

## State of Conservation Report

# Tokaj Wine Region Historic Cultural Landscape (Hungary) (1063)

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2002*

*Criteria: (iii) (v)*

*Area of the World Heritage property: 13,255 ha, buffer Zone: 74,879 ha*



**Budapest**

**November 2023**

## 1. Executive Summary

Hungary is a State Party to the World Heritage Convention which has long been committed to its implementation, and where a well-functioning management system ensures the safeguarding of the outstanding universal value of the Hungarian World Heritage sites and their attributes. The management system is based on the highest level legislative elements, in particular the Act LXXVII of 2011 on World Heritage and the 335/2019. (XII. 23.) Government Decree including detailed provisions for the implementation of the World Heritage Act, the Act LXIV of 2001 on the Protection of Cultural Heritage, and the Act LIII of 1996 on the Protection of Nature. In addition, legislation of other sectors, such as mining, spatial planning and regional development contain provisions ensuring the protection of the OUV of World Heritage sites as well. For the Tokaj Wine Region Historic Cultural Landscape (hereinafter referred to as the Property), the above is completed by the 485/2016 (XII. 28.) Government Decree on the World Heritage Management Plan of the site.

The implementation of the management plan, and as part of this, the day-to-day contact and communication with all the stakeholders, is ensured by the designated site management organisation, the Tokaj Wine Region Development Nonprofit Ltd., in close cooperation with the Ministry of Construction and Transport.

The Outstanding Universal Value of the "Tokaj-Hegyalja Historic Wine Region Cultural Landscape" – which was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2002 under cultural criteria – is represented by its thousand-year-old, yet still living wine culture, the landscape character that has been formed in interaction with the wine culture, the rich and diverse cultural heritage of the region, the socio-cultural, ethnic and religious diversity of the Tokaj-Hegyalja population and the special reputation of "tokaji aszú" wines. The OUV also includes a special combination of environmental factors, such as the climatic and environmental conditions that have influenced the development of a unique form of viticulture and winemaking, and the historic network of wine cellars, consisting of cut, pitted and excavated cellars carved by hand into volcanic rocks of the vineyards, villages, small towns of the Tokaj mountain valleys.

The construction of the Minaro (previously Grand) Hotel Tokaj in an abandoned mine of the Csurgó valley near Tokaj town was permitted by the regional authorities in full compliance with all relevant legislation elements. The procedure was supervised by the competent national authorities, namely the Prime Minister's Office and from May 2022, the Ministry of Construction and Transport. In the light of the planning documentation and the necessary background studies, the regional construction authority has concluded that the project is not expected to have an adverse effect on the OUV of the Property.

A four-season, closed cabin cable car lift is planned to be constructed for tourism purposes on the Tokaj Hill, inside the Property. In accordance with the relevant national legislation, the investor was requested to prepare a detailed World Heritage Impact Assessment that

was sent to the World Heritage Centre for a Technical Review by ICOMOS International on 5 July 2023.

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This Report, providing comprehensive information on the state of conservation of the World Heritage site, demonstrates the openness for dialogue and the commitment of the State Party to the Convention, and to its provisions.

Hungary believes that the World Heritage sites have to be utilised, presented and developed in a sustainable manner, contributing to the public policy while preserving their outstanding national and universal values. Thus the State Party makes every effort possible in order to properly ensure - as set out in the Convention - that the developments shall not cause the decrease of the Outstanding Universal Value and its deterioration, and shall not endanger the authenticity and integrity of their properties.

Based on the content of the hereby presented State of Conservation Report, the State Party trusts that the World Heritage Centre's concerns will be eased and reassurance will be provided that the Tokaj-Hegyalja Historic Wine Region Cultural Landscape is being preserved efficiently and is not in danger of losing its authenticity and integrity.