

Wine Landscapes: The Time of the New World

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Abstract

The earliest evidence of winemaking was found in China and in the Fertile Crescent of the Middle East, at the Mesopotamian and Egyptian lands. Here, the activity was projected to the Minoan and Mycenaean civilizations in the Aegean islands, moving to Greece and later to Rome, whose territorial conquests spread it to Europe. Winemaking found it's main place in the Mediterranean regions, soils and climates, which were favorable to the cultivation, and from there, centuries later, accompanied new colonial expansion into America, Africa and Oceania. There, where the wines called "New World " were developed.

However, if we analyze the scenery of vineyards declared World Heritage by the UNESCO, all of them are in Europe. It is evident that the proportion of vines is much higher in the Old World, but this unequal distribution denotes an Eurocentrism in selecting landscape for a possible lack of values and the quality of the wines of the New World and landscapes from which they come. The general conception is that the vineyard is a Mediterranean product, which for thousands of years has been cultivated on the shores of the inland sea, without concession to other world vineyards. This has created an undeniable culture, which often shadows the rest of the spaces of production. Usually nobody remembers that there were vineyards in 1494 in America, which actually are the oldests vines of the world, although this is unknown, as they are, in areas not attacked by phylloxera, which destroyed the entire European vineyard, except from ones, between 1864 and 1915. Therefore Europe should speak of a modern culture on an American carrier.

This paper aims to describe some peculiarities of the Latin American vineyard's landscape, of extraordinary value, with some examples. The imprint of the different cultures were reflected in each of the wine regions. Emphasis is placed on the landscapes of the vineyard and wine of Argentina and the possibilities, as well as the difficulties to overcome, for the registration of some of its most emblematic regions as World's Heritage.

Just keep in mind that only the landscape of the Mexican agave and Colombian coffee has been awarded so far with such a recognition, as productive cultural landscapes in Latin America.