

## **Welcome to the homepage of the Szent György Hill Wine-Growers' Associations**

### **Badacsony Wine Region**

Hungary is one of the traditional wine-producing countries in Europe. The Hungarian wine regions are different both in location and in size; their characteristics follow well the specific features of the growing sites.

The Badacsony Wine Region is one of the most beautiful historical wine regions of Hungary, which is located on the north-western shore of Lake Balaton, at the foot of the eponym hill, Badacsony.

The wine region's vineyards are situated on the slopes of the monadnocks (Badacsony, Szent György Hill, hills of Szigliget, Tóti Hill, Gulács, Csobánc Hill, Ábrahám Hill), which are results of volcanic eruptions in the geological age.

The Badacsony Wine Region has special climate and geographical conditions. The climate is primarily determined by the Lake Balaton, the large body of water prevents extreme temperature fluctuations, ensures high levels of humidity. The heat, light and moisture conditions and the amending environmental conditions (geographical latitude, height above sea level, slope degree) have a positive influence on the grape ripening process.

The soil of the wine region is varied according to the altitude levels, the slopes of volcanic hills are covered by Pannonian sand, Pannonian clay and loess, towards the hills' peak it is mixed with basalt debris. The soils formed from volcanic rocks are rich in potassium and micro-elements, which give fine acidity, typically mineral flavors for the wines of the wine region.

### **Szent György Hill Wine-Growers' Association**

The Szent György Hill Wine-Growers' Association belongs to the Badacsony Wine Region and is located in the Tapolca Basin. To the association belongs the Szent György Hill, dividing the basin into two parts, the Csobánc Hill, a part of the Hajagos Hill, which are located in the eastern part of the basin and the Véndek Hill, standing north from the town Tapolca.

The wine-growers' association was established in 2008 with 1255 members. On the territory of the association nowadays there is vine production on 510 hectares.



**Szent György Hill**

The 415 m high Szent György Hill can be found in the Tapolcai Basin and is famous for its grapes and its basalt organs. It is surrounded by the Tapolca creek and the Eger-víz (Eger-creek) pointing out its western and eastern borders.

According to the legend, a dragon lived in the hill, which was defeated by Saint Georg the dragon slayer. The hill which is rich in special cavities is named after him.

On the peak of the Szent György Hill built from basalt rocks, where the erosion was not significant, there are mainly rocky, stony skeletal soils, rankers and erubas soils on the basalt and basaltic tuff bedrock. On the hillsides there are different types of brown forest soils and alluvial soils.

In the Tapolca Basin there is the border of two climate zones: the moderately moist and cool and the moderately dry and warm. The presence of the two different types is particularly evident on the opposite sides of the hill: the southern and south-western parts show sub-Mediterranean features, while on the northern slopes Atlantic effects prevail.

The annual precipitation is about 650 mm, on the north-western parts of the peak exposed to the prevailing wind direction it can be nearly 700 mm. On the sunny southern slopes the hours of sunshine exceeds 2000 establishing the effectiveness of the thousand years old viniculture.

The Szent György Hill offers a unique experience for the visitors with its columnar basalts (basalt organs) formed 4-5 million years ago by volcanic eruptions, the panorama and the several historical buildings like Baroque and neoclassical chapels, press houses.



**Csobánc Hill**

The 376 m high volcanic Csobánc Hill rises in the east side of the Tapolca Basin. At the western end of the hill there is a castle built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. From the flat peak of the basalt hill there is a magnificent panorama for the Tapolca Basin and the Lake Balaton.

Thanks to the balancing volcanic effect of the lake in the ring of protective volcanic cones a sub-Mediterranean microclimate was developed. The soil conditions of the area are also excellent. The bedrock is volcanic covered with a mixture of Pannonian sand and clay, on some places with loess. In the upper regions we can find also basalt debris and tuff, which provides minerality.



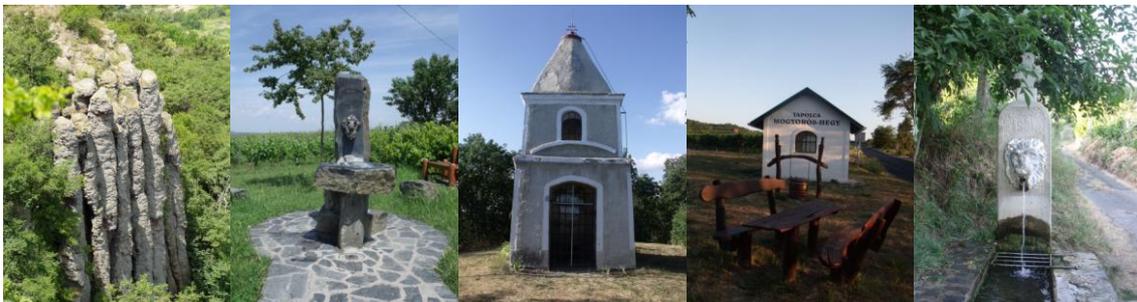
### **Hajagos Hill**

The Hajagos Hill is located north-eastern, eastern from Csobánc. The hill's ridge direction is north-south; the flatbed volcanic butte rises about 170 meters out from its environment. Its highest peak is the Láz-tető with its 314 m height above sea level at the southern part of the hill. From the top of the hill there is a beautiful view of the buttes of the Balaton-Overland. The area is perfect for hiking, relaxing, it is a peaceful, quiet neighborhood.



### **Véndek Hill**

The Véndek Hill can be found in the northern border of the town Tapolca. It has two volcanic cones, which stand from easy crumbling basalt. The higher peak is 255 m high, the lower one is 229 m, on which there is a bell tower was set up in 1868.





The basalt hills of the Szent György Hill Wine-Growers' Association are not only uniquely interesting and picturesque geological relics, but also they are rich in natural resources and the grape culture, which origins from the Roman ages has national importance too. The vineyards' and villages' many architectural monuments and the people living here and dealing with viticulture are waiting for the visitors with special flavored, high quality, fiery wines.

*(KSzGy)*  
*(translated by KGyD)*