

Hungarians consider themselves a winemaking nation. Although it is rare to find Hungarian wines at European markets, 90 per cent of what the nation's own supermarkets offer is local in origin. Following waves of privatization in 1989, and responding to the growing demand for fine wine, vintners, businessmen, and international investors have founded dozens of high-quality wineries in recent decades. Architects, often inspired by traditional techniques and forms, also used this opportunity to renew conventional typologies and reveal new relationships between the wineries and the surrounding landscape. Vineyards proved to be fruitful terrain for experimentation: among the wineries built since 2000, two have been selected as the world's best industrial building.

Variations on tradition

HUNGARY — TEXT: DÁNIEL KOVÁCS AND LEVENTE POLYÁK, ILLUSTRATION: SYLVAIN TEGROEG

Wineries have been established in the Carpathian basin since Roman times, and so architects and builders of many generations have been engaged in designing for the needs of winemakers, with complexes like the 1200-unit cellar row of Hajós in the Hungarian Plains. While local wine cultures were pushed into decline by socialist mass production, the democratic transition of 1989–1990 brought about crucial changes in the wine industry, with renovations and constructions in some regions, and with large-scale clearing and thinning of vineyards in others.

The primary target of investments has been the legendary Tokaj region; use of the 'Tokaj' trademark has been strictly regulated in recent years. The seven Hungarian wine regions and their corresponding 22 subregions were identified and established by law in 2004. With varied ambitions and success, some of them are catching up with the leading

Tokaj region. The past years have seen significant development around Lake Balaton, in the hills surrounding Budapest, and in the South Transdanubian areas, which offer specific microclimates. These developments inspired the construction of many new wineries, opening a new field of experimentation for architects.

Budapest and surroundings

The capital region's wine culture began to flourish in the 18th century, but accelerated urbanization and the grape phylloxera epidemic at the end of the 19th century quickly put an end to it. In the 20th century, winemaking was present mainly in allotment gardens around the city, but more recently the optimal conditions of the Etyek-Buda wine region were rediscovered. The wineries established here typically cater to tourism rather than industrial production. The region's upturn was pioneered by

the **Haraszthy Vallejo Winery (1)** in Etyek. Its typical, Mediterranean-style building adapts to local traditions in its use of materials (brick and freestone) and forms, but also claims its contemporariness.

The **Esterházy Etyeki Kúria Winery (2)** creates a different relationship with its context: although its proportions are reminiscent of the rural architectural tradition, its exposed concrete walls and large glass surfaces are clearly of an industrial nature. Through the glass panes, visitors can look into the bottling plant elevated above the old cellar, and rest at the terrace after passing by the observation room.

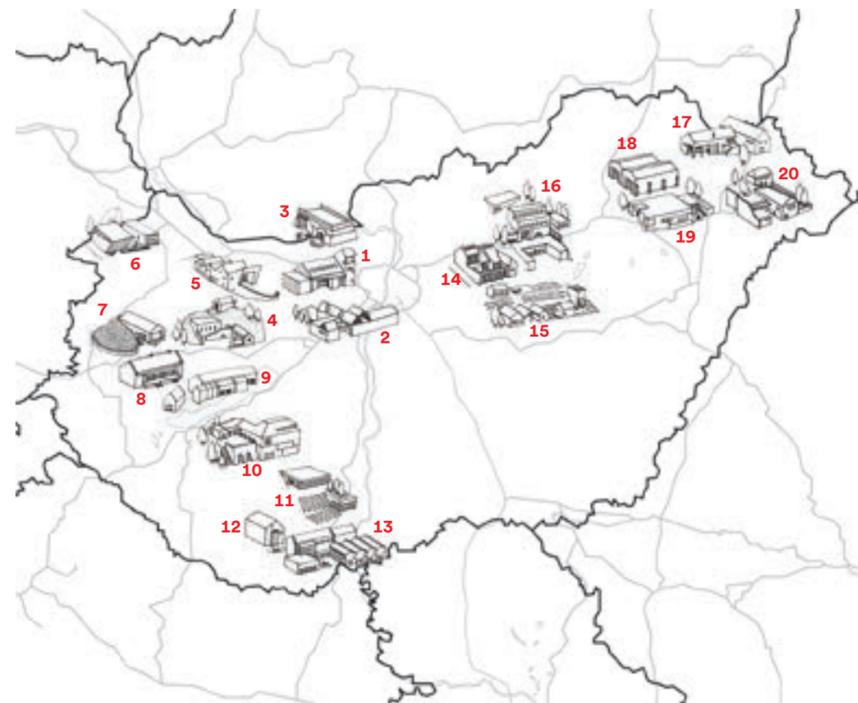
Fifty kilometres north of Budapest and overlooking the river Danube, Esztergom, once the kingdom's capital, is still the seat of the country's Roman Catholic cardinal. The town's wine cellar system, adjoining the early-19th-century Basilica, was renovated in the late 2000s. **Prímás Pince (3)**, with its huge ceilings and freestone and brick walls, along with an elegant and classic interior designed by Kima Studio and taat, now accommodates a wine museum, restaurant, and tourism centre.

Western Transdanubia

The Benedictine monastery of Pannonhalma, founded in 996, has become known in recent years for its consistently high-quality contemporary architecture. The Benedictine monks operating the monastery revived a historical tradition when, in the 2000s, they rebuilt the winery that was nationalized and gradually neglected after World War II. The **Abbey Winery Pannonhalma (4)** building, blending into the landscape with its archaic proportions and freestone coverage, was designed by CZITA, an office with several projects in the region.

The **Pécsinger Borászat (5)** is the new attraction of Győrújbarát, a village near the regional capital of Győr. Its designer, Dezső Ekler, is an important figure of contemporary Hungarian architecture; his earlier works include one of the nation's best-known wineries, the Disznókő Borászat, built in 1995. Very different from the organic forms and natural

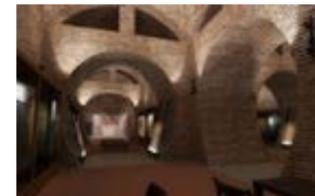
'The seven Hungarian wine regions and 22 subregions were identified and established by law in 2004.'



1 HARASZTHY VALLEJO WINERY (2003)
Architect: Schüller & Tsa
Address: Öreghegy, Etyek
Info: www.schullerdesign.com



2 ESTERHÁZY ETYEKI KÚRIA WINERY (2013)
Architect: BORD Architectural Studio
Address: Öreghegy, Etyek
Info: www.bordstudio.hu



3 PRIMÁS PINCE (2010)
Architects: Kima Studio, taat
Address: Szent István tér 4, Esztergom
Info: www.kimastudio.com, www.aatm.hu



4 ABBEY WINERY PANNONHALMA (2003)
Architect: CZITA Építész Iroda
Address: Vár 1, Pannonhalma
Info: www.czita.hu



5 PÉCSINGER WINERY (2014)
Architect: Ekler Architect
Address: Győrújbarát
Info: www.ekler-architect.hu



6 WENINGER WINERY (2008)
Architect: propeller z
Address: Fő utca 23, Balf
Info: www.propellerz.at



7 SZENT ILONA WINERY AND KREINBACHER CHAMPAGNE WINERY (2006, 2012)
Architect: Ekler Architect
Address: Somló hill, Somlóvásárhely
Info: www.ekler-architect.hu



8 GILVESY WINERY (2014)
Architect: SAGRA Architects
Address: Szent György hill
Info: www.sagra.hu



9 LAPOSA BAZALTBOR WINERY (2010)
Architect: PLANT – Atelier Péter Kis
Address: Badacsony Hill, Badacsonytomaj
Info: www.plant.co.hu



10 KONYÁRI VINEYARD (2004)
Architect: ZSK Architects
Address: Kiszeg, Balatonlelle
Info: www.zsk.hu



15 ALMAGYAR ARCHIEPISCOPAL WINE TERRACE, CAMPING & SPA (2014)
Architect: Gereben/Marián Architects
Address: Kistályai út 43, Eger
Info: www.g-m.hu



11 LAJVÉR WINERY (2014)
Architect: BORD Architectural Studio
Address: Szálka
Info: www.bordstudio.hu



12 SAUSKA WINERY (2007)
Architect: Péter Sugár
Address: Villány
Info: www.radiusbs.hu



13 CSÁNYI WINERY (2002)
Architect: NARTArchitects
Address: Ady Endre fasor, Villány
Info: www.nartarchitects.hu



14 GÁL TIBOR FUSION WINE CELLAR BAR AND BIKAVÉR MUSEUM (2014)
Architect: ARKT Architect Studio
Address: Csiky Sándor utca 10, Eger
Info: www.arkt.hu



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Address: Kistályai út 43, Eger
Info: www.g-m.hu



16 GRÓF BUTTLER WINERY (2014)
Architect: PLANT – Atelier Péter Kis
Address: Nagyköporos út 23-25, Eger
Info: www.plant.co.hu



17 BÉRES VINEYARDS AND WINERY (2006)
Architects: Anthony Gall, Tamás Pintér, Kata Csaba
Address: Lőcse-dűlő, Erdőbénye
Info: www.beresbor.hu



18 ROYAL WINERY (2009)
Architect: Csaba Bodonyi
Address: Rákóczi utca 35, Mád
Info: www.royal-tokaji.com



19 MOONVALLEY WINERY (2012)
Architect: BORD Architectural Studio
Address: Batthyány utca 69, Mád
Info: www.bordstudio.hu



20 FÜLEKY WINERY (2010)
Architect: Építész Stúdió
Address: Iskola köz 15, Bodrogkeresztúr
Info: www.epstudio.hu



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(Variations on tradition)

materials of Disznókő (inspired by Ekler's master, Imre Makovecz), the Pécsinger building, with its green walls, strong contours, and round windows, is far from the traditional image of a winery.

If Ekler's green, dragon-like building is an unexpected sight in the country's western plains, then the **Weninger Pincészet (6)** offers a similar surprise among the distinctive cube houses of Balf. The building of the Hungarian branch of the Burgenland-based Weninger family was designed by Propeller Z, an Austrian office: the hi-tech atmosphere of the metal-glass cubes forms a striking contrast, not only with the village's vernacular architecture, but also with the biodynamic idyll of the Weninger vineyard.

Balaton region

The six winemaking areas of the Balaton have all begun to flourish in recent years, as the lake region attempts to leave behind the state-socialist legacies of mass tourism. A recent development in the country's smallest, 1142-acre wine region is the **Szent Ilona Borászat** and **Kreinbacher Pezsgő Pincészet (7)** by Dezső Ekler. Integrated in the landscape's characteristic hills, the house-shaped buildings, bubble-like windows, and interiors evocative of tectonic movements have a strong metaphoric component.

The volcanic reference is by no means an end to itself: the Balaton Uplands owes its soil, excellent for viticulture, to extinct volcanoes. The remaining basalt hills, Szent György-hegy and Badacsony, are suitable locations for newly established wineries. At the foot of the former, **Gilvesy Pincészet (8)** was created through the reconstruction of a baroque building, keeping certain historical elements but emphasizing in the details its contemporariness. The **Laposa Bazaltbor Winery (9)** in Badacsony, evoking lava flows with its slightly broken axis and crafted concrete and metal skin, was awarded the best industrial building of 2010 by *ArchDaily* readers. The building, designed by Péter Kis, has proven to be very influential, generating one of the most salient debates about the relationship between building traditions and contemporary architecture.

At the Balaton's southern shore, only a few wineries managed to emancipate themselves from the devastating effects of socialist mass production. One of the area's pioneer institutions is the **Konyári Pincészet (10)** in Balatonlelle; although experimental in its masses and surfaces, the building presents itself as if it has been created over centuries.

Southern Transdanubia

The Pannon wine region, preserving medieval grape varieties, is organized around four towns: Szekszárd, Pécs, Tolna, and Villány. The region's old wine culture is embodied in the 450-year-old vine of Pécs's Papnövelde Street, which yields over 100 kilograms of grapes per year. There are, however, also recent developments in the region. The five-storey **Lajvér Winery (11)** built in Szálka, in the Szekszárd area, is almost entirely sunken into the ground, to optimally use geothermal heat and to keep the landscape intact. Meanwhile, the white horizontal building designed by Bord Stúdió evokes the aesthetics of classical modernism.

Within the region, the Villány area has developed more than its counterparts. This is partly due to the impact of the **Sauska Borászat (12)** designed by Péter Sugár. While the winery complex that includes a bottling facility and warehouses reveals its industrial function through its form, the buildings' organization, irregular Istrian limestone tiles, wooden porch roofs, and Mediterranean courtyard preserve its human scale. Another key piece of Villány's new wine architecture is the **Csányi Pincészet (13)**, whose warehouse evokes traditional row cellars. By contrast, the winery's main building, with its free-stone and brick facade, generates continuity with the built tissue of the town centre.

Eger

Eger, in north-east Hungary, is the home of the country's most famous red wine, Egri Bikavér ('Bull's Blood'). To celebrate this blend, local winemaker Tibor Gál added a **Bikavér Museum (14)** to his new fusion wine bar, organized around an 18th-century residential building and a closed courtyard. With its impressive interior design and complex spatial structure, the complex designed by the young architecture office ARKT has become one of the town's most popular locations.

Eger's other new architectural attraction also builds on wine tourism. With its restaurant and guest houses, the **Almagyar Archiepiscopal Wine Terrace (15)** invites visitors straight into the vineyard (see A10 #64). The three residential huts and the terrace building accommodating community functions were built using local tuff stone mixed with binders, wood, and brick. The complex received the Piranesi Award in 2014.

The new building of the **Gróf Buttler Winery (16)** also takes advantage of Eger's natural qualities. Built as an extension of the existing cellar carved into the rock wall, the spaces of this new building that leans against the hillside are almost completely situated below ground level. The building's polished stone facades create a stark contrast with the engraved rock surfaces.

Tokaj

Hungary's most famous wine is undoubtedly the Tokaji aszú, a dessert wine produced since the 17th century. Tokaj-Hegyalja, a World Heritage Site since 2002, owes its popularity to the volcanic soil, the particular microclimate, and the rare mould covering the walls of the cellars carved out of the rhyolite walls. Already in the 13th century, Italian and French settlers cultivated vineyards here, and it was the wine region that received the first foreign investments after the political transition in the late 20th century. While the region's development can be measured by the success of its wines, it also corresponds to the abundance of new constructions.

The **Béres Winery (17)** in Erdőbénye keeps the scale of traditional courtyard houses, as well as their harmonious relationship to the landscape. Designed by Australian architect Anthony Gall, mostly known as the researcher of Károly Kós (the most prominent architect of National Romanticism in Hungary), the winery complex follows local building traditions in covering the processing facility building with stone and the residential wing with plaster.

The **Royal Winery (18)** of Mád is characterized by timeless monumentality. Its facades, evoking the arrangements of traditional row cellars, are covered by green-grey rhyolite tuff and grey limestone bricks. The designer, Csaba Bodonyi, the Tokaj area's chief architect for 24 years, understood the wider implications of his building: he made a particular effort to integrate the complex into the town by moving spaces underground and using green roofs.

Another significant new building in Mád is the **Moonvalley Winery (19)**, located in the town's inner area. At the core of the complex lies a two-kilometre-long cellar system that is several centuries old, and an adjacent 19th-century residential building that was expanded into a visitor centre. To these structures, a new processing building was attached in 2012, whose dry-stock stone veneer makes a strong complement to the building's modern mass.

Finally, the **Füleky Winery (20)** in Bodrogkeresztúr is also based on a repurposed medieval residence. While the building's historical stone walls are crowned by an asymmetrical, stone-clad roof, the interiors are characterized by a clean, industrial atmosphere and exposed concrete. The building, accommodating reception and processing facilities, was chosen by *ArchDaily* readers as the best industrial building of 2011. ◀

IN THE NEXT ISSUE:

INTERCHANGE

ROTOR (BE) works on projects, events, and installations throughout Europe that question the value of existing materials and the meaning of such concepts as sustainability. Now the office has started its own demolition business, which recovers valuable materials and components, mainly from 20th-century buildings. It is a gap in the market that is also financially gainful. Maarten Gielen explains how it all came together.



↑ Rotor Deconstruction, 2015

READY

With a spectacular transformation of an existing museum, Studio Marco Vermeulen (NL), has contributed further to the model of what BioBased Building means. Rather than being demolished, the existing 1970s structure was filled in and expanded. Natural water purification using rhizofiltration and a biomass heating system are just two of the custom-designed sustainable installations. But Vermeulen thinks beyond the scale of the building alone. How is the museum is connected with its unique environment?



↑ Biesbosch Museum island in Werkendam

EUROVISION: MALTA

Malta is the smallest country in the EU, with just over 423,000 people occupying an area of 316 square kilometres, and also the most densely populated. The archipelago is punctuated by both a rich architectural history and more contemporary architectural work, such as Renzo Piano's Valletta City Gate. This contrast between very old and very new, as well as the need for extremely clever floor plans and facades in dense living areas, poses intriguing architectural dilemmas.



↑ Helena's Villa by Grech & Vinci Architecture & Design

SECTION

Building technology

...and much more. A10 #66 will be published 1 November 2015.