



Mámoreos Hills

Proceeding up the Bodrog river, the almost parallel valleys lead us into higher lands. Traditional coopers make barrels here for the Tokaj wine, using the outstanding oak wood from these forests. Many barrels are filled up with wine here, for new wine workshops still occupy the terraced stone houses and cellars of former winegrowers and merchants. The two unique cellars built 7 or 8 hundred years ago in Tolcsva, forming part of the World Heritage (especially the collection of heritage wines) offer world-class experiences. The rows of decanters 20, 50, 100 or even 400 years old, encapsulate amber-colored nectar, the bottles covered in noble mold, and it is astounding to even think that we cannot taste what they enclose. You can taste wine in other places, and also find lodging, not only around the musical–wine–cultural festivals. These festivals offer experience to those interested in all things ranging from family ecotourism to noisier concerts. Speaking of eco-tourism: one can also find here stables, a petting zoo, and the settlement of Komlóska that functions as an eco-village whilst still keeping its Ruthenian traditions, with a sustainability center accessible to those interested in back to nature solutions, and to everyone who is delighted by the scenery of mountains criss-crossed by valleys.



Photo: József Á. Tóth



Photo: Matild Baloghné dr. Kovács



Photo: Péter Németh



Photo: József Á. Tóth



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Photo: József Á. Tóth



Photo: Hella-D Herbal House

The list of wine tasting places in the region:

- the heritage site of the Synagogue in Olaszliszka and the tower of the Catholic church built in the 14th century as a military guard tower, provided with balcony and buttresses
- crossing the six-arched bridge in Vámosújfalu
- the cooper's workshops in Erdőbénye, the program series of the "Bor, Mámor, Bénye wine festival", and the tarn
- visiting the world heritage cellars in Tolcsva, the wine festival, the Hella-D Herbal House and the exhibitions of the Constantin House
- tasting special round pretzels in Erdőhorváti
- the Ruthenian country home in Komlóska; wandering the Telér educational trail, trying out the fresh marmalades at the Sustainability Center



Towns at the peak

There are cellars at the north-eastern tip of the wine region, Sátoraljaújhely and in Sárospatak; moreover, at nearby Herceggút; and these are all designated sub-centers of the world heritage region – though, all three towns have their own faces. Sátoraljaújhely, the former county seat, commemorates Lajos Kossuth and Ferenc Kazinczy. Széphalom, under its chiefdom, the cradle of today's Hungarian language, also takes care of it by means of an interactive museum. The adventure park exploiting the opportunities mountains provide, is home to modern adventurers. The Calvinist boarding school, the memory of Saint Elizabeth who was born here, its art scene, and the Rákóczi Castle make Sárospatak unforgettable. These exhibitions and the events held in the town offer sophisticated entertainment. The beauties of the Megyer Hill tarn is world-famous, and its Végardó bath guarantees excellent recreation. The country home in Herceggút preserves its Swabian roots, and even the Days of the Open Cellars is in a Swabian style, not only because of the folk dance but also the gastronomy.



Photo: József Á. Tóth



Photo: József Á. Tóth



Photo: Ferenc Törhös



Photo: József Á. Tóth



Photo: Museum of the Hungarian Language



Photo: Zemplén Adventure Park

The list of wine tasting places in the region:

- the Museum of the Hungarian Language and the Ferenc Kazinczy Memorial Hall in Széphalom
- besides record-breaking aspects in the Zemplén Adventure Park: the longest chair-lift in the country, sliding race track or bob track
- Hungarian Calvary, baroque county archives, the Prison Museum in Sátoraljaújhely – and the Ungvár cellars as part of the world heritage site
- Sárospatak with the Rákóczi Castle and its exhibitions, the Rákóczi Cellar, the Castle Church, the Calvinist Boarding School and Library, the Saint Elizabeth Feast at Pentecost, the Wine Festival, the Cultural House designed by Imre Makovecz, and the tarn at Megyer Hill
- the cellars at Kőporos and Gombos Hill in Herceggút
- events of the Zemplén Festival in several settlements of the Zemplén region



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Photo: Zoltán Bihari



In the Tokaj region, everything is about Aszú wines, or at least wine. Not absolutely everything is about wines, but somehow, everything here manages to intersect with them somehow. Just as we may climb the Kopasz Hill beside Tokaj for its astounding views, or ski on it in the wintertime or paraglide in the summertime – there, on its slopes, rows of vines meander. The youngest generations of the great traditional winemaker families, or newer specialists choosing Hegyalja for its respected traditions, are all reconstituting varietal wines, based at centuries-old mansions, and they are also setting up modern wineries into the landscape. Besides this, various festivals partnered up with grape harvest processions, where figures in traditional dress rub shoulders with regular vineyard tours or even e-quads or Segway tours. Besides the artisanal gourmet foods offered by family wineries, excellent chefs keep finding new variations to local ingredients. And as we move away from the center of the wine region, the very rivers and the hills offer more and more possibilities for rest or even adventure.



Photo: Péter Németh



Photo: József Erdős



In Foothills, Amidst Waters

Szerencs has always been called the gateway of Hegyalja – and now, the World Heritage Portal is standing here, indeed, it is now a touristic reception building. By setting off to the North from the original town of the Rákóczi family, now famed for chocolate, we reach a line of hills, and we pass further into the world heritage region of Tokaj-Hegyalja. Wines faithful to traditions or even providing quality to the taste of the era may be tasted in century-old cellars with hand-carved walls covered sporting 'noble mold'; and here one can also ascertain what a long path connects fruity young wines to specialty wines. Between a glass or two, one may taste local artisanal cheese, our vintners prove to be great hosts. Tasters may join various vineyard tours and you can also enjoy traditional home-made dinner and lodging in renovated rooms of distinctly Hegyalja-style houses once inhabited by noblemen or wealthy merchants. Szerencs is also a gateway to Taktaköz. Departing to the south from the town, one reaches lowland landscapes criss-crossed by waters, adored by bikers and anglers. Among the pastoral landscapes and country homes, travelers may perceive what life was like in the former 'pantry' of the Zemplén region.



Photo: paprikaproject.com



Photo: Miklós Horváth



Photo: Zoltán Bihari



Photo: Szerencsi News



Photo: József Á. Tóth



The list of wine-tasting places in this region:

- at Rákóczi Castle in Szerencs, the exhibition showing a collection of 900,000(!) topical postcards at the Zemplén Museum; see also artisanal chocolates and the Chocolate Festival
- at Lajos Kossuth's family home in Monok; see also the Monoki Babfesztivál (Monok Bean Festival)
- at the ancient Collection of Hungarian Escutcheons in Golop
- at the exhibition in the Mailloth Castle in Tállya and the Kerekdomb Festival
- at the German ethnicity country home in Rátka; see also the Rátkai Töltött Káposzta Fesztivál (Cabbage Roll Festival)
- at the beautifully renovated synagogue in Mád; see also the exhibition of the pilgrimage of the Way of the Rabbis of Wonder starting off from the old Rabbi House; also at the Furmint House; see also the Furmint Festival
- the Tokaj-Hegyalja Market and Foreleg Ham Festival arranged in the parking lot of the Yellow Winehouse near Mezőzombor
- at the Zsigmond Móricz Memorial Cottage in Prügy



Aszú wines around the Kopasz Hill

Looking out from the peak of the Kopasz Hill or the Dereszla in Bodrogkeresztúr, the landscape providing "liquid gold" is bounteous: the basin is bordered by the Bodrog and Tisza rivers, with the domes of dormant volcanos beyond. Not only does this fascinating landscape radiate inimitable atmosphere, but it echoes to the visitor with the life that has been built upon it, be they young or old, with family, friends or loved ones, seeking quiet or adventure. One may now live in a castle hotel, new accommodation provided in old manors or in modern campsites. Specialty wines may be tasted in special cellars, some narrow, others providing space enough for horse-drawn carriages, others labyrinthine, during wine events or not. Perhaps such a visit would be a fine closure to the experiences one had in a performance at the "Festival Valley". Here, even marmalade and vinegar are made from local wine or grapes, and each year the 'Wine Boat' is launched again on the water.

Enjoy the settlements, wineries or vineyards surrounding the historical wine region by wine bus, bike, boat, or even in a virtual way, or by travelling in time, enabled by conventional and interactive exhibitions.



Photo: Matild Baloghné dr. Kovács



Photo: Péter Németh



Photo: Miklós Horváth



Photo: János László

The list of wine tasting places in the region:

- the World Heritage Wine Museum and the Tokaj Museum, the Szerelmi Pincesor (Row of Love Cellars), performances at the "Festival Valley", Tokaj Wine Days and Tokaj Harvest Days
- At the statue of Blessed Christ and the Theresa Chapel
- the Treasury in Bodrogkeresztúr, the Wine Vinegar Manufacture Center, the Memorial House of Great Rabbi Reb Steiner Saje, and at the Fete in the Month of All-Hallows
- around the sheltered world of Bodrogzug
- also: try out a pleasure boat, kayak, canoe, jet-ski or other craft at the party point in the port of Bodrogkisfalud
- the two-storied cellar with its tunnel of nearly 5 kilometers, the longest in the region (and in Central Eastern Europe) in Szegi
- Ecotourism Visitor's Center in Szegilong



Photo: Zoltán Bihari



Photo: Szilárd Csáki



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