

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
SECOND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Master of Science in Gardens, Parks and Landscape Design
Honors theses

Monferrato Casalese wine landscape analysis and evaluation

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The peculiarities of the geographical site of the Monferrato Casalese, which joins the secular use of the land by man according to the different needs of every time and society, have created a varied cultural, natural and urban contemporary mosaic, characterized of an environment like no other. Therefore the main purpose of the thesis has been to develop an experimental system for study and evaluation of this unique wine landscape in the world.

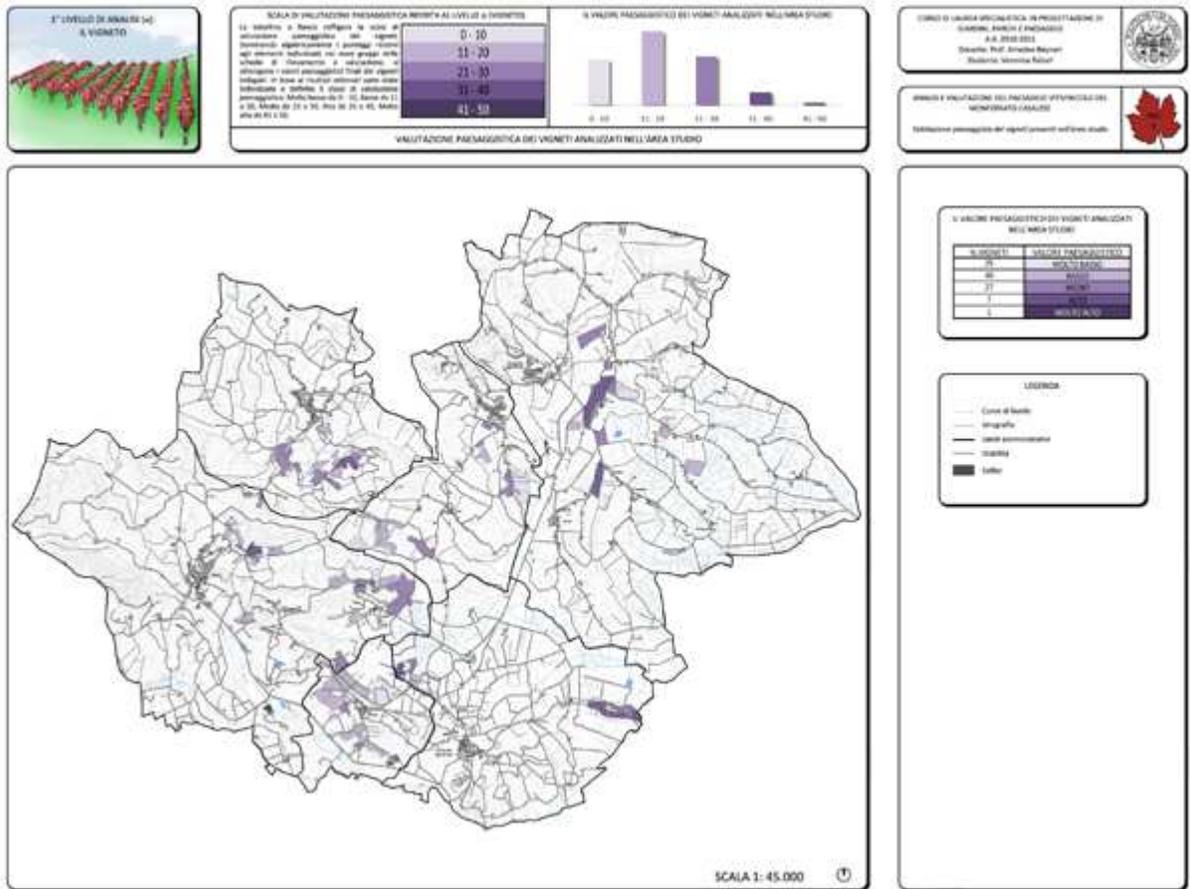
The first stages of analysis have dealt with the historical evolution of the Monferrato landscape and agricultural practices up to the present day with today's nomination process on the UNESCO site of "The Piedmont wine landscapes: Langhe, Monferrato and Roero."

The following choice of a narrower field of study (including the municipalities of Cella Monte, Frassinello Monferrato, Olivola, Ottiglio, Rosignano Monferrato and Sala Monferrato for a total of about 6,000 ha), has allowed to search more targeted and specific need to understand what are the typical, distinctive characters, and the intrinsic fragility.

The second phase of the thesis focused on the evaluation of the wine landscape in two different scales of analysis: the vineyard and hillside (conventionally denominated as α level and β level). In both cases has been drawn up a technical and assessment form including a variety of elements (represented by different characters such as structural, morphological, architectural, land cover, etc. ...) found in the area of analysis which interact and contribute to "create" the wine landscape. According to the ecological, aesthetic-perceptive and traditionality value of each element indicated it has therefore given a fixed score that can't be changed (from -5 to +5). This way, by filling out the form you can get the final value of each vineyard and hillside analyzed.

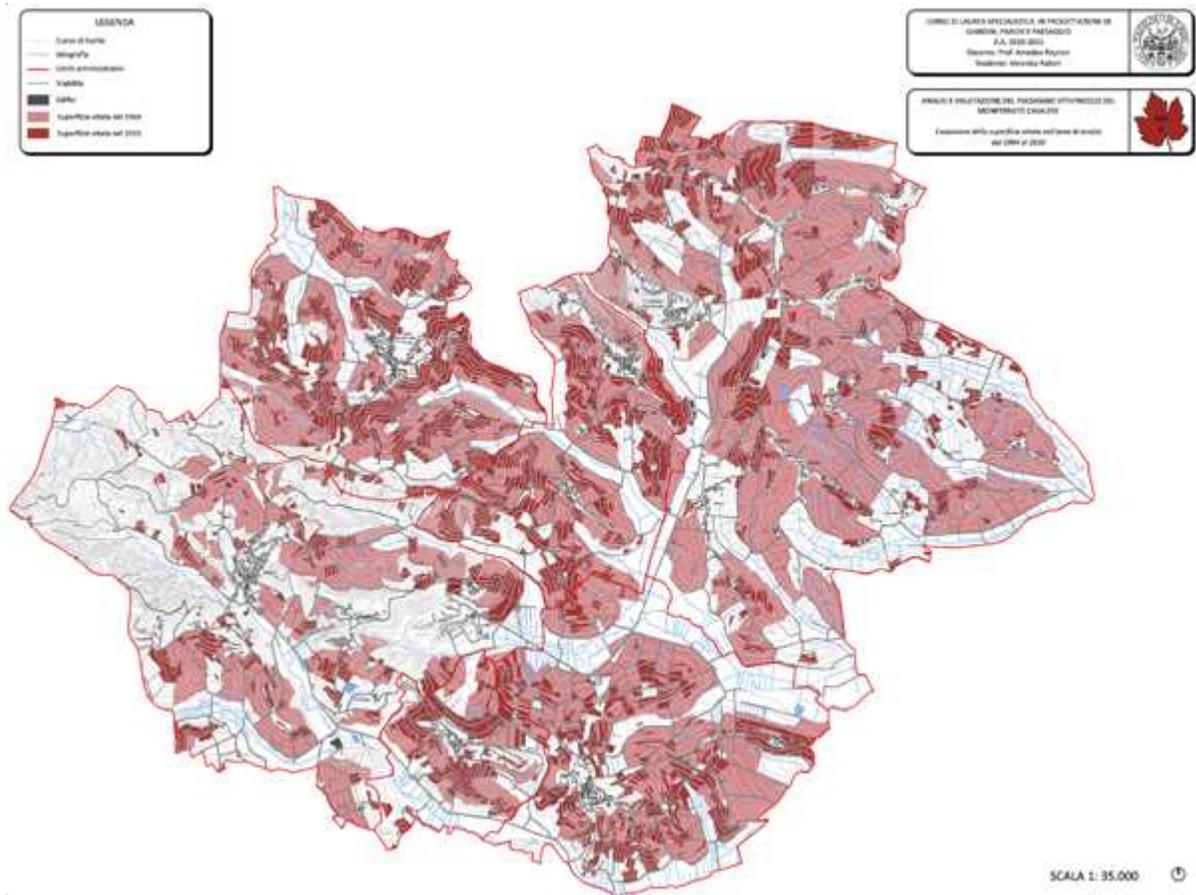
Example of a technical and landscape evaluation form of vineyard

The application of this method of analysis and evaluation in the study area allowed to notice frequently critical situations which are not so much due to the presence of negative elements, such as the building of industrial sheds, as to the absence of elements of care or environmental-landscape value and "surrounding" and integration of the vineyard, as in the case of the rare introduction of fruit trees in vineyard or rose bushes at the top of the rows. The modern productive requirements also need a continued tendency to specialization of the vineyard inevitably leading to the simplification of the landscape.



The application of the method at a level

Researches have also allowed us to identify the significant decrease, over the past 50 years, of vineyards in Monferrato.



Decrease of vineyards

This way the UNESCO nomination is so based on very weak foundations, because if there are not main elements, the greatest risk is that it tends to a standardization and trivialization of the landscape.

The final phase of the thesis led to the definition of operational directions necessary for a right planning and design of the Monferrato Casalese landscape.

Therefore this thesis can be used by farmers, "technicals" (architects, urban planners, agronomists, etc..), public institutions and Organizations involved in land development, not only as a useful tool for improving the planning land, but also as guidelines to guide the agro-environmental actions to support the sector agricultural policies (PSR, OP, etc..).

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