

2 ECO-FRIENDLY PRODUCTION ECO-FRIENDLY TOURISM

REGION



Sopron is a district in western part of Győr-Moson-Sopron County. Sopron is also the name of the town where the district seat is found. The district is located in the Western Transdanubia Statistical Region.

FERTŐ-HANSÁG NATIONAL PARK

Fertő-Hanság National Park is a national park in North-West Hungary created in 1991 adjoining the Austrian Neusiedler See National Park. Lake Fertő is the third largest lake in Central-Europe, and the westernmost of the great continental salt lakes of Eurasia.



We shall visit the the former estate of the Eszterházy dukes in Lászlómajor, now belonging to the National Park and serving as a visitor and exhibition centre. Here we will see the traditions and the future of this region mingle in the exhibitions and also during our guided tour. Preservation of the biosphere is only one of the tasks of the National Park. It also serves as a hub in organizing, the sustainable eco-friendly production activities of farmers, by promoting their products and services. A good example for this is the "National Park Product" trademark. We shall also have the opportunity to hear about this initiative and also sample some of the products.

FERTŐD - ESZTERHÁZA CASTLE

Esterháza is a palace in Fertőd, Hungary, built by Duke Nikolaus Esterházy. Sometimes called the "Hungarian Versailles", it is Hungary's grandest edifice built in Rococo style.



"If the Emperor can do it I can do it as well." This sentence is credited to Duke Nikolaus Esterházy, who built his castle - at astronomical cost - in the marshy lands

surrounding Lake Fertő. By doing so he created a cultural bridge between east and west. A site of western culture on the shores of the westernmost of the steppe lakes or Eurasia. A good example for the cultural "import" is the fact, that the famous composer Haydn - working in the employ of the Duke - lived and worked here for a significant part of his life. The castle is a "must see" location in the region, and it is a prime target of rural tourism in North-Western Transdanubia.

WENINGER WINERY

A visit and wine tasting at the Weninger Winery in Balf is the last stage of the excursion.

Franz Ludwig Weninger Austrian winemaker purchased a Hungarian vineyard in the spring of 1997 in the historic wine region of Sopron, and founded his Hungarian winery in the picturesque village of Balf. From 2000, the Hungarian winery was managed by his son, Franz Reinhard, who was educated in the secrets of the profession in California and Austria. Some words from Franz Reinhard Weninger on wine production: "My aim is to show the local microclimate or soil conditions in wines, making terroir wines. Our goal is the balanced, harmonious growth of vineyards, achieved by biodynamic farming. A soil full of life (micro- and macro-organisms) is the foundation of everything. Regarding cellar work, equilibrium is also the most important.

Each and every activity is being done with respecting nature. In order to harvest healthy and lively grapes, we take into account the Moon's position and follow the rhythms of the seasons, thus creating the balance.