
1- Langa of Barolo	3 051	A = 59 306
2- Château Grinzane Cavour	7	А

3- Hills of Barbaresco	891	А
4- Nizza Monferrato - Barbera	2 307	А
5- Canelli and Asti Spumante	1 971	А
6- Monferrato of the Infernot	2 561	B = 16 943
Total	10 789	76 249

The overall property has a population of 51,695, and the two buffer zones have a combined population of 251,945 inhabitants (2011).

The two buffer zones seem to be sufficiently large with regard to the nominated property's sites; they consist in the main of rural areas and suburban areas around a few lowland urban centres.

ICOMOS considers that the boundaries of the nominated property and of the buffer zones are adequate.

Ownership

The property covers 29 municipalities. It consists essentially of small and medium-sized private farm holdings and individual family-owned urban or village dwellings. Most of the land and property is owned under private law by families. There are also public properties owned by the State Party, the regional government and municipalities, such as the road network, public buildings, community urban areas, a certain number of monuments, etc.; there are also ecclesiastical land and buildings.

Protection

The property is protected at the national, regional, provincial and municipal levels by provisions that are often interdependent. The same applies to European environmental law and protection of the landscapes. The various levels of legislation affect a large number of areas: monuments, sites, nature, water management, building and housing regulations, and control of economic activities, agricultural ones in particular.

The concept of landscape protection has over recent years defined a level of consolidation and harmonisation of existing legal tools. At the overarching level, all aspects of the protection of the cultural properties and protection of the landscapes are consolidated in the Cultural Heritage and Landscape Code (Decree No. 42 of 22 January 2004), under the responsibility of the Ministry for Cultural Heritage and its regional agencies. It defines the responsibilities of the regional and local public authorities and the application procedures; it coordinates and simplifies the prior protection legislation for the monumental and landscape components, and brings it into compliance with the European Landscape Convention. In the case of the property, the Code becomes a contractual framework for the various public authorities responsible for the conservation and monitoring policy.

The property is also protected at national level by the various regulations and orders introduced since 1967

relating to guaranteed controlled appellation wines (DOCG);

The principal safeguards in the Piedmont region are provided by:

- Regional Laws 20/1989 and 32/2008, on the protection of cultural, environmental and landscape sites;
- Law No. 14/2008 regulating the promotion and conservation of landscapes;
- Law 56/1977, regarding land protection and usage;
- Laws 20/1999 and 37/1980, regulating wineproducing districts and wine routes;
- Law 16/2000 for the defence and development of the economy in the hill regions;
- Law 47/1995 regulating and protecting biotopes, supplemented by Law 19/2009 on biodiversity.

The municipalities regulate and control building and renovation permits. They do so by referring to municipal regulation plans (PRGC) and urban development plans. In the updated nomination, for both the properties and the buffer zones, the Agreement Act stipulates that the urban zones must not extend beyond the current boundaries of the villages and towns. No new methods of energy production can be authorised. The Region may if necessary exercise a right of suspension for any non-compliant works. All the municipalities in which the six properties are located have updated their land use and building authorisation plans. The Piedmont region has confirmed the buffer zone protection measures by an Act of 30 September 2013.

The traditional protection of the properties consists of the involvement of the professional bodies and their research institutes, and the application of the controlled appellation regulations by the vineyard owners for vinegrowing and winemaking methods. This is an essential contribution to the sustainable conservation of the properties and their landscapes.

ICOMOS considers that the legal protection in place is adequate, both for the serial property and for the buffer zones.

Conservation

There is a very large body of archival documentation, which is both publicly and privately owned. It is held in numerous public archives, libraries, museums, etc. (regional, provincial, municipal, universities, professional bodies, etc.), and in sometimes considerable private collections (descendants of large estates, wine houses, etc.).

The historic monuments and protected sites are listed and described in the national historic heritage database (BDIS) and a regional database of Piedmont rural habitat (*Cascine del Piemonte*). These are shared tools used to aid conservation and monitoring. The property has recently undergone a landscape data inventory, using a geographic information system (GIS), shared by the stakeholders, under the auspices of the Region and a university institute (SITI).

The numerous research projects carried out in recent years include:

- The programmes of the Ministry of Culture and Heritage, and university-led historical or heritage research;
- Social and economic research by universities and development agencies;
- Research by public bodies in charge of environmental protection;
- Research by institutes specialising in winegrowing and winemaking scientific research, and work by associations for plant health protection for the grape vines.

A series of aid measures exist concerning the conservation of buildings and of structural landscape elements, consisting of regional or provincial plans drawn up in accordance with the protection regulations (*Cultural Heritage and Landscape Code*):

- The Regional Landscape Plan (PPR) sets out the policy of conservation for outstanding landscapes, vistas and panoramas for visitors. It also provides financial aid for the restoration of dwellings and landscape infrastructures;
- Regional Territorial Plan (PTR) and Coordinated Provincial Territorial Plan (PTCP),
- Hydrogeological Management Plan (PAI, 2001) and the Water Management Plan (PTA).

In this institutional framework, the conservation of the nominated serial property has led to the signing of an *Agreement Act* (February 2008) between the Ministry of Culture and Heritage, the Piedmont Region, Alessandria, Asti and Cuneo provinces and the municipalities. It defines the general objectives for the conservation of the property.

The Management Association is a body which brings together the municipalities in which the properties and buffer zones are located. Its task is to coordinate conservation measures within the framework of the Act in which the Region has confirmed the buffer zones. This leads to the implementation of specific programmes, such as the facade restoration programme, aimed at improving the conditions of integrity and authenticity in the villages.

A large number of restorations of public buildings have been carried out over recent years, or are currently under way, in order to preserve the authenticity of the buildings and their surroundings. All works to be carried out on listed heritage buildings require the prior authorisation of the Regional Council and of the authorities in charge of the architectural and landscape heritage. The restored buildings are made available to communities and to winegrowing and winemaking or cultural institutions, providing them with new, high-quality capacities for visitor reception, interpretation and retail sales. Restoration works consistent with the existing urban and village housing is encouraged.

The conservation and tending of the vines is carried out on an everyday basis by the winegrowers. They are supported and guided by professional associations and their research centres. This is done by applying standards laid down for the controlled appellations. There are also collective programmes for parasite and disease eradication, such as the planned measures for combating *flavescence dorée*.

ICOMOS considers that the general state of conservation of the property is adequate, and that the conservation measures adopted are generally effective.

Management

Management structures and processes, including traditional management processes

There are many and varied partners in the property's management. For the public institutions, the main ones are:

- The Ministry of Culture and Heritage and its regional agency;
- The Ministry of Agriculture and its regional and provincial departments;
- At the regional level: the Region itself coordinates regional development through its Environment, Agriculture, Culture and Tourism departments, and regional planning and construction; it is also involved in conservation through the Cultural Heritage and Landscape Protection Department, and the Architecture and Landscape Heritage Department;
- The Planning, Economic and Social Development, Agriculture and Culture departments of Alessandria, Asti and Cuneo provinces;
- The 29 property municipalities and the local development agencies.

The professional, association and private stakeholders are as follows:

- The winemaking and traditional agriculture associations; the professional associations for farmers, merchants and artisans; the chambers of commerce;
- The individual farmers, winegrowers and winemakers; the cooperative production bodies and the large wine houses; industries and commercial enterprises associated with winegrowing;
- Hotel and tourism infrastructure companies and shops; tourist offices;
- Stakeholders in oenological culture, museums, heritage guides, etc.; owners of cultural sites (castles, cellars or historic wineries, etc.);
- Specialist cultural associations and structures; environmental protection associations;
- Dioceses and church representatives.

overarching structure for the The property's management and coordination, and for dialogue between the stakeholders, is the Association instituted in February 2011. It currently has 84 institutional and professional members. Its missions are to monitor the implementation of the Management Plan, hold regular meetings between the various stakeholders, establish the documents and management launch their implementation, ensure coordination of services with the ministries and the Region, and to manage communication, information and external relations. For the time being, the Association is chaired by the provincial presidents. It has a Management Committee, a Scientific Committee, a General Assembly open to all partners, and a more recently established Technical Department. Its headquarters are in Asti and it has two regional offices in Alessandria and Cuneo. The region and the provinces have placed qualified staff at its disposal amounting to around 15 people (2012). Since its inception (as the Nomination Steering Committee), the Association has held more than 150 working meetings. It currently organises between 25 and 30 events of all kinds annually.

ICOMOS considers that an overall management system for all the components of the serial property is in place, constituted by the Association, ensuring coordination between them and the many institutional, professional, associative and private stakeholders. This institution is essentially founded on the good will of each of the partners, and its power is essentially incentivising in nature, as it has neither regulatory power nor the direct management of the properties, which remains in the hands of the Region, provinces and municipalities. Its main powers lie in the Agreement Act whereby the municipalities agree to the conservation and management plan for the properties in their territory, and in its property monitoring mission, but the municipalities do not seem to be adequately represented in the governing bodies of the Association at present.

The State Party and the Piedmont Region have various forecasting and risk surveillance tools, and local and provincial structures which can intervene in emergencies. They consist notably of the forest fire prevention and management plan, flooding risk control programmes, and civil security plans. The plans, which may be at regional or provincial level, are supported locally by the cooperation of the various local authorities, their technical departments and their security and intervention teams.

Policy framework: management plans and arrangements, including visitor management and presentation

The 2008 inter-municipal *Agreement Act*, established under the dual guardianship of the Ministry of Culture and Heritage and the Piedmont Region, provided a general framework for the drafting of the management and conservation Plan for the property. Today it is a charter constituting a commitment by the municipalities, Region and provinces to apply the plan.

The *Management Plan* sets out the strengths and weaknesses of the management of the property. Various negative elements emerge, such as the hydrogeological conditions, the large number of partners, the seasonality of tourism and the weakness of public transport facilities. The plan is based on around thirty sector plans, both current and pending, notably those already examined for the property's landscape conservation under the auspices of a Protection and conservation plan. The plan sets out to provide information and tools that are adapted for use by the stakeholders, and to reinforce best practices. It is of a contractual nature, and it is planned to extend it to cover the management of the buffer zones.

Involvement of the local communities

In conservation terms, local community involvement consists mainly of the everyday involvement of winegrowers and winemakers in managing their vines and cellars. However, it would be beneficial to reinforce the presence of the municipalities in the Association, and to incorporate into the Association some professional representatives.

ICOMOS considers that the setting up of the Association as the overarching property management authority, the Agreement Act and the Management Plan constitute significant advances in the management of the property. It is however necessary to reinforce the institutional power of the Association by providing it with relevant financial and staffing resources. It is also necessary to ensure better coordination between the projects put forward by different communities and to consolidate them financially. Many of the projects seem not to have got beyond the stage of intentions, and take the form of studies, without any real commitments being made.

ICOMOS considers that the management system for the overall serial property is adequate, particularly now that the management Association has been set up, but that its resources should be reinforced, and its representativity extended to include the municipalities and socio-professional groups. ICOMOS recommends that the Management Plan projects should be better coordinated, and that a clear distinction should be drawn between those actually approved and those merely at the project stage.

6 Monitoring

The property has long benefited from several regular monitoring systems, by various institutions, in the different fields of its traditional management (agriculture, nature, monuments, habitat, etc.); others, such as the landscape monitoring, are more recent:

- The *Winegrowing Observatory* monitors technical and plant health questions for winegrowers and winemakers;
- Listed monuments, vernacular heritage and the Piedmont rural habitat are monitored by the services of the Ministry of Culture and by the Region's heritage departments;
- The other urban and rural building stock is monitored by the municipal services through the implementation of the local town plans;
- Three landscape observatories have been established for the property itself in Monferrato Casalese, Monferrato Astigiano and Langhe-Roero; they work with the European network of Mediterranean Landscape Observatories;
- The Piedmont region provides monitoring in the following areas: geomorphology, hydraulic resources, and land use;
- Specialist regional environmental agencies monitor climatic and environmental factors, and the state of conservation of the natural heritage;
- A forest and environment institute provides soils and forestry monitoring.

As part of the property's Management plan, a set of indicators has been defined, grouping together and complementing the tasks of the organisations listed above. The indicators are divided into broad categories, in accordance with the inventory and assessment operations, and are in most cases monitored annually:

- Environmental components:
 - Natural, ecological and biodiversity value of environments,
 - Surface areas under vines;
- Historic and cultural components:
 - Historic evolution of the vineyards (baseline 1884),
 - Use of native grape varieties,
 - Training of personnel,
 - Vineyard and wine-related cultural and festive events,
 - Tourism development aspects,
- Landscape components:
 - Panoramic viewpoints,
 - Conservation and rehabilitation projects with landscape impacts.

The coordination of the monitoring of the properties, the compilation of the results and the drawing up of reports on the state of conservation are carried out by the Association's technical department.

ICOMOS considers it necessary to divide the current indicator no. 2 into three clearly identified main areas, each with appropriate sub-indicators, for example: socioprofessional data relating to winegrowing and winemaking, conservation of cultural elements and tourism. ICOMOS considers that the monitoring system is generally adequate, but that the indicators should be reorganised, and made more coherent in relation to the various aspects considered.

7 Conclusions

ICOMOS considers that the Outstanding Universal Value of the Vineyard Landscape of Piedmont: Langhe-Roero and Monferrato has been demonstrated, notably by taking into account the decision adopted by the World Heritage Committee when this property was first examined (36 COM 8B.32). The scope of the property has been refocused on the most important and significant components, which clearly contribute to the serial property's outstanding universal value. Furthermore, urban and built components (Nizza Monferrato, Canelli) directly related to ancestral technical and commercial expertise or major landmarks in the history of the vineyards (Grinzane Cavour Castle) have been taken into account in the new definition of the serial property.

8 Recommendations

Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the Vineyard Landscape of Piedmont: Langhe-Roero and Monferrato, Italy, be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (iii) and (v)**.

Recommended Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Brief synthesis

The vineyard landscapes of Langhe-Roero and Monferrato in Piedmont consist of a selection of five distinct winegrowing areas and a castle, whose names evoke profound and ancient expertise in the relationship between man and his environment. They reflect a slowly developed association between a diverse range of soils, grape varieties that are often native, and suitable winemaking processes. They offer panoramas of carefully cultivated hillsides, following ancient land divisions punctuated with buildings that lend structure to the visual space: hilltop villages, castles, Romanesque churches, farms, ciabots, cellars and storehouses for cellaring and for the commercial distribution of the wine in the small towns and larger towns on the margins of the vineyards. The serial property is outstanding for its harmony, and the balance between the aesthetic qualities of its landscapes, the architectural and historical diversity of the built elements associated with the wine production activities and an authentic and ancient art of winemaking.

Criterion (iii): The cultural landscapes of the Piedmont vineyards provide outstanding living testimony to winegrowing and winemaking traditions that stem from a long history, and that have been continuously improved and adapted up to the present day. They bear witness to

an extremely comprehensive social, rural and urban realm, and to sustainable economic structures. They include a multitude of harmonious built elements that bear witness to its history and its professional practices.

Criterion (v): The vineyards of Langhe-Roero and Monferrato constitute an outstanding example of man's interaction with his natural environment. Following a long and slow evolution of winegrowing expertise, the best possible adaptation of grape varieties to land with specific soil and climatic components has been carried out, which in itself is related to winemaking expertise, thereby becoming an international benchmark. The winegrowing landscape also expresses great aesthetic qualities, making it into an archetype of European vineyards.

Integrity

The integrity of the serial property is satisfactory, as it contains all the elements required for full expression of its values. Considered as a whole, its five components fully express the cultural, residential, architectural, environmental and productive complexity of this winegrowing and winemaking region. It bears witness to an ensemble of centuries-old traditions that have gradually been built up. The integrity of the nominated serial property is fully justified, and all the technical and social processes associated with grape production and winemaking, with a high degree of expertise, are properly illustrated.

Authenticity

The authenticity of the landscape elements and the many cultural elements of the serial property has been justified. The use of the soils, the built structures and the social organisation of all the stages of the winemaking process, from tending and harvesting the grapes to vinification, are an expression of continuity of ancient practices and expertise to form authentic ensembles in each component of the serial property. The Piedmont vineyard landscape is undoubtedly one of the most harmonious and most consistent with the ideal of a "scenic" rural and vineyard landscape, accentuated by the gently rolling hills that provide many vistas and panoramas with subtle nuances.

Management and protection requirements

The property is protected under the Cultural Heritage and Landscape Code (Decree n°42 of 22 January 2004), under the responsibility of the Cultural Heritage Ministry and its regional agencies. It defines the responsibilities of the public regional and local authorities and the application procedures. The municipalities regulate and control permits for building and alterations. They do so with reference to municipal regulatory plans and urban development plans. The protection of the buffer zones has been confirmed by the Provincial Act of 30 September 2013. The Management Association groups together the municipalities covered by the serial property and buffer zones, under the authority of the Region for the purpose of coordinating the conservation measures. This results in the implementation of precisely defined programmes, gathered together in the Management Plan. The Agreement Act embodies the commitment of each municipality and each administration to apply the protection measures and the sector conservation plans, and to actively participate in the management and enhancement of the property.

Additional recommendations

ICOMOS further recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

- Improving the representation of the municipalities and of socio-professional bodies within the Association;
- Strengthening the financial and staff resources of the Association;
- Paying greater attention to the social values that make an important contribution to the management and conservation of the property: winegrowers, companies and workers, winegrowing and winemaking trade organisations, the transmission of expertise and know-how, popular traditions, etc.;
- Ensuring better coordination between the projects in the Management Plan put forward by different municipalities and consolidate them financially;
- Reorganising the conservation monitoring indicators, and make them more coherent with regard to the different parts of the nomination.



Map showing the boundaries of the nominated properties



Langa of Barolo



Grinzane Cavour Castle



Hills of Barbaresco



Nizza Monferrato and Barbera – Historic Centre of Nizza Monferrato



Canelli and Asti Spumante - cellar in Calosso



Monferrato of the Infernot