



Királyudvar

No Shortcuts. Total Obsession. The Iconic Ambassador of Bolgheri.

When Anthony Hwang loaded his family in the car and drove northeast from Budapest in 1997, he could hardly have imagined where the road would lead. The trip was inspired by a Tokaji Aszú that a sommelier had recommended the previous evening. The wine made such an impression that Tony felt he had to learn more about it.

Tokaj was once one of the world's most prestigious wine regions; its top Aszú and Esszencia dessert wines were among the world's most coveted and expensive. Yet two world wars devastated Tokaji's traditional European markets and the decline continued under Communist rule. But after the Iron Curtain's fall, a few lone souls struggled to preserve the Tokaji legacy. The most prominent was Istvan Szepsy, whom Tony was determined to meet.

Just a few months after his visit, Tony purchased what was perhaps the region's crown jewel, Királyudvar (Kee-RYE-oohd-var)—which for centuries had supplied Imperial wine to the Hapsburgs. Szepsy became a partner, helping Tony to rehabilitate the vineyards, while the château itself was rebuilt. But with time, Szepsy departed and Tony assumed the reins full-time. By that point, Tony also owned the Loire Valley's greatest Vouvray producer, Domaine Huët. The deep well of institutional knowledge there began to inform many decisions at Kiralyudvar, particularly a conversion to biodynamic viticulture.

Today, Tony is rekindling the legacy of this providential wine region. But he's not stopping there, having recognized, for example, that the local varieties, with their viscous intensity and bright acidity, could produce world-class dry, demi-sec, and sparkling wines.

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