LE COLLINE DEL PROSECCO DI CONEGLIANO E VALDOBBIADENE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
State party:
Italy

State, province or Region:
The site is located within the administrative boundaries of the Veneto Region and lies entirely in the Province of Treviso.

Name of Property:
Le Colline del Prosecco di Conegliano e Valdobbiadene

Geographical coordinates to the nearest second:
Central point of the site
Longitude: 45°94'84.84'' N
Latitude: 12°17'53.03'' E

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The property is located in the northern area of the province of Treviso, in the Veneto Region, and covers an area of 18967.25 ha. The nominated property has been historically marked by its geomorphology and the inclination of its sites, characterized by a diverse patchwork of vineyards, churches, villages and natural areas, and includes four main towns, Conegliano (to the southeast), Pieve di Soligo (to the southwest), Valdobbiadene (to the west), Vittorio Veneto (to the northeast).

The core zone perimeters have been defined on the basis of these natural features and their intertwining with history dating back to the 12th century, therefore, they don't take into account the administrative boundaries of the site, but coincide with:

• the valleys that separate the hills from the Pre-Alps to the North;
• the Piave River to the West;
• the bottom of the foothills to the great Po Valley to the Southeast.

Within this area there are preserved architectural elements and settlements dating back to the Middle Ages that are testament not only to the historical events that have afflicted the area but also to the age-old rural community's vocation for working this steep and difficult terrain. The castles, forts, abbeys, churches, forests and farmland as portrayed in 14th century paintings and in the works of Cima da Conegliano, have been preserved here where they alternate with vineyards on steep slopes. The site, which today makes up almost the entire DOCG production area, has for decades been subject to strict safeguards in the form of architectural, landscape and hydro-geological restrictions also due to the presence of Natura 2000 network priority habitats, so continuing the need to protect the "beauty of one's native landscape", the individual and collective conscience of its inhabitants, as so well described in the verses of Andrea Zanzotto, among the great poets of the 20th century landscape.

These measures are reflected in the stringent regulations adopted on regional and local levels by the Veneto Region and municipalities that strictly limit transformation and equate to a widespread feeling of community within a network of more than a thousand wine cellars operating in the area, in the interests of a difficult terrain whose millennial adaptation has become a vehicle of wellbeing and redemption.

The buffer zone covers 9769.80 ha and it is situated in the valleys opposite the slopes of the Pre-Alps. Characterized by lower elevations in respect to the hogbacks, the buffer zone was selected taking into consideration the history of the viticulture that gradually moved from the landri towards the higher elevation of the hogbacks.

Designed to absorb the pressures caused by future economic and social development in order to safeguard the integrity of the hills, the buffer zone is also subject to numerous functional restrictions in order to ensure the hydro-geological preservation of the site and its ecosystem services, as well as to certain limitations regarding the processing of land into vineyards – known as the DOC production area – that are less stringent due to the less fragile character of low lying terrain, but which are also subject to the preparation of a work plan for example, by each individual farmer which is then subject to approval by the regional authorities.

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The nominated property includes the parts of municipal territories of Valdobbiadene, Vidor, Mareno, Farra di Soligo, Pieve di Soligo, Follina, Cison di Valmarino, Refrontolo, San Pietro di Feletto, Revine Lago, Tarzo, Vittorio Veneto.

The buffer zone also includes, in addition to the remaining territories of the municipalities only partially included in the nominated property, the municipalities of Susacca, Conegliano, San Vendemiano.

The Commitment zone include the territories of the municipalities of Segusino, Montego della Battaglia, Serraglia della Battaglia, Santa Lucia di Piave, Mareno di Piave, Vazzola, Codognè, San Fior, Godega Sernaglia della Battaglia, Santa Lucia di Piave, Marzamemi, municipalities of Segusino, Moriago della Battaglia, the local government areas of Susegana, Conegliano, San Vendemiano.

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Criteria under which property is nominated

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 nominated property is a prime example of a viticulture landscape resulting from the harmonious co-evolution and man and nature, characterized by a geomorphologic hogback system inhabited and cultivated for centuries. The landscape of the area is the result of a process of transformation and adaptation, carried out since the 17th century, whose production is still today based on viticulture, carried out by hand on the fragile 

over time, thanks to time-tested technologies and traditional know-how, such as the distinctive checkerboard pattern with rows parallel and vertical to the slopes, or the specific training of the vines such as the “bellussera”, developed by local farmers in the 19th century, contributing to the aesthetic value of the landscape. The singular heterogeneity of the mosaic landscape results from the combination of historical and ongoing environmental and land use processes. The result is a mosaic landscape where the plots dedicated to vineyards, established on 

criterion, coexist with forest patches in an organic system, respectful to the soil and the topography. The patches of vineyards are often connected to one another by small woodlands, hedges, rows of trees that serve also as corridors connecting different habitats. In the hogbacks, small villages are scattered along the narrow valleys or perched on the crests. The result is a harmonious landscape with

outstanding scenic values that maintains a delicate environmental and functional balance.

b) Justification for Criteria

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with perpendicular rows of high vines interlacing and creating a distinguishing image. Moreover, to this aspect, the training methods contribute to the definition of a particular landscape, as the shoulder system coexist with the unique bellussero training system developed in the area about 1880. The landscape is a complex agricultural patchwork of vineyards and scattered rural settlements, interspaced by forests, small woods, strips and linear vegetal elements, shaped in a characteristic mosaic. The social and historical aspects are also reflected in this mosaic pattern, connected to the sharecropping system, the type of agrarian contract developed in this area around 1880. Despite dramatic social, economic and environmental changes occurred in the last five centuries, the small size of the properties, typical of sharecropping, remained almost unchanged, contributing to maintain the fine-grained mosaic landscape of the cultivated areas.

c) Statement of Integrity

The boundaries of the property are of adequate size to contain all the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value needed to demonstrate the processes that make this a unique and significant property. Despite the challenges it has faced such as pests, wars, poverty and marginalization and other upheavals that have affected European viticulture, the nominated property has succeeded in maintaining the main attributes in a good state of conservation. The vineyards, the ciglioni and the urban and architectural elements are in general well maintained. In fact, the diachronic analysis developed for the years 1960 and 2015 - the period where most of the agricultural industrialization occurred and the highest percentage of historical rural landscapes where lost in Italy - shows that the extension of the ciglioni in the area has only been slightly reduced. In the landscape mosaic, the area covered by forest has increased slightly, although still the environmental and functional balance is maintained. Ecological processes are correct and there is no major threat in this sense except for climate change that is being conveniently addressed by the management system on place.

Agricultural techniques are also maintained and are representative and sustainable being the vines harvested by hand and with families engaged in growing and harvesting. A complete range of monuments and vernacular buildings that are representative of the different historical phases are still testimony of the site’s integrity.

The property is not threatened by urban sprawl or industrialization, since the steep slopes do not allow these kinds of developments and thanks to the protection and management system.

d) Statement of Authenticity

The main attributes of the nominated property relate to a unique natural landscape that has been shaped and modelled by a characteristic agricultural system. These attributes can be considered well documented through different sources such as inventories or censuses. For example, the documented existence of ciglioni since the 16th-17th century confirm this attribute as one of the most relevant elements expressing the historical and cultural value of this landscape. The historical and social origins of the characteristic landscape mosaic based on the sharecropping system are also documented and can be traced back to the first land registries in the 18th century. The link between the development of rural society and the territory can also be seen in the abbey, convent, castles, the formation of legal and voluntary charters, the forest vegetation is protected by the forest regulations included in the National Code for Cultural Heritage, the degree of naturalness according the ecology of the landscape and the economic needs of the inhabitants.

The protection of the rural landscape is primarily linked to the plans and planning processes developed by the local authorities – the Regione Veneto, Provincia di Treviso – which support and guarantee the participation of all stakeholders through a specific Regional Law (N° 45/2017 – dated 29.12.2017). According to the landscape value of the site, the local planning led to the blocking of the construction of new production areas and buildings in the agricultural zone not strictly necessary for the working of agricultural land, the protection of historic centers and the local landscapes as well as the protection of environmental assets, habitats, and the ecological network (Natura 2000); the reduction of hydro-geological and seismic risks. All the planning process is focused on the achievement of a balance between the preservation of historical identity features, the degree of naturalness according the ecology of the landscape and the economic needs of the inhabitants.

NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION

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