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HUNGARIAN LESSON

Visiting A Vineyard



Visiting a Vineyard — A szőlőskertben

Six short conversations for a day at a Hungarian vineyard — from the welcome at the gate to a toast in the cellar. Hungary has been making wine for over a thousand years, so this is everyday language with deep roots.

Pronunciation quick-guide: **sz** = "s" (sun) **s** = "sh" (shop) **cs** = "ch" (church)

zs = "zh" (measure) **gy** = soft "dj" **ny** = "ny" (canyon) **ő** = long "eu" (rounded)

ű = long "ew" (rounded)

① The Welcome — Üdvözlés

A:

Jó napot! Üdvözljük a
szőlőskertben!

Good day! Welcome to the vineyard!

B:

Köszönjük szépen! Gyönyörű ez a
hely.

gyönyörű = "dyő-nyő-rű" = beautiful

Thank you very much! This place is beautiful.

A:

A családom több generáció óta
borász.

My family has been winemakers for several
generations.

② The Grapes — A szőlő

A:

Milyen szőlő ez?

What kind of grape is this?

B:

Ez furmint. Tokajból származik.

This is Furmint. It comes from Tokaj.

A:

Érdekes! Mikor van a szüret?

Interesting! When is the harvest?

B:

Szeptemberben és októberben.

In September and October.

③ The Cellar — A pince

A:

Lemehetünk a pincébe?

Can we go down to the cellar?

④ The Tasting — A kóstolás

A:

Megkóstolhatjuk a bort?

May we taste the wine?

B:

Persze! Itt érlelődik a bor a hordókban.

érlelődik = "AYR-leh-leu-dik" = matures / ages
Of course! The wine ages here in the barrels.

A:

Milyen hűvös van itt!

How cool it is down here!

B:

Természetesen. Ez egy száraz fehérbor.

természetesen = "TER-meh-seh-teh-shen" = of course
Of course. This is a dry white wine.

A:

Nagyon finom! Az illata csodálatos.

Very delicious! Its aroma is wonderful.

⑤ Buying Wine — Borvásárlás

A:

Szeretnék venni két üveggel.

I'd like to buy two bottles.

B:

Vörösbort vagy fehérbort?

Red wine or white wine?

A:

Egy vöröset és egy fehérét, kérem.

One red and one white, please.

⑥ A Family Connection — Családi kötődés

A:

A nagyapám is borász volt

Magyarországon.

My grandfather was also a winemaker in Hungary.

B:

Tényleg? Akkor a vérében van!

a vérében van = "ah VAY-ray-ben von" = it's in your blood

Really? Then it's in your blood!

A:

Igen, büszke vagyok a családomra.

Yes, I'm proud of my family.



Vocabulary — Szókincs

20 key words for a vineyard visit. Verbs are given in their infinitive (-ni / -ani / -eni) form. Nouns include their definite article (a / az).

#	HUNGARIAN	ENGLISH	TYPE	NOTE
1	a szőlő	grape / vine	noun	the plant and the fruit

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2	a szőlőskert	vineyard	noun	szőlő (grape) + kert (garden)
3	a bor	wine	noun	accusative: a bort
4	a borász	winemaker / vintner	noun	bor (wine) + -ász (trade suffix) — your family's word!
5	a pince / a borpince	cellar / wine cellar	noun	accusative: a pincét
6	a hordó	barrel	noun	a hordóban = in the barrel
7	a szüret	grape harvest / vintage	noun	a big autumn event in wine country
8	a pohár	glass	noun	accusative: a poharat (vowel shifts)
9	a vörösbor	red wine	noun	vörös (red) + bor
10	a fehérbor	white wine	noun	fehér (white) + bor
11	a szőlőfürt	bunch of grapes	noun	fürt = cluster / bunch
12	az évjárat	vintage (year)	noun	az — starts with a vowel; év = year
13	a kóstoló	wine tasting	noun	from kóstolni (to taste)
14	az illat	aroma / scent	noun	az — starts with a vowel
15	a termés	crop / yield	noun	terem = to grow/bear (of plants)
16	száraz	dry	adjective	száraz bor = dry wine
17	édes	sweet	adjective	édes bor = sweet wine (e.g. Tokaji)
18	kóstolni	to taste	verb	megkóstolom = I'll taste it
19	szüretelni	to harvest (grapes)	verb	from szüret
20	tölteni	to pour / to fill	verb	Tölts egy pohárral! = Pour a glass!

Cultural & Grammar Tip — Egészségedre! 🍷 Before you drink with Hungarians, you raise your glass and say *Egészségedre!* ("eh-GAYS-shay-ged-reh" — "to your health!"), or *Egészségünkre!* for "to our health." (A famous bit of folklore: Hungarians traditionally avoided clinking beer glasses for ~150 years after 1849 — but for wine, clink away!) On the grammar side, notice how colour words take the accusative when they become the object: *vörös* → *vöröset*, *fehér* → *fehéret* ("Egy *vöröset* kérek" = "I'll have a red one"). Hungary's great wine regions are worth knowing for any family visit: **Tokaj** (the legendary sweet *aszú*), **Eger** (home of *Egri Bikavér* — "Bull's Blood"), and **Villány** (bold reds in the south). Mentioning that your family were *borászok* will absolutely delight any *vintner* you meet!