



Prosecco: A Contentious UNESCO World Heritage Nominee

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Pesticide Action Network (PAN)

- **PAN** is an **international network** of over 600 organisations in over 90 countries with five independent, collaborating regional centers.
- We work to replace the use of hazardous pesticides with ecologically sound and socially just alternatives.
- **PAN Europe** is the regional center in Europe and brings together 42 organisations from across Europe.
- **PAN Europe** campaigns at EU level for elimination of dependency on pesticides and promote non-chemical alternatives.
- **PAN Italy** is a member of PAN Europe working at local, regional, and national level.

Use of Toxic Pesticides in UNESCO World Heritage Sites



Why the fight on pesticides is important

Our health is at stake:

Pesticides hazardously effect people's health. Many pesticides are known for their risk to cause cancer, change DNA, or for their harm to reproduction.

Our environment is at stake:

Pesticides contaminate the **air, water, soil, and wildlife** which are also **COMMON GOODS**.

“Pesticides can persist in the environment for decades and pose a global threat to the entire ecological system upon which food production depends.” *UN Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, 2017*

UNESCO World Heritage Policy on Pesticides



- **There is no UNESCO World Heritage policy on pesticide use and NO criteria for candidate sites.**
- However, UNESCO recognizes **in more documents** that **use of pesticides can threaten** the very characteristics for which a property was inscribed on the World Heritage List.

Ascertained Danger

The property is faced with specific and proven imminent danger, such as:

A serious decline in the population of the endangered species or the other species of Outstanding Universal Value for which the property was legally established to protect, either by natural factors such as disease or by human-made factors such as poaching.

Severe deterioration of the natural beauty or scientific value of the property, as by human settlement, construction of reservoirs which flood important parts of the property, industrial and agricultural development including use of pesticides and fertilizers, major public works, mining, pollution, logging, firewood collection, etc.

(UNESCO World Heritage *Operational Guidelines*, paragraphs 179-180)

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- Known for its world famous sparkling wine, Prosecco DOCG in Treviso (Italy) has been nominated in 2017 to become a UNESCO World Heritage.
- The nomination of Prosecco DOCG has been highly contentious: the region is covered by vineyards with intensive wine production **where synthetic pesticides are intensely used.**



UNESCO World Heritage Vineyards and Wine Regions



- Burgundy terroir and climats (2015)
- Champagne Hillsides, Houses and Cellars (2015)
- Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir (2014)
- Vineyard Landscape of Piedmont: Langhe-Roero and Monferrato (2014)
- Lavaux, Vineyard Terraces (2007)
- Bordeaux, Port of the Moon (2007)
- Landscape of the Pico Island Vineyard Culture (2004)
- South Africa Cape Floral Region Protected Areas (2004)
- Upper Middle Rhine Valley (2002)
- Tokaj Wine Region Historic Cultural Landscape (2002)
- Alto Douro Wine Region (2001)
- The Loire Valley between Sully-sur-Loire and Chalonnes (2000)
- Wachau Cultural Landscape (2000)
- Historic Centre of Oporto (1996)

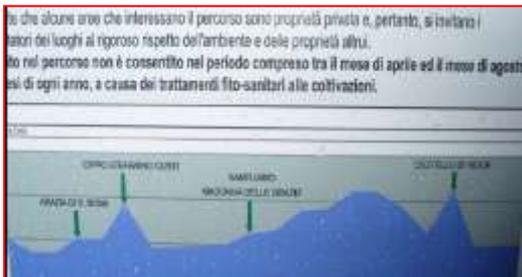
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ICOMOS EVALUATION REPORT 2018

ICOMOS notes that the success of Prosecco wines has encouraged agricultural **land-use intensification**, which may also **threaten the landscape**.

- ICOMOS also notes that the landscape outside the property is turning into a **wine-producing area on an industrial scale** that has severe effects on the integrity of the broader **cultural landscape**.



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- In July 2018, The UNESCO Commission discussed the recognition of Prosecco as a World Heritage.
- Despite **the initial evaluation proposed by ICOMOS was to “NOT INSCRIBE”** as the ICOMOS concluded that a compelling justification for Outstanding Universal Value **has not been demonstrated**.
- UNESCO World Heritage Assembly called for revision of the application dossier. The **final decision** will be taken at the World Heritage Annual Assembly **in July 2019 in Baku**.

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- The severity of environmental situation in the hills of DOCG prosecco is **ALARMING** also because hills strikes and deforestation!
- **Mining, logging and pesticides** are defined a “**threat**” by UNESCO.



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- Highly **toxic pesticides** (such as Clorpirifos) are intensively used, and in the 2018 Protocol, **155 types of synthetic pesticides** are allowed, **endangering** the **wellbeing** and **health** of the residents and the environment. **What kind of a World Heritage?!**
- Several torrents and ditches have been **polluted** with **emissions from the cellars** and with the death of the fish.



Local citizens are resisting!

Mass demonstrations



- The nomination of the region of Prosecco DOCG in Treviso (Italy) to **become a UNESCO World Heritage** has been **strongly contested by the local communities**.
- Citizens gathered under **marches against all synthetic pesticides**, marches organized in May 2017 and May 2018, with **more than 3,000 citizens** and representatives of more than 120 **local, regional and national associations**.



Local citizens are resisting and demanding!



- In July 2018, hundreds of people and dozens of associations participated in torchlight procession along with some sit-ins in front of the bishopric and in front of municipal administration buildings of DOCG prosecco area.



Local citizens are resisting and demanding!



- A MILESTONE: *Municipal referendum* to ban **all the synthetic pesticides** on the municipal territory and **to put bio process** into municipal regulation.
- On the 25th October 2018, a successful petition was submitted to the local administration in the town of Conegliano **demanding the conversion of the whole territory to organic farming!**



Will UNESCO Assembly hear our outcry against the use of synthetic and toxic pesticides?

Ways Forward



- **For UNESCO World Heritage Committee** re FUTURE World Heritage sites:
 - **clear criteria on use of synthetic pesticides** should be included in the **criteria catalogue** for the **identification** of World Heritage sites. World Heritage sites must be **free of synthetic pesticide use**.
 - the use of pesticides should be considered among key indicators of **UNESCO procedures** for **measuring state of conservation**
- **For existing World Heritage wine regions:**
 - At least a **scheme for a progressive pesticide ban with clear targets, timetables and measures must be in place** and **implementation progress** should be included in the **reporting of the national authorities**.