



Ilha do Porto Santo | Reserva da Biosfera da UNESCO
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To the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee,

Porto Santo, September 2, 2024

SUPPORTING LETTER RELATING TO THE ENROLL OF MADEIRA WINE ON THE LIST OF UNESCO INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE.

Madeira wine is of the most renowned and well-known wine in the world, thus having an extraordinary cultural, historical and economical significance that goes back to the 15th century, when portuguese sailors started consuming and trading it.

It belongs to our culture, hence representing a crucial heritage from our ancestors being also part of other cultures, namely in the United Kingdom, the USA and even France, among others.

Assuming itself as a unique pearl within the wine world, its importance stretches beyond the simple gesture of drinking a glass of good wine due to the use of exclusive grapes variety together with long-lasting and handmade processes that have passed from generation to generation.

The wine making in each region has peculiar and exceptional features in addition to rituals and procedures of its own which involve the community, in particular the rural areas thus rendering a singular frame which contribute to its unparalleled characteristic worth being part of the UNESCO list. Plus, the commerce of this product represent a substantial volume in the archipelago income.

Porto Santo Island, belonging to the archipelago as a Biosfera Reserve since 2020, is a rich laboratory where sustainable development is promoted and encouraged. The purpose is to ensure a proper use of the natural resources and to call attention to adequate and efficient practices, especially among younger generations so as to secure a prosperous and solid future.

Porto Santo wine-makers have always exported their product to the neighbouring Island, in particular the *Caracol* grape, an exclusive variety of Porto Santo, hence confirming the level of

contribution from this small Island to the wine production around the world. As romans said: “vita vinum est”. Wine is life and has always been present in our daily life.

In the view of the aforementioned, Porto Santo City Hall, here represented by its president Nuno Filipe Melim Batista, and in the sequence of the meeting held on the 22nd of August of 2024,proclaims his total support to this application hence confirming the value of the wine heritage to Madeira archipelago identity and culture and underlining how vineyards and wine production are crucial to maintain both a familiar and community unmatched legacy which illustrates the singularity of this Atlantic Island and its people.

Porto Santo City Hall Mayor

(Nuno Filipe Melim Batista)